

Unweaned animals

Antonio Velarde Animal Welfare IRTA

EU Platform on Animal Welfare Fifth meeting – 17 June 2019







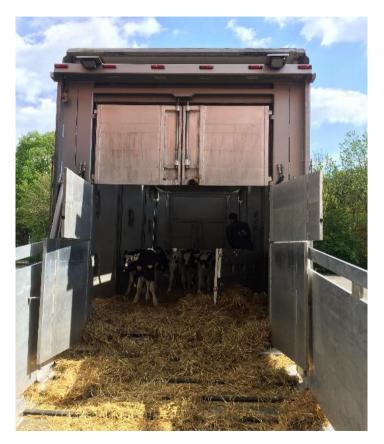
Members

- Public entities: Mayte Villalba, Ana Catalán, Tea Dronjic (Invited expert)
- Civil Society: Francesca Porta, Iris Baumgartner
- Professionals: Raoul Maas (Invited expert), Ono Hiddingo (Invited expert)
- Scientists: Mette Herskin (ISAE), Margit Jensen (Invited expert), Michael Marahens (Invited expert), Antonio Velarde (Independent expert)



Scope





- ✓ Calves of two to five weeks of age.
- ✓ Transported over long distances.

The animal welfare consequences:

- 1. Prolonged hunger
- 2. Thermal comfort
- 3. Health/fitness for transport
- Scarce scientific information
- > Studies on farm





Prolonged hunger



- When the calf has been unable to meet its physiological requirements for energy, proteins or specific nutrients. This results in a catabolic energy supply.
- ➤ A daily amount of milk below 10% of body weight might constitute prolonged hunger.
- ➤ No scientific evidence to state the maximum feeding intervals that constitute 'undue suffering'.
- Electrolyte solution does not meet nutritional requirements.

Suggestions of animal based measures:

Cross-sucking, vocalization and competition for milk, if available.



Thermal comfort



Thermoneutral zone:

- ➤ Humidity below 80%
- ➤ Humidity above 80%



Between 5°C and 30°C.

Between 5°C and 27°C.



Thermal stress:

When the animal is unable to maintain constant body temperature by behavioural and physiological adaptation.







Thermal comfort



Animal based measures

- Cold stress:
 - Shivering: slow and irregular vibration of any body part, or the body as a whole.
- Heat stress:
 - Panting: breathing in short gasps carried out with the mouth.
 - Sweating: visible signs of sweating on their skin (wet animals, dried sweat spots, salt deposits) are counted as sweating animals.



Thermal comfort



Risk factors

- ➤ Space allowance
- Quality and amount bedding, dry bedding
- > Climate and air exchange around the animal
- Competence of the drivers



Health/fitness for transport



Next meeting in September





