

ROAD TRANSPORT OF HORSES

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Road Transport of Horses

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Horse Transport - why?

Horses (*all equidae*) are transported for a number of reasons:

- Competition
- Breeding
- Training
- Private / Leisure
- **Slaughter**



The ILPH and Horse Transportation

The ILPH was founded in 1927 by Ada Cole after she witnessed the appalling sites of work worn, injured and sick horses exported for slaughter.

The ILPH continues to work towards welfare improvements for horses transported for slaughter.



ILPH Vision Statement



*A world where the horse is used
but never abused.*



MISSION STATEMENT

*To protect horses
from abuse and
alleviate their
suffering.*



ILPH Achievements

- **1937** Exportation of Horses Act
- **1950's** – Legislation to improve the conditions of horses transported by road, rail and sea
- **1960's** – Inspectors on livestock boats sailing from Argentina to Italy
- **1970's** – Rail coaches to be marked as carrying livestock



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ILPH Achievements and Work



1980's – 2004
Working to improve the Conditions of horses transported for slaughter into and across the EU.

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The Purpose of Training and Assessment

- To maintain animal welfare.
- To improve and develop knowledge of animal welfare and husbandry.
- To improve and develop knowledge of the legal requirements.
- To improve upon existing systems.

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Current Issues with the Transportation of Horses for Slaughter

- Journey length
- Inadequate provision for food, water and rest
- Extremes of temperature
- Mixed groups of horses – different social groups, age, sex, size, weight
- Animals unfit for transport
- Poor handling

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Unfit to Travel



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Exhaustion




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Injuries

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Handling



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Feeding and Watering



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Impact of Proposed EU Regulation




Positive impact:

- Individual partitions
- Unbroken and semi-feral horses transported in small groups, for short journeys only
- Superior vehicles used.

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Impact of Proposed EU Regulation



Negative Impact:

- Long journeys with rest on the vehicle.
- Practicality of effective feeding and watering on vehicle for horses transported to slaughter

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EU Regulation - Training

Extract from the most recent working document on the Regulation:

- *“Road drivers and attendants... shall have successfully completed the training...and have passed an examination approved by the competent authority...”*

Continued...

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"2. The training courses...shall include at least the technical and administrative aspects of Community legislation concerning the protection of animals during transport and in particular the following items:

- *animal physiology and in particular drinking and feeding needs, animal behaviour and the concept of stress;*
- *practical aspects of handling of animals;*
- *impact of driving behaviour on the welfare of the transported animals and on the quality of meat;*
- *emergency care for animals;*
- *safety considerations for personnel handling animals."*



Conclusion



- Positive steps ,but the key is enforcement
- Greater knowledge is needed
- An enlarged EU presents new problems and challenges
- Training is essential, and needs to be standardised across Member States to ensure the welfare of animals.

