

[BAI ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 19, December 08, 2006]

RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS BY LAND

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 8485, otherwise known as the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998", the following rules and regulations are hereby promulgated for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. Basic Policy, Objective and Scope - This Order takes into consideration the five basic freedoms of animals, which are: 1) Freedom from thirst, hunger, and malnutrition; (2) Freedom from physical discomfort and pain; (3) Freedom from injury and disease; (4) Freedom to conform to essential behavior pattern; and (5) Freedom from fear and distress.

The objective of this Order is to promote, ensure, and protect the welfare of all animals during land transport. This Order is the joint responsibility of all people involved in animal transport.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms -

2.1 **Animal Caretaker** - refers to a person who takes care of dogs and cats who may be the animal owner or one employed by the animal owner. This usually refers to those caring and transporting pet animals.

2.2 **Animal Handler or Livestock handler** - refers to a person licensed by the Bureau of Animal Industry-Marketing Development Division as livestock handlers.

2.3 **Animal Handler on Wildlife** - refers to those who are trained to handle wildlife.

2.4 **Animal Hauler** - refers to a person or juridical person hauling live animals from source to destination.

2.5 **Cages, Container Vans and crates** refer to enclosed structures with appropriate ventilation and shelter used for keeping animals while being transported.

2.6 **Carrier** - refers to the person, partnership, corporation, association or government agency or instrumentality hauling or handling live animals for the purpose of transporting same from one place to another. Carriers are also known as haulers.

2.7 **Disinsecting or Disinfecting** refers to the procedure in which measures are taken to kill vectors of diseases and pathogenic agents present in the land transport

vehicle.

2.8 **Driver** refers to every and any licensed operator of a motor vehicle.

2.9 **Expressways** refer to limited access facilities as defined under RA 2000

2.10 **Loading and Unloading Equipment** refers to a ramp, chute, box or other apparatus used in loading or unloading animals.

2.11 **Loading Bay** refers to permanent loading areas.

2.12 **Motor Vehicle** refers to any vehicle propelled by any power other than muscular power, self-propelled or pulled by tractor head.

2.13 **Receiver** refers to any authorized person at the end of the destination in charge of receiving the animals. Receiver is also known as the consignee.

2.14 **Restraining Devices** refer to gadgets, muzzles, collars, halters, ropes and other similar devices used to physically control, manage or contain the movement of animals.

2.15 **Traders or “Viajeros” or Livestock Dealers** refer to persons who are in the business of buying, selling and transporting live animals for commercial purposes.

2.16 **Trailer** refers to any number of wheels when propelled or intended to be propelled by attachment to a motor vehicle.

2.17 **Ventilation** refers to openings that provide aeration or exposure to air such as holes, slots, louvers, mesh and the like.

SECTION 3. Delineation of Responsibilities

3.1 **Owners, managers and subcontractors** of animals being transported are responsible for the general health of the animals, their fitness for the journey, and their welfare ensuring compliance with any required veterinary or other Certifications during the journey. They are also responsible in ensuring the presence of at least one animal caretaker or animal handler competent for the species being transported and for ensuring that equipment is provided as appropriate for the species and journey.

3.2 **Animal caretakers/animal handlers** are responsible for the humane handling and care of the animals during loading, unloading and transport. The animal caretaker or animal handler may also be the driver of the vehicle transporting the animals.

3.3 The **carrier** is responsible in choosing the appropriate vehicle and ensuring that properly trained staff are available for loading, unloading and caring of the animals; developing and keeping up-to-date contingency plans to address emergencies and minimize stress during transport; and producing a Journey Plan which includes a loading plan, journey duration and location of resting places.

3.4 **Drivers** are responsible for the safety and roadworthiness of vehicles used in

transporting animals and compliance to traffic rules and regulations during the travel.

3.5 Owners and operators of animal facilities are responsible for:

3.5.1 Providing suitable premises and appropriate facilities for loading, unloading and securely holding the animals;

3.5.2 Providing appropriate facilities, with water and feed; and

3.5.3 Providing facilities for disinfecting and disinsecting vehicles after unloading.

3.6 The responsibilities of **concerned authorities** include inspection of animals before, during and after their travel, and issuance of appropriate Certifications and record keeping as stated below:

3.6.1 Livestock Handlers License (LHL);

3.6.2 Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC);

3.6.3 Rabies Vaccination and Health Certificate especially for dogs, cats and monkeys;

3.6.4 Shipping Permit;

3.6.5 In the case of wildlife, a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Wildlife Transport Permit;

3.6.6 Identification of the animals and their abode;

3.6.7 Ownership of animals pursuant to PD 533 otherwise known as the "Anti-Cattle Rustling Law"; and

3.6.8 Negative Coggins test for horses.

SECTION 4. Considerations During Transport/Travel

4.1 Loading/Unloading Requirements

4.1.1 Requirements for Livestock and Exotic Animals

4.1.1.2 Every ramp and gangway used by a carrier in loading or unloading animals shall have sidings of sufficient height and strength to prevent animals from falling.

4.1.2 Prohibited Acts During Loading, Unloading and Transport

4.1.2.1 A No animals shall be moved by suspension using mechanical means (sling or cable), nor lifted or dragged by the head, horns, legs, nose, ears, eyes, tail or fleece. There shall be halters for cattle, carabaos and horses, leashes for dogs, and proper cages for cats, cages for poultry and ducks, and

ropes for goats and sheep. The use of electric prods shall be prohibited. Dogs shall be placed in proper cages when transported on open beds of trucks or pick-ups.

4.1.2.2 No animal shall be made to jump from the transport vehicle. Loading and unloading equipment shall be maintained and used so as not to cause injury or undue suffering to the animals. Only dogs shall be allowed to jump at a height appropriate to their size.

4.2 Animal Control in Expressways/Highways

4.2.1 To ensure the safety of the motorists from accidents caused by stray animals and to prevent loss of lives and damage to property, expressway operators shall provide Public Safety Guidelines on Stray Animal Control approved by the DA-Committee on Animal Welfare. This includes installation of an Animal Control Facility, training of personnel in control/handling of animals, implementation of the procedures on stray animal detection, impounding, adoption and disposition of unredeemed and sick animals.

4.2.2 The expressway Operators shall in the Implementation of the Public Safety Guidelines on Stray Animals, give paramount consideration to public safety and prevention of damage to life and property. Upon detection of stray animals inside the right of way (ROW) or carriageway the responsible units shall report to the Central Control the following information; the type of animal, classification, kilometer or station where the animal was last seen and its direction. The Central Control will record the report and dispatch a team to assess if the animal poses imminent danger to the life or limb of the motorists.

4.2.3 All animals in custody or in transit shall not be subjected to torture, neglect or inadequate care or maltreatment.

4.2.4 The collecting teams must be equipped with suitable and appropriate equipment for restraining the animal. These animals shall be turned over to the Animal Control Facility with proper care. The Animal Control Officer (ACO) shall follow and apply at all times the existing standards, rules and regulations on animal protection, care and welfare as per Animal Welfare Act of 1998 (R.A. 8485).

4.2.5 If necessary the extermination of the animal shall be carried out through shooting using the appropriate firearm by authorized personnel. When the animal poses imminent danger to the life or limb of a human being, killing of the animals shall be done through shooting by a shooter deputized by the Bureau of Animal Industry - Animal Welfare Division.

4.2.6 The use of high-powered rifles is recommended such as M-14 or caliber 308 for large animals such as but not limited to cattle, carabaos and horses. A caliber 30 shall be used for small animals such as but not limited to goats, pigs and dogs.

4.3 Methods of Restraint and Containment of Animals

Methods of restraining animals shall be appropriate to the species involved.