Country report on animal welfare during long distance transport by land and sea

Tunisia

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Overview of country livestock transport and trade

Import of cattle to Tunisia in % (1999 to 2022)

- Uruguay
- France
- Espagne
- Irlande
- Allemagne
- Italie
- Pays bas
- Autriche
- Hongrie
- Roumanie

Main trading countries and routes (by sea and by land)
Overview of country livestock transport and trade (2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal species</th>
<th>Export Countries</th>
<th>Reimportation</th>
<th>Non-final Admission (TRANSIT or SPORT EVENT)</th>
<th>Final Admission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equidae</td>
<td>E.U., Libya, Algeria</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main trading countries and routes (by sea and by land)
Competent Authorities

The Competent Authority responsible for animal welfare during transport by land and sea:

- **Central level**: General Directorate of Veterinary Services (DGSV)
- **Regional and Local level**: Official veterinarians

Authorities involved in cross-border transport of animals by land and sea:

Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Transport, Border Police and Customs.
Law 2005-95 of October 18th 2005 relating to breeding and animal products and in particular Article 32 of Title I on animal transport.

National animal welfare standards

Livestock: cows, goats, sheep, camelids, horses

Livestock: Poultry, snails, beehives

Order of the Minister of Agriculture and water Resources dated 11 January 2007, fixing the technical and health conditions for the transport of the livestock concerned with the identification programme.

Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fishing dated 7 October 2010, fixing the technical and sanitary conditions for the transport of poultries, small animals as well as their products.
National animal welfare standards

- The conditions aiming to ensure the animal comfort (Art. 1)
- The animals have to be loaded and unloaded in good conditions. It is forbidden to lift them or pull them from the head, the tail, the feet, the horns, the ears, or to hold them from the skin (Art. 8)
- The carrier of animals has to furnish, whenever asked to do so, to the qualified controllers all the documentation and written proof, required in the discharge of his function (Art. 5)
- The means of transport have to be adjusted in such a way as to ensure the comfort and safety of the transported animal (Art. 14)
- The carrier provides the animals with fodder and water over long distance trips (Art. 6)

Regarding: bovine, ovine, caprine, camelids and the equidae
National animal welfare standards

Standards for facilities, containers and vehicles for the transport of animals in Tunisia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal species</th>
<th>Live weight (kg)</th>
<th>Area (legal range) m²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Bulls</td>
<td>50-200kg</td>
<td>0,3m² to 0,95m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>200-700kg</td>
<td>0,95m² to 1,6m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the ovine and the caprine</td>
<td>20-50 kg</td>
<td>0,24m² to 0,32m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the equidae and camelids</td>
<td>50-300kg</td>
<td>0,5m² and 1,2m²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National animal welfare standards

Standards for facilities, containers and vehicles for the transport of **Horses** in Tunisia:

The size of the area intended for transporting separately the equidae is fixed as follows:

- The internal height: 75 cm more than the animal height.
- The internal length: 60 cm more than the animal length.
- The internal width: 40 cm more than the animal width.
National animal welfare standards
Competences of animal handlers, drivers and managers of facilities, business operators in relevant animal welfare issues

Law 2005-95 of October 18th 2005 relating to breeding and animal products
→ and in particular Article 24 and Article 21.

Animal carrier’s responsibilities:

- Supervise the transport operations.
- Respect the rules of salubrity, health and safety in the means of transport.
- Clean the means of transport and disinfect it before and after the transport with disinfectants approved by the veterinary departments.
- Change his/her clothes and clean his/her shoes after each transport operation.
Implementation of the standards

A **revised version of the regulations** in regard is being conducted in accordance with the outputs of the **WOAH Twinning Project** between:

- the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e il Molise “G. Caporale”,
- the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire “ENMV Sidi Thabet” and
- the Direction Générale des Services Vétérinaires “DGSV” (National Competent Authority).
Monitoring and evaluation

Vehicles shall be:

- **Able to bear** the transported animals load, and well maintained mechanically and technically.
- **Adjusted** to prevent the animals from falling, escaping or from having any part of the animal protruding from the vehicle.
- Equipped with **areas separating tools** according to the number of animals and species so as to allow the animal **enough** standing and lying down room.
- Equipped with **ventilation**.
- Equipped with **appropriate side gangways** allowing the **loading** and **unloading** of transported animals.
- **Shelters protecting animals** in the lower level from the droppings of those in the upper levels, and preventing the liquid leakage outside the vehicle.
Monitoring and evaluation

Animal Transport prohibited for:

- The **pregnant females** having reached **90% of the estimated gestation** period.

- **48 hours** after of giving birth.

- **Ill animals** when the transport may cause the deterioration of their health condition, except in emergency cases, should be transported on their own and after taking all the needed measures to alleviate pain and ensure safety.
Conclusions

We consider that Tunisia comply partially with WOAH standards regarding animal welfare during transportation in general.

A particular effort is being done for long distance and cross border transport (ASCO Project FAO).

In addition, the national legislation, and with a view to the correct application of the international standards and regulations, a revised version of the regulations in regard is being conduced in accordance with the outputs of the WOAH Twinning Project between the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e il Molise “G. Caporale”, the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire “ENMV Sidi Thabet” and the Direction Générale des Services Vétérinaires “DGSV”.

Main challenges → multiplicity of partners involved with animal transport
               → lack in adequate infrastructures
Thank you

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