

Special Issue

Animal Stress and Welfare During Transport and Slaughtering: Second Edition

Message from the Guest Editor

There is much discussion about the transportation of farm animals. The main issues are welfare, meat quality, legislation, consumer concerns, and economic aspects. The main hazards identified for transported animals are common for all species. Hazards characterized as serious are inadequate ventilation, insufficient space allowance, transport duration, the lack of appropriate food and water during transport, incorrect handling during (un)loading, poor fitness prior to transport, the introduction of pathogens before and during transport, and the inappropriate application of resting periods during transport. Loading at the farm and unloading at the slaughterhouse have been considered the most stressful preslaughter events. It is necessary that slaughter animals need to be well restrained for optimal stunning. In a restrainer, animals are stunned by mechanical, electrical, or gas methods. The use of a no-stunning method as an exception is possible for ritual slaughter in some countries. The stun-stick interval and maintenance are relevant for all stunning methods. After stunning, the unconsciousness of the animals needs to be checked.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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