



“Training Programs for Airport Handling Personnel”

All these exotic creatures in the zoos worldwide, the promising livestock for a cattle breeding program or the beloved pet animals which became a family member over the years - some of them share a very special experience with humans: **The first flight !** Although animal transport by air has been a common practice for many years, logistic difficulties and sometimes technical problems remain a challenge when handling these special consignments. The many requirements for the safe and humane transport of live animals by air calls for adequate training programs for the handling staff. Airport Handling Personnel has to go through a number of required training courses, i.e. for Dangerous Goods and Live Animal Handling . These requirements are set by the legislation of the individual governments and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The appropriate manuals for air transportation are published by IATA and these regulations are in many cases part of the national legislation, i.e. EU Directives or CITES legislation. Fraport AG is the major handling agent for the Airlines at Frankfurt/Germany, one of the busiest Airports, both in passenger and cargo volume. In 2003, more than 88 million cargo animals were handled at this Airport which is still the only Airport in Germany with an official permission to transport animals. To ensure a smooth handling of all these animals and to meet the provisions set by the Authority, it is necessary to instruct all handling personnel on aspects of animal welfare in general, animal welfare during transport and the IATA Live Animals Regulations. All handling departments have their share of responsibility in the transport chain and the training modules are based on these individual requirements. Fraport AG offers specialised training courses for “Live Animal Handling” in accordance with the IATA Live Animals Regulations for interested Airlines, Cargo Agents and other members of the animal transport industry. Training sessions are available in English or German language.

Miss Rebecca C. McNeill is employed by Fraport AG at Frankfurt Airport/Germany and acquired versatile experience while working for various Airlines and Handling Agents since 1977. As a consequence of the EU Directive on Animal Welfare during Transport and the German national legislation, Fraport AG had to provide a “responsible and competent person for animal transport”. The veterinary authority appointed Miss McNeill as the Animal Welfare Adviser for Fraport AG effective September 2000. One of the main aspects of this position is the conception of training courses on animal handling and conducting these classes for the Fraport AG staff.

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