Introductory Course for Commercial Dog Breeders

Topic 10: Transportation and Minimum Age Requirements
Learning Objectives

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 \( \frac{1}{3} \) of the total ventilation area located on the upper \( \frac{1}{2} \) 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</td>
<td>8% of total surface area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third wall</td>
<td>of opposing walls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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
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 enclosure
- Secure to prevent dog from leaving enclosure through receptacle openings
Care in Transit

• Ill, injured, or physically distressed dogs only transported to receive veterinary care
• Dogs in obvious distress must receive care at 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
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 reqs:

• Each country has requirements:
  – Check with your veterinarian
  – Information from APHIS - international reqs:
    http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/
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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