

Transport of lactating cows

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Lactating cows are vulnerable animals and need to be transported with **special care**. Cows in milk that are not regularly milked **can suffer severe pain**, because of increasing pressure in the udder and the higher risk to develop mastitis or other illness. Special care and good transport practices can prevent this.



If a cow can not get up anymore (*downer cow*), call the veterinarian immediately!

Preparation for lactating cows



Remember in the first week after calving, transport is prohibited

If lactating cows are not accompanied by their calves, they must be milked **at least every 12 hours**

2

If lactating cows are to be transported in long journeys, make sure that the control post(s) has **milking facilities**

3

Even better! Provide water and feed when milking and make sure that the cows can eat / drink before you load them to resume the journey

Always **calmly unload** the cows into the milking parlor of the control post

For lactating cows, optimum temperature is between 5°C to 15°C. Below 5°C, cows need extra warmth - especially if air draught and high humidity. Do not transport when over 30°C.

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Food Safety