



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
Woodham Lane
New Haw
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 3NB

enquiries@apha.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC2765

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

18 May 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about animal transport, which APHA received on 08 May 2022. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“Specifically regarding the transport of research dogs destined for laboratories under 65km is it acceptable for these to travel in crates in a car or breeding facility owned non-customised van? Would the drivers of either vehicle need to be specifically insurer to transport commercial animals?”

The rules concerning the commercial transportation of animals are set out in Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 (as Retained) on the protection of animals during transport and in domestic legislation, The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 (WATEO) with parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales. The retained EU legislation aims to protect the welfare of animals during transportation and applies to animals transported in connection with an economic activity on journeys over 65km.

Under article 4 of The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, there are some general provisions for the protection of all animals during transport, including dogs being transported for less than 65km. It is an offence to transport animals, including people transporting dogs, in a way that will cause injury or unnecessary suffering. Animals must be transported in a means of transport which takes in to consideration the conditions required. Further to these regulations, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 also applies; the Animal Welfare Act 2006 allows action to be taken where there is evidence of cruelty to an animal or a failure to provide for that animal’s welfare needs.

The Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) do not hold information on road vehicle insurance.

“Whilst I appreciate you cannot give names of transporters, could you please tell me in the UK how many transporter licences are currently in place with regard to laboratory (research) animals. Included in this figure could you please also tell me how many of these include the species of a) dogs and b) non human primates.”

APHA do not hold data relating to transporter authorisations specifically for research animals. In line with Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 (as Retained), Transporter Authorisation is issued for the following categories: bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, poultry, equine and “other” species. “Other” species covers all live vertebrate species that are not listed separately. Transporter Authorisation does not include the purpose of transport – e.g. research animals.

“Regarding transporters of research animals, are they ever audited to confirm what procedures they have in place for an emergency situation, if animals have suitable supplies of water and if drivers are skilled in animal first aid and handling?”

Transporters have a legal duty to protect the welfare of the animals in their care. Transporters should have contingency plans in place to ensure that animal welfare is not compromised, even in the event of disruption to the journey. The primary responsibility for the enforcement of the transport legislation rests with Local Authorities. Local Authorities carry out routine welfare checks on animals and their means of transport and will take appropriate enforcement measures up to and including prosecution if required.

Your final question with reference to allegations about a named animal transporter. This is not a request for recorded information and asks for an opinion. However as part of APHA’s responsibility to provide help and guidance, please see the following:

APHA are unable to comment on individual cases. Local Authorities (LA’s) are responsible for enforcement where any non-compliance with the animal welfare in transport rules is found and will take prosecution action when serious welfare issues relating to the transport of live animals are identified.

APHA acts as a national regulator for the welfare of animals in transport rules and is able to take regulatory action following non-compliance by transporters. APHA works closely with its local authority enforcement partners to support enforcement action and prosecution of those involved in breaches of the welfare in transport legislation.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government’s Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

Copyright

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Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Coronavirus

If you need to contact the ICO during the Coronavirus pandemic, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.