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 ⅓ of the total ventilation area located on the upper ½ of the enclosure
- Projection rims:
  - Prevent obstruction of openings
  - Provide 0.75” air circulation space
### Ventilation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Ventilated Walls</th>
<th>Position of Walls</th>
<th>Required Ventilation Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Opposing Walls</td>
<td>16% of each wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 opposing walls, Third wall</td>
<td>8% of total surface area of opposing walls 50% of third wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 opposing walls</td>
<td>8% of each wall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of Dog</th>
<th>Maximum Number of Dogs/Primary Enclosure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 months or older</td>
<td>One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 wks – 6 mo. Over 20 lbs</td>
<td>One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 wks – 6 mo. 20 lbs or less, comparable size</td>
<td>Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 8 wks, comparable size, weaned, shipped to research facility</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 8 wks, unweaned, littermates, with dam, ship to research facility</td>
<td>Dam + litter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of Dog</td>
<td>Maximum Number of Dogs per Primary Enclosure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 wks or older, comparable size, meets other requirements of Section 3.14(g)</td>
<td>Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 8 wks., comparable size, weaned, shipped to research facility, meets other requirements of Section 3.14(g)</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 8 wks old, unweaned, littermates, with dam, shipped to research facility, meets requirements of Section 3.13(g)</td>
<td>Dam + litter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 the 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
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.
- Each country has requirements:
  - Check with your veterinarian
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

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