

AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

LAND TRANSPORT OF LIVESTOCK

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SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LAND TRANSPORT OF DEER

Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risks to the welfare of deer during transport.

SB5.1 A person in charge must ensure time off water does not exceed the time periods given below for each class of deer:

| CLASS | A | B |
|---|----|----|
| Deer over 6 months old | 48 | 36 |
| Weaned fawns or calves under 6 months old | 28 | 12 |
| Deer known to be more than 5 months pregnant, excluding the last four weeks | 24 | 12 |

A - Maximum time off water (hours)

B - Minimum Spell duration (hours)

SB5.2 If deer over six months old have been off water for 48 hours, the person in charge must ensure the deer have a spell for 36 hours before starting another journey.

If weaned deer less than six months old have been off water of 28 hours, the person in charge must ensure the deer have a spell for 12 hours before starting another journey.

If deer known to be more than five months pregnant excluding the last four weeks have been off water for 24 hours, the person in charge must ensure the deer have a spell for 12 hours before starting another journey.

SB5.3 Deer known to be in the last four weeks of pregnancy and lactating deer with fawns or calves must only be transported under veterinary advice unless the journey time is less than four hours duration.

SB5.4 A person must not use an electric prod on a deer during the transport process unless reasonable actions to cause movement have failed.

SB5.5 A person must not transport a deer within seven days of velvet antler removal.

SB5.6 A person must not transport deer with hard antlers greater than four cm unless they are separated from all other deer and have adequate clearance above the antlers.

Note

Deer are generally not watered on transport vehicles. Unloading for voluntary water stops should be avoided for welfare and biosecurity reasons. However, water stops longer than four hours (recognised reasonable access to water) can be deducted from the total water-deprivation time. A water stop less than four hours is not recommended or recognised for water-deprivation time calculation, but can be taken as necessary.

Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of deer during transport.

Fitness

GB5.1 Additional considerations for deer welfare should be made for long-distance travel:

- for deer over six months old after 36 hours off water
- for fawns under six months old after 20 hours off water
- for lactating deer and deer in the third trimester of pregnancy after 12 hours off water:

These considerations should include:

- that the deer are considered fit for the remainder of the intended journey
- adverse weather conditions are not prevailing or predicted
- additional spell times during the journey
- a longer spell time at the end of the journey
- the recent management of the deer before first loading.

GB5.2 Conditions that could adversely affect deer welfare during transport and that should be considered in the assessment of fitness for the intended journey might include lethargy, and profuse diarrhoea, disease, or wounds or abscesses. A decision to transport a deer with the above conditions should be made only after considering the welfare of the animal concerned and the treatment and management options.

GB5.3 Deer with antlers in velvet greater than four cm should not be transported.

GB5.4 Deer with hard antlers greater than four cm should not be transported.

GB5.5 Deer that are due to calve within one month or with young at foot (less than one month old) should not be transported unless in an emergency for the welfare of the deer, and special provisions (as advised by a veterinarian) are in place to ensure that transport does not result in adverse welfare outcomes.

GB5.6 Deer in the last trimester of pregnancy should not be deprived of water for more than 12 hours and they should be provided with water, food and space to lie down and rest for 12 hours before starting another journey.

GB5.7 Deer in the last month of pregnancy should be transported under the following provisions:

- water-deprivation time should not exceed eight hours

- feed and water should be provided immediately before loading and on unloading
- additional space should be provided on the vehicle
- deer should be segregated from other classes of deer. veterinary advice should be sought.

Note

Transport should be managed to ensure the welfare of deer, particularly those not accustomed to handling, those in a weak condition, pregnant females, and adult males during and immediately after the rutting season.

Food and water

GB5.8 Deer should be fed and watered as soon as possible after unloading.

GB5.9 Deer are particularly susceptible to heat stress. A supply of suitable water should be provided before loading.

Loading density

GB5.10 The following space allowances should be provided:

| Deer weight range | Floor area per animal (m ²) | Number of head per 12.5 m x 2.4 m deck |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 50 kg | 0.3 | 100 |
| 75 kg | 0.4 | 75 |
| 100 kg | 0.50 | 60 |
| 150 kg | 0.75 | 40 |
| 200 kg | 1.0 | 30 |

GB5.11 Extra floor space should be available for deer to lie down during journeys that are anticipated to last longer than 24 hours.

Vehicles and facilities

GB5.12 When loading the vehicle, deer of different species and class should be penned separately to avoid injury or aggression towards each other.

GB5.13 Deer should be transported in crates that are fully sided with sufficient gaps for airflow, and that have high side walls to prevent deer escaping and provide sufficient vertical clearance. Where weather requires, tarp or shade cloth should cover the vehicle front and roof; otherwise a transport vehicle that is fully enclosed should be used. Single animal crates should be darkened and light entry should be at low levels.

GB5.14 Crates should be of sufficient height so that deer have good head clearance and air moves freely through the crate. A cover is essential in any vehicle used to transport deer.

GB5.15 Only fit and healthy animals should be selected for transport. Those most susceptible to stress or injury during transport should be loaded last, and unloaded first. When loading the vehicle, deer of different species and class should be penned separately to avoid injury or aggression towards each other.

GB5.16 Transporting deer during extremely hot weather (above 35°C) should be avoided, especially if deer are unaccustomed. If the deer show signs of heat stress or dehydration (panting, dry mouth, reduced response to normal stimuli) the crate should be placed in the shade or the deer hosed with water. The temperature in the crate should not exceed 30°C.

Handling

GB5.17 Deer brought into yards for loading should be moved as quietly and carefully as possible.

GB5.18 Deer in hard antler should not be yarded with other deer.

GB5.19 Electric prodders should not be used on fawns or calves.

Humane destruction

GB5.20 Recommended methods of humane destruction include:

- for deer over six months old — firearm, captive bolt, lethal injection or bleeding-out
- for fawns or calves — firearm, captive bolt, lethal injection, bleeding-out or blunt trauma; however, blunt trauma should only be used when there is no other recommended option for humane destruction, and can only be used on calves that are less than 24 hours old.

GB5.21 A rifle shot by the frontal method (Figure B5.1) is the preferred method of humanely destroying deer. For adult deer, a firearm should deliver at least the muzzle energy of a standard 0.22-long rifle cartridge and this cartridge should be 0.22 magnum for sambar deer. For fawns, a firearm should deliver at least the muzzle energy of a standard 0.22-long rifle cartridge.

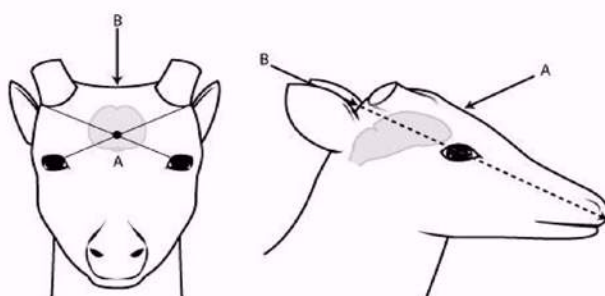
GB5.22 If necessary, use of blunt trauma on newborn young of deer less than 24 hours old should be followed by bleeding-out or another technique while the animal is unconscious to ensure death.

Humane destruction of deer

Note: (A) indicates the frontal method and (B) indicates the poll method.

The dots indicate the point of aim and the arrows indicates the direction of aim for the positions.

The diagrams are representational and individual anatomical differences should be taken into account.





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