

Introductory Course for Commercial Dog Breeders

Topic 11: Transportation and
Minimum Age Requirements





Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

1. Explain minimum age requirements for transporting puppies
2. Describe general requirements for transporting dogs
3. Explain health certificate requirements for transporting dogs



Definitions



Definitions

Carrier: Operator of an airline, railroad, motor carrier, shipping line, engaged in transporting animals for hire

Intermediate Handler: Person, business or other organization that receives animals in connection with transporting them in commerce

Definitions

Commerce:

- Transporting a dog between a place in a State to any place outside the State, including a foreign country, OR
- Between points within the same State, but passing through any place outside the State, OR
- Within any territory, possession or the District of Columbia, which affects commerce described in the AWA.



Minimum Age Requirements

Minimum Age

Puppies: At least 8 weeks old and weaned

Weaned: Accustomed to eating solid food and doing so for at least 5 days





General Transportation Requirements

Primary Enclosure

- Compartment, transportation cage, carton or crate used to transport dogs
- Dogs must be in a primary enclosure when being transported





General Construction

- Securely, comfortably contains dogs
 - Sturdy enough for transportation
 - Easily sanitizable or disposable
- Interior free of sharp points, edges or protrusion that might injure dogs
- Large enough for dog to have space to:
 - Turn around normally while standing
 - Stand normally
 - Stand and sit in a fully upright position
 - Lie in a natural position

General Construction

- Securely contain dog so no part of its body is outside of the enclosure
- Open easily and quickly in emergencies
- Have exterior handles, handholds or other devices to easily lift enclosure
- Clearly marked “Live Animals” and indicate upright position





General Construction

- Free of toxic or harmful materials, treatments, paint or preservatives
- Properly ventilated
- Solid, leak-proof bottom or removable tray under slatted or mesh floor
 - Ensure dog's legs and feet cannot fall in between slates or holes in mesh
 - Use new safe, nontoxic litter



Cleaning

- Clean and sanitize before reuse
- Follow requirements Section 3.11(b)
- If in transit more than 24 hours:
 - Clean enclosure and replace litter
 - Or move to another enclosure
- Keep dog safe from injury or escape if moving from enclosure to clean



Ventilation of Primary Enclosures

Basic Ventilation Requirements

- Ventilated surface area:
 - 14% of total combined surface area
 - At least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total ventilation area located on the upper $\frac{1}{2}$ of the enclosure
- Projection rims:
 - Prevent obstruction of openings
 - Provide 0.75" air circulation space



Ventilation

Number of Ventilated Walls	Position of Walls	Required Ventilation Area
2	Opposing Walls	16% of each wall
3	2 opposing walls Third wall	8% of total surface area of opposing walls 50% of third wall
4	4 opposing walls	8% of each wall

The total combined surface area of the ventilation openings must be at least 14% of the surface area of all the walls of the primary enclosure



Number of Animals Per
Primary Enclosure

Dogs Transported by Air

Age of Dog	Maximum Number of Dogs/ Primary Enclosure
6 months or older	One
8 wks – 6 mo. Over 20 lbs	One
8 wks – 6 mo. 20 lbs or less, comparable size	Two
Less than 8 wks, comparable size, weaned, shipped to research facility	Unlimited
Less than 8 wks, unweaned, littermates, with dam, ship to research facility	Dam + litter

Transport by Surface Vehicle, Private Aircraft

Age of Dog	Maximum Number of Dogs per Primary Enclosure
8 wks or older, comparable size, meets other requirements of Section 3.14(g)	Four
Less than 8 wks., comparable size, weaned, shipped to research facility, meets other requirements of Section 3.14(g)	Unlimited
Less than 8 wks old, unweaned, littermates, with dam, shipped to research facility, meets requirements of Section 3.13(g)	Dam + litter



Compatibility

Compatibility

- Dogs enclosed together:
 - Same species and size, non-aggressive
 - Private pets: comparable size, compatible
 - Puppies 4 mo. or younger: may transport as a litter or with dam
 - Females in heat: not with males
- Dogs enclosed separately:
 - Overly aggressive, or vicious disposition



Documents and Records



Shipping Documents

- In general, include:
 - Carrier waybill
 - Food and water instructions
 - Acclimation certificate
 - Additional information: medication instructions, special care, etc.



Surface Transportation Documents

Documents must be:

– Held by operator of primary conveyance

OR

– Securely attached to outside of primary enclosure

- Easily detached for examination
- Easily and securely reattached

– Contained in plastic pocket or sleeve



Certification Statement

- States that the dog was offered food and water within 4 hours of delivery
- Securely attached to transport enclosure
 - Instructions for in-transit food and water requirements for a 24 hour period

Certification Statement Requirements

- Consignor's name and address
- Dog's tag number, tattoo, or microchip number
- Time and date that food and water were last offered
 - Instructions for next 24 hour period
- Consignor's signature, date and time of signature





Cargo Space Requirements: Primary Conveyances

Animal Cargo Space: General Requirements

- Protect dog's health and well-being:
 - Protect from exhaust fumes
 - Provide sufficient air in cargo space
 - Position primary enclosures to ensure
 - Sufficient air
 - Quick removal
 - Clean interior



Harmful Materials

- Protect dogs during transport from:
 - Cleaning solutions
 - Fertilizers
 - Propane tanks
 - Dry ice
 - Human remains



Air Transportation

Cargo area requirements:

- Heated and cooled to maintain proper temperature and humidity
- Pressurized when flying over 8,000 feet
- Provide adequate air for breathing at all times





Surface Transportation

- Additional requirements:
 - Ambient temperature must not exceed 85°F for more than 4 hours
 - Fans, blowers, air conditioning if needed
 - Ambient temperature must not fall below 45°F for more than 4 hours



Care of Dogs in Transit

Food and Water

- Offer food and water within 4 hours of being transported
- During transit - minimum requirements:
 - 16 weeks or older:
offer food at least once every 24 hours
 - Less than 16 weeks:
offer food at least once every 12 hours
 - Water every 12 hours





In-Transit Instructions

- Must provide food and water instructions
- Securely attached to primary enclosure
- Easy to notice and read
- Covers 24 hour period
 - “No food or water” is not acceptable unless directed by attending veterinarian
- Include with shipping documents



Dealer's Certification Statement

Dealer bringing dog to carrier or intermediate handler must certify:

- Dog offered food and water within 4 hours of delivery
- Date and time food and water were offered

Statement is securely attached to enclosure

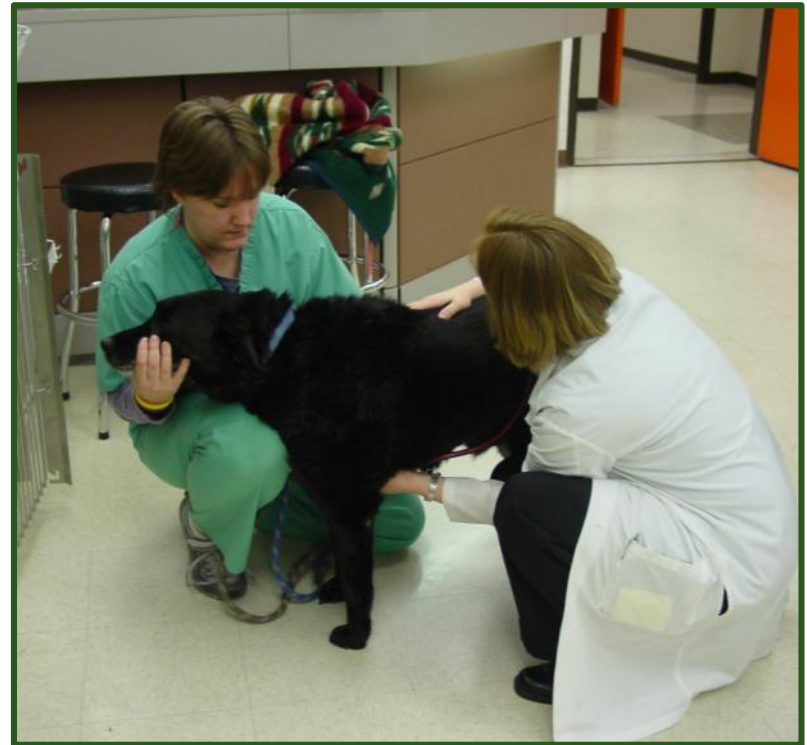
Location of Food and Water Receptacles

- Attach to inside of enclosure
- Fill from outside of enclosure
- Secure to prevent dog from leaving enclosure through receptacle openings



Care in Transit

- Ill, injured, or physically distressed dogs must only be transported to receive veterinary care
- Dogs in obvious distress must receive care at closest available veterinary facility





Removal from Cage

- Cleaning of enclosure
- Veterinary care
- Emergency situations
- Transfer to another enclosure or facility



Surface Transportation: Observation

- Observe every 4 hours:
 - Sufficient air supply
 - Ambient temperature within limits
 - No obvious signs of physical distress, such as
 - Labored breathing
 - Excessive salivation
 - Vomiting/diarrhea
 - Frantic scratching, chewing, or biting on enclosure



Air Transportation: Observation

- Observe every 4 hours:
 - Sufficient air supply
 - Heating and cooling requirements of 3.15(d)
- Do not remove dog while in transit
 - Except during cleaning
- Carrier determines whether dog is in obvious physical distress and needs veterinary care



Health Certificates



Health Certificates Contents: AWA

- Licensed veterinarian inspected the dog, not more than 10 days before delivery for transportation
- Dog was free of infectious disease or physical abnormality that would endanger animals or public health
- NOTE: States and other countries may have additional requirements



Health Certificates Contents: AWA

An intermediate handler or carrier may not receive a cat or dog for transportation in commerce without a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian

Health Certificates: Interstate and International

- Each state has requirements for animals entering. Check with your veterinarian or state veterinarian in destination state.
- Information from APHIS can be found at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport>
- Each country has requirements:
 - Check with your veterinarian
 - Information from APHIS - international reqs: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>



Conclusion

You should now be able to:

1. Explain minimum age requirements for transporting puppies.
2. Describe general requirements for transporting dogs.
3. Explain health certificate requirements for transporting dogs.



Questions?

Acknowledgments

This presentation was prepared by the Center for Food Security and Public Health, Iowa State University through a cooperative agreement with USDA APHIS Animal Care.

