

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 $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total ventilation area located on the upper and lower $\frac{1}{2}$ 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



Ventilation

Number of Ventilated Walls	Position of Walls	Required Ventilation Area
2	Opposing Walls	16% of each wall
4	4 walls	8% of each wall

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



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

Weight (Grams)	Sq In/Sq Cm	Interior Height
< 350	30 sq in/193.6 sq cm	6 in/15.2 cm
350 to 600	45 sq in/290.3 sq cm	350-500 - 6 in/15.2 cm 501-600 - 7 in/17.8 cm
> 600	55 sq in/354.8 sq cm	7 in/17.8 cm

Maximum Number of Guinea Pigs Per Primary Enclosure is 15

Minimum Space: Guinea Pigs



Minimum Space: Hamsters

Age	Sq In/Sq Cm	Interior Height
Weaning-5 weeks	7 sq in/45.2 sq cm	6 in/15.2 cm
5-10 weeks	11 sq in/71 sq cm	6 in/15.2 cm
Over 10 weeks	15 sq in/96.8 sq cm	6 in/15.2 cm

Maximum Number of Hamsters Per Primary Enclosure is 50

Minimum Space: Dwarf Hamsters

Age	Sq In/Sq Cm	Interior Height
Weaning-5 weeks	5 sq in/32.2 sq cm	5 in/12.7 cm
5-10 weeks	7.5 sq in/48.3 sq cm	5 in/12.7 cm
Over 10 weeks	9 sq in/58.1 sq cm	5 in/12.7 cm

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_import/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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