

**[DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2, s. 2003,
January 06, 2003]**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS BY
SEA**

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 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. - This Code takes into consideration the five basic freedoms of animals, which are:

- Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
- Freedom from physical discomfort and pain
- Freedom from injury and disease
- Freedom to conform to essential behavioral patterns; and
- Freedom from fear and distress.

SECTION 2. Objective. - To promote, ensure and protect the welfare of animals while they are being loaded and unloaded in the ports and transported by sea. In realizing this objective, it is recognized that there are certain limitations during transport that may restrict the enjoyment of the five basic freedoms of animals, provided that such procedures adopted for transportation are not contrary to law.

SECTION 3. Scope. - This Order shall apply to:

a. Private or public passenger-cargo or pure cargo vessels and vehicles authorized or used to transport animals while within Philippine territory. b. Companies or persons involved in transporting animals.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. -

a. *Animal* — shall refer to any livestock, poultry or other member of the animal kingdom, terrestrial or aquatic whether wild or domesticated.

b. *Animal Health Division* — shall refer to the Division of the Bureau of Animal industry of the Department of Agriculture tasked to prevent, control, contain and eradicate communicable animal diseases, and regulate the flow of animals and animal products into, out of and within Philippine territory.

c. *Animal Welfare Division* — shall refer to the Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Department of Agriculture tasked to implement Republic Act 8485.

d. *BAI* — shall refer to the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture.

e. *Animal Container Van* — shall refer to a slatted container van made of metal, such as flat iron sheets, angular and round bags, black iron pipes and the like, which

is used for the carriage of cattle, hogs, and other animals, whether self-propelled or pulled by tractor head.

f. *Livestock* — refers to documented animals, whether terrestrial or aquatic.

g. *Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB)* — refers to the Bureau in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that formulates and recommends policies and programs for the establishment and management of an integrated protected area system and the conservation of biological diversity.

h. *Quarantine* means the isolation and observation of animals within a period. It also means the restriction placed on a vessel having disease aboard or coming from unhealthful points. During this period, the flag "Q" called Quarantine Flat or Yellow Jack shall be exhibited.

i. *Quarantine Station* refers to a designated place where animals are kept for isolation or observation.

j. *Shipper* for purposes of this Administrative Order shall refer to one who transports animals from the point of origin to the point of destination by any form or means of transportation.

k. *Shipper's Representative or Stock Attendant or Convoy* may be used interchangeably and shall refer to the person/s duly authorized by the shipper to represent him and to transact business in his behalf and who is given the responsibility to attend to the needs of the animals while in transit.

l. *Skipper or Master* shall refer to the person who has command of the ship.

m. *Vessel* shall refer to any ship, boat, barge, specialized carrier, or other water craft or artificial contrivance capable of floating in water designed to be used or capable of being used as a means of water transportation utilizing its own motive power or that of another, with the ability to carry animals on deck or in its vessel hold without the use of any container van, or by carrying such animals using container vans which are loaded on and unloaded from the vessel using vessel cranes or through vessel ramps.

n. *Veterinary Quarantine Officer (VQO)* refers to a licensed veterinarian employed by or appointed as such and included in the regular plantilla of personnel in the BAI of the DA.

SECTION 5. Basic Premises and Considerations. —

5.1 Weather conditions can lengthen the time of stay of animals on board the vessel as well as in the holding area.

5.2 The responsibility of the owner of the animals, shipmaster and other persons-in-charge of overseeing the welfare and protection of the animals are emphasized.

5.3 Good handling and transport management is important to the welfare of the animals carried at sea.

SECTION 6. Requirements before Transport. —

6.1 Before transporting the animals by sea, the shipper shall secure all required document/s from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) — Animal Health Division and

Animal Welfare Division, and in the case of wildlife, from the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the DENR and in the case of aquatic animals from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) or any other specific animals to appropriate agencies concerned. In no case shall the animals be transported without the valid documents required by BAI and other government agencies concerned.

6.2 The shipper shall assign a representative or caretaker who shall be on board the vessel to take care of the animals while they are in transit.

6.3 Prior coordination shall be undertaken by the shipper with the concerned shipping company or ship operator regarding the requirements of loading and unloading the animals from the vessel, their accommodations during the voyage, including the provision of food and water, the area where the animals are kept ensuring that this is well ventilated, and discomfort to the animals is minimized.

6.4 To ensure the safety and welfare of the animals, the following shall be observed:

- a. Vehicles shall be maintained in good condition.
- b. Dimensions of the container vans shall be according to Appendix 1.
- c. Stocking density of the container vans or vehicles shall be appropriate.
- d. Absence of any protruding objects and any injurious materials inside and outside the van or vehicle.
- e. Apply routine sanitary measures.

6.5 The dimension of animal container van is found in Appendix 1.

SECTION 7. Delineation of Responsibilities. —

7.1 The Shipper shall:

7.1.1 Be responsible for the training of its representative or caretaker to ensure that animals are properly protected and taken care of during their loading on and unloading from the vessel and while on route.

7.1.2 See to it that the dimensions of the vehicle shall be in accordance with Appendix I.

7.1.3 Provide the required boxes, cages, crates in the dimensions specified in Appendix I.

7.1.4 Secure the required documents, permits and clearances before the animals are transported.

7.1.5 Have a contingency plan in place in case any delay occurs in the transport of animals by sea. The plan shall include access to corrals or holding pens for animals during the emergency, which shall be equipped with unloading facilities, as well as watering and feeding arrangements.

7.1.6 Contract only those vans or vehicles approved by the local veterinary officers in accordance with Appendix I.

7.1.7 Secure permits from the DA-BAI or DA-Regional Offices, and in the case of wild animals, additional permits shall be secured from the DENR-PAWB.