Introductory Course for Commercial Breeders of Guinea Pigs, Hamsters and Rabbits

Part 8: Transportation Requirements
Learning Objectives

By the end of this presentation, you should be able to, as appropriate for guinea pigs, hamsters or rabbits:

1. Describe general requirements for transporting guinea pigs, hamsters or rabbits including:
   - Primary enclosures
   - Primary conveyances
   - Food and water
   - Care in transit

2. Explain identification and certificate requirements for transporting
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 an animal 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 regulations and standards
General Transportation Requirements
Consignments to Carriers

- Animals can be provided to carrier no longer than 4 hours prior to scheduled departure
  - If animal dealer and intermediate handler mutually agree in writing, this can be extended to 6 hours
- Must be in primary enclosure that conforms to regulatory requirements.
- Consignor must include a certificate including:
  - Name and address
  - Number of animals within
  - Certifying statement of compliance with AWA
  - Signature and date
Consignments to Carriers (Cont’d)

• For carriers whose conveyances do not meet temperature requirements of above 45°F (7.2°C) for hamsters:
  – Certificate must accompany animals signed by veterinarian and consignor that animals have been acclimated to lower temperatures

• Carriers must attempt to notify consignee at least once every 6 hours that animals have arrived at terminal
  – Every attempt must be noted on shipping documents
Primary Enclosure

- Compartment, transportation cage, carton or crate used to transport animals
- Animals must be in a primary enclosure when being transported
General Construction

- Sturdy enough for transportation
- Interior free of sharp points, edges or protrusion that might injure animals
- Inner surfaces do not allow for escape
- Enclosures placed in vehicle to be accessible at all times for emergency removal of animals
General Construction

- Securely contain animal 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
Ventilation of Primary Enclosures
Basic Ventilation Requirements

• Ventilated surface area:
  – At least ⅓ of the total ventilation area located on the upper and lower ½ of the enclosure

• Projection rims:
  – Prevent obstruction of openings
  – Provide 0.75” air circulation space

• Provide adequate ways to lift without tilting enclosure or touching animals
The total combined surface area of the ventilation openings must be at least 16% of the surface area of all the walls of the primary enclosure.

<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>4</td>
<td>4 walls</td>
<td>8% of each wall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Space for Animals in Primary Enclosures
Movement

• Primary enclosures used to transport guinea pigs, hamsters or rabbits must be large enough to ensure that each animal has space to:
  – Turn about freely
  – Make normal postural adjustments
## Minimum Space: Guinea Pigs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight (Grams)</th>
<th>Sq In/Sq Cm</th>
<th>Interior Height</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 350</td>
<td>30 sq in/193.6 sq cm</td>
<td>6 in/15.2 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350 to 600</td>
<td>45 sq in/290.3 sq cm</td>
<td>350-500 - 6 in/15.2 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>501-600 - 7 in/17.8 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 600</td>
<td>55 sq in/354.8 sq cm</td>
<td>7 in/17.8 cm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Maximum Number of Guinea Pigs Per Primary Enclosure is 15**
Minimum Space: Guinea Pigs
### Minimum Space: Hamsters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sq In/Sq Cm</th>
<th>Interior Height</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weaning-5 weeks</td>
<td>7 sq in/45.2 sq cm</td>
<td>6 in/15.2 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 weeks</td>
<td>11 sq in/71 sq cm</td>
<td>6 in/15.2 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 10 weeks</td>
<td>15 sq in/96.8 sq cm</td>
<td>6 in/15.2 cm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Maximum Number of Hamsters Per Primary Enclosure is 50**
**Minimum Space: Dwarf Hamsters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sq In/Sq Cm</th>
<th>Interior Height</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weaning-5 weeks</td>
<td>5 sq in/32.2 sq cm</td>
<td>5 in/12.7 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 weeks</td>
<td>7.5 sq in/48.3 sq cm</td>
<td>5 in/12.7 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 10 weeks</td>
<td>9 sq in/58.1 sq cm</td>
<td>5 in/12.7 cm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Maximum Number of Hamsters Per Primary Enclosure is 50**
Minimum Space: Rabbits

• Each rabbit in a primary enclosure must have space to make normal postural adjustments and turn about freely
• The maximum number of rabbits per enclosure is 15
Minimum Space: Rabbits
Bottom Construction

• Solid, leak-proof bottom with clean litter/bedding of absorbent material, safe and nontoxic to animals, enough to absorb and cover excreta
• May have wire or other nonsolid floor, bedding not required
Cleaning

• Clean and sanitize before reuse
• Follow requirements:
  – Guinea pigs and hamsters
    • Section 3.31 (a) (4)
  – Rabbits
    • 3.56 (b) (3)
Accompanying Documents

- Affix “Live Animal” sticker with letters one inch or larger, and markings to indicate upright position
- Accompanying documents must be attached to outside of primary enclosure and be easily accessible
Shipping Documents

- In general, include:
  - Carrier waybill
  - Food and water instructions
  - Acclimation certificate
  - Additional information:
    - Medication instructions
    - Special care
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 - State requirements:
    • http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_imports_states.shtml

• Each country has requirements:
  – Check with your veterinarian
  – Information from APHIS - international requirements:
    • http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/
Cargo Space Requirements: Primary Conveyances
Animal Cargo Space: General Requirements

• Protect animal’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 animals during transport from any material, substance (e.g. dry ice) or device which may be injurious to health and well-being

• Unless proper precautions are taken to prevent injury
Transportation

• Additional requirements:
  – For ambient temperature more than 75° F
    • Fans, blowers, air conditioning if needed
  – Temperature not to exceed 85° F
  – Ambient temperature must not fall below 45° F
    • Except if rabbits or hamsters are accompanied by certificate of acclimation
Care of Animals in Transit
Food and Water Requirements

• For transport of more than 6 hours, animals must have access to food and water (or a type of food that satisfies both food and water requirements) during transit

• Dealer can only consign for transportation if adequate food and water requirements are supplied

• Carrier can only accept for transportation if adequate food and water requirements are supplied
Care in Transit

• No animals in obvious physical distress can be commercially transported

• Animals in obvious distress must receive veterinary care as soon as possible
Surface Transportation: Observation

• Observe every 4 hours:
  – Sufficient air supply
  – Ambient temperature within limits
  – No obvious signs of physical distress
  – Provide any needed veterinary care as soon as possible
Air Transportation: Observation

• Observe every 4 hours:
  – Sufficient air supply
  – Heating and cooling
  – Carrier determines whether animal is in obvious physical distress and needs veterinary care
Conclusion
You should now be able to:
1. Describe general requirements for transporting guinea pigs, hamsters or rabbits including:
   – Primary enclosures
   – Primary conveyances
   – Food and water
   – Care in transit
2. Explain identification and certificate requirements for transporting
Questions?
Acknowledgments

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