



## **BEVA POSITION STATEMENT ON THE TRANSPORT OF HORSES**

---

The British Equine Veterinary Association recognises that transportation of horses has to be carefully regulated and controlled to protect the welfare of the horse.

The transport of horses in the UK is governed by Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. The European commission has stated that this regulation will be reviewed in 2009, and that issues such as stocking density, and journey times will be reviewed. It is important that those involved in the transport of horses are aware of the current legislation and comply with these requirements and that they are aware of the stresses that transportation may put upon horses in their care.

At present Registered Equidae, as defined in Article 2(c) of Directive 90/426/EEC, are commonly transported for competition, races, cultural events or breeding. They are exempted from some sections of the transport regulation excepting if being transported for slaughter. A registered horse or pony means one that is registered in stud books or with international organisations managing competitions.

BEVA is strongly against the long-distance transportation of live horses for slaughter, and supports the current campaign of World Horse Welfare to ensure that the existing legislation is effectively enforced. BEVA also supports World Horse Welfare's call for modifications to the existing legislation, designed to improve the welfare of horses being transported, including:

- Horses to be reclassified separately from farm animals
- The introduction of a short, finite journey limit
- Minimum space allowance to properly reflect the size of the horse, pony or donkey
- Improved partition design for individual stalls
- Clarification of 'unbroken equidae'
- Robust enforcement of current legislation
- Detailed journey plans recording each stage of the journey
- Compulsory 24-hour rest for all horses upon entry to the EU

BEVA's long-term aim is that international or long distance transportation of live horses for slaughter be banned and that transport of all equidae be carried out in a manner consistent with high welfare standards.

Madeleine Campbell

David Dugdale

March 2009