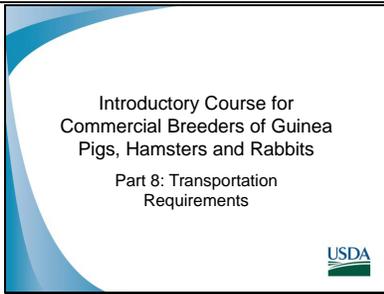
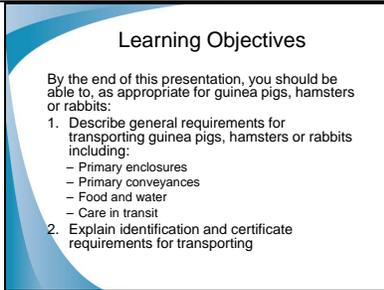


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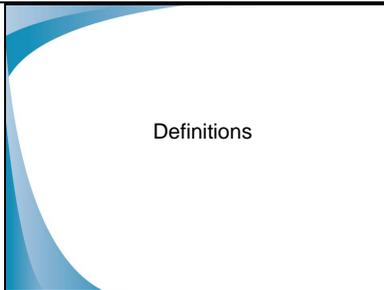
Transporting animals from one location to another is regulated by USDA APHIS Animal Care. As a licensed dealer, you need to be aware of the transportation requirements under the AWA regulations and standards. This presentation will discuss the general requirements for transporting animals, and health certificate requirements.

After completing this section, you should be able to:

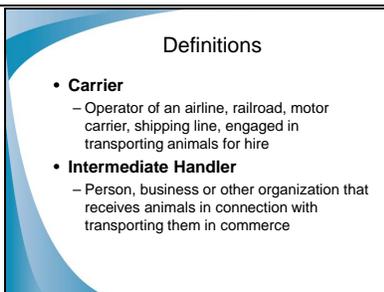
Describe general requirements for transporting guinea pigs, hamsters or rabbits including-

- Primary enclosures
- Primary conveyances
- Food and water
- Care in transit
- Explain identification and health certificate requirements for transporting

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Before we begin discussing transportation, here are a few definitions which will help with understanding the terminology.

**Carrier:** The operator of an airline, railroad, motor carrier, shipping line or other enterprise engaged in the business of transporting animals for hire. Examples: airlines or a ground transportation company moving animals from their point of origin to a final destination.

**Intermediate Handler:** A person, business or other organization engaged in a business which receives animals in connection with their transport in commerce. Examples: Local transportation company moving animals to airports or ground shipping carriers; Cargo handlers at an airport.

Note: A department, agency or instrumentality of the United States or any State or local government can serve as an intermediate handler.

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**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

USDA APHIS Animal Care enforces regulations related to the transportation of animals in commerce. It is important to understand the meaning of the term “commerce”, which can include trade, traffic, transportation or other means of commerce. Movement within commerce refers to transporting an animal.

**Commerce:** Movement in commerce refers to transporting an animal between a place in a State and any place outside of the State, including any foreign country, or between points within the same State, but through any place outside thereof, or within any territory, possession or the District of Columbia, or which affects the commerce described in the AWA. 7 U.S.C. § 2132(c), 9 CFR 1.1

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**General Transportation Requirements**

The regulations set out specific requirements which include standards for the enclosures used to transport animals, limits on the number of animals in each enclosure and care of animals while in transport. This section will briefly describe these requirements.  
9 CFR Part 3 Subpart A

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**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

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.

Certificate shall include –

- Name and address of consignor
- Number of animals in the shipment
- Certifying statement (e g “I hereby certify that animals in this shipment are to the best of my knowledge acclimated to air temperatures lower than 45°F (7.2°C))
- Signature of USDA certified veterinarian, assigned accreditation number, and date

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**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

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.

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**Primary Enclosure**

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



Animals must be in a primary enclosure when being transported. A primary enclosure is a compartment, transportation cage, carton or crate. Primary enclosures must meet certain minimum requirements. Anyone regulated under the AWA engaged in transporting or delivering an animal for transport in commerce must meet these requirements. We will discuss these requirements on the next slides.

Photo: D. Ausen, ISU

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**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

Structural strength of the enclosure shall be sufficient to contain the live rabbits, guinea pigs or hamsters and to withstand the normal rigors of transportation.

The interior of the enclosure shall be free from any protrusions that could be injurious to the live guinea pigs, hamsters or rabbits contained within. The inner surfaces of corrugated fiberboard, cardboard, or plastic containers shall be covered or laminated with wire mesh or screen where necessary to prevent escape of the animals.

The openings of such enclosures are placed in vehicle so that they are easily accessible at all times for emergency removal of the live animals.

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**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



Securely contain the animal so it cannot put any part of its body outside the enclosure in a way that might result in injury to the animal, handlers, or other persons or animals nearby.

Open easily and quickly in order to remove the animals from the enclosure in an emergency.

Have exterior handles, handholds or other devices that allow the enclosure to be lifted without tilting, and ensure that people handling the enclosure will not come into physical contact with the animal inside

- Exception: The enclosure is permanently affixed to the conveyance
- Be clearly marked on top and on one or more sides with the words "Live Animals" in letters at least 1 inch high and with arrows or other markings to indicate the correct upright position of the primary enclosure
- Exception: The enclosure is permanently affixed to the conveyance

Photo: D. Ausen, ISU

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**Ventilation of Primary Enclosures**

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**Basic Ventilation Requirements**

- Ventilated surface area:
  - At least 1/3 of the total ventilation area located on the upper and lower 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



The ventilated surface area of the primary enclosure must:  
Have at least 1/3 of the total ventilation area located on the upper 1/2 of the enclosure and at least 1/3 on the lower 1/2 of the enclosure

Each wall with a ventilation opening must have a projecting rim to:  
Prevent obstruction of openings  
Provide a minimum of 0.75" air circulation space between the enclosure and any wall or object

Adequate handholds or other devices to lift the enclosure without tilting and to ensure that the person handling will not be in contact with the animals

Regulations 3.36 for hamsters and GP3.61 4 ,5,6

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**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

This chart sets out the ventilation requirements for primary enclosures that can be removed from the primary conveyance (crates, cartons or cages).

If the enclosure has:  
Ventilation openings on two opposing walls, then the ventilation openings must be at least 16% of the surface area of each wall and the total combined surface area of all ventilation openings must make up 16% of the total combined surface area of all the walls of the primary enclosure.

If the enclosure has:  
Ventilation openings on all four walls, then the ventilation openings on each of the four walls must be at least 8% of the total surface area of each wall and the total combined surface area of the openings must be at least 16% of total combined surface area of all the walls of the primary enclosure AND at least one third of the ventilation area must be located on the upper half of the primary enclosure.

Enclosures permanently affixed to the conveyance are exceptions to these requirements. In that case, ventilation must make up at least 90% of the front wall and covered with bars, wire mesh or smooth expanded metal.

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**Space for Animals in Primary Enclosures**

The number of animals that may be transported in a primary enclosure is governed by the AWA regulations and standards.

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**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

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### 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

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### Minimum Space: Guinea Pigs



Example of appropriate primary enclosure for guinea pigs

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### 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

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### 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

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### Minimum Space: Rabbits

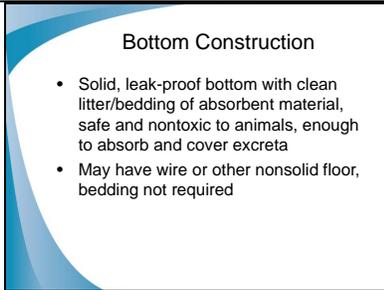
- Each rabbit in a primary enclosure must have space to make normal postural adjustments and turn about freely
- The maximum number of rabbits per enclosure is 15

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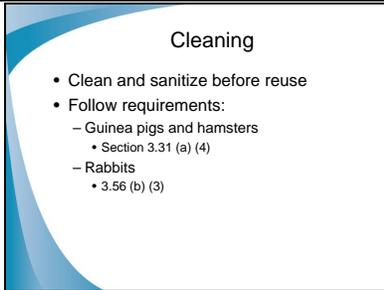
Photo: D. Ausen, ISU

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- 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

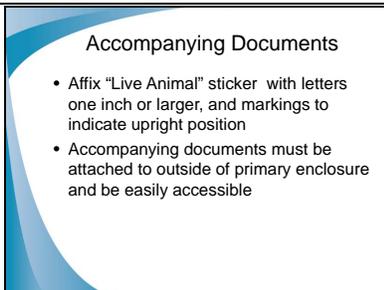
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- Cleaning
- Clean and sanitize before reuse
- Follow requirements:
  - Guinea pigs and hamsters
    - Section 3.31 (a) (4)
  - Rabbits
    - 3.56 (b) (3)

All primary enclosures must be cleaned and sanitized prior to being reused. Cleaning and Sanitization instructions for Guinea Pigs and Hamsters are found in §3.31(a) (4) in the Husbandry segment of these training materials. For Rabbits instructions are found in 3.56 (b) (3)

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- 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

Accompanying documents could include the air way bill, a health certificate if required by the airline or state, etc.

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- Shipping Documents
- In general, include:
  - Carrier waybill
  - Food and water instructions
  - Acclimation certificate
  - Additional information:
    - Medication instructions
    - Special care

Shipping documents include, but are not limited to:  
Carrier waybill  
Food and water instructions  
Acclimation certificate  
Additional information such as instructions for the administration of medications and drugs and other special care

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**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](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/>

States and Countries may have their own health certificate requirements for animals entering their territory. These requirements may include specific vaccinations or tests. It is important that you know and follow the requirements before you transport animals to these destinations.

Sources for state requirements include:

Your veterinarian, the State Veterinarian or State Animal Health Official for the destination state. APHIS has also posted state requirements on the link listed on the slide:

([http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/animal\\_import/animal\\_imports\\_states.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports_states.shtml))

Sources for international requirements:

Check with your veterinarian and the USDA APHIS VS area office in your state. See the link on the slide for information about import requirements:

(<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>)

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**Cargo Space Requirements:  
Primary Conveyances**

This section briefly describes requirements for primary conveyances used to transport animals by motor vehicle, rail, air or water.

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**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

**Primary Conveyance**

The animal cargo space of the vehicle used to transport animals must protect the animals' health, well-being and comfort at all times. This includes:

Protection from exhaust fumes

A sufficient air supply in the cargo space for normal breathing

Positioning of the primary enclosure within the cargo space to ensure each animal has sufficient air for normal breathing

Positioning of the primary enclosure to ensure the animals can be removed in an emergency

Keeping the interior of the cargo space clean

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**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

Animals must be protected during transport if transported with harmful materials.

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**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

There are several other special requirements for surface transportation in addition to the requirements found in sections 3.37 for Guinea Pigs and Hamsters and 3.62 for Rabbits of the Animal Welfare Regulations.

During transportation:

The ambient temperature may not exceed 85 degrees F, nor may the temperature fall below 45 degrees F without an acclimation certificate. Auxiliary ventilation, such as fans, blowers or air conditioning must be used in the animal cargo space when ambient temperature in the space reaches 75 degrees F.

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**Care of Animals in Transit**

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**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

Animals must receive proper care while in transit. Animals that are ill, injured or in physical distress must **only** be transported to receive veterinary care. An animal in obvious physical distress must be provided veterinary care as soon as possible.

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**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 – ground and water

Animals must be observed every 4 hours to ensure:

They have sufficient air for normal breathing

The ambient temperature in the cargo space is not greater than 85°F - or less than 45° F unless hamsters and rabbits have been issued an acclimation certificate

The animal does not show signs of obvious physical distress, such as:

Labored breathing

Excessive salivation

Vomiting/diarrhea

Frantic scratching, chewing or biting on the transport enclosure

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**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

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**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

Air transportation

It is the carrier’s responsibility to observe animals as frequently as circumstances allow, but not less than once every 4 hours if the animal cargo area is accessible during flight.

If the animal cargo area is not accessible during flight, the carrier must observe the animals whenever they are loaded and unloaded and whenever the animal cargo space is otherwise accessible to make sure:

They have sufficient air for normal breathing

The animal cargo area meets the heating and cooling requirements and that the area meets all other requirements under the AWA regulations and standards.

The carrier must determine whether any animals are in obvious physical distress, and arrange for veterinary care as soon as possible. If an animal is obviously ill, injured or in physical distress, it must not be transported in commerce, except to receive veterinary care for the condition. An animal must not be removed from its primary enclosure while in transit, unless it is placed in another primary enclosure or facility that meets the requirements of 3.36 or 3.61

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**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

You should now be able to:

Describe general requirements for transporting guinea pigs, hamsters or rabbits including-

- Primary enclosures
- Primary conveyances
- Food and water
- Care in transit
- Explain identification and certificate requirements for transporting

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Questions?

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**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.

