

GUIDELINES FOR THE CAPTURE, HANDLING AND TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS

Capture and Handling

1. When capturing any animal, it is important to prevent any unnecessary suffering or distress. Animals should not be handled roughly.
2. Proper equipment should be used. Supervision of and correct use of such equipment is essential.
3. Any animal trap should be placed in an area sheltered from the sun and rain. Traps set up in the open should be covered to protect the animals from the sun and rain.
4. All set traps should be monitored on a daily basis. Any animal found trapped in the trap must be removed immediately and sent to an SPCA designated place. Where an animal is trapped and cannot be handed over immediately to SPCA, it must be provided with water and shelter from the sun and rain. The trap should be covered so that the animal is not unduly stressed. The cover used should allow adequate ventilation. Food should be provided if the animal is not handed over to SPCA within 24 hours.
5. All reasonable efforts should be made to ensure the safety and comfort of the animal in the trap. At no time should any animal be subjected to cruelty¹.

Transport

6. Cages are preferred for keeping animals in the vehicles. The cages must be of suitable size to allow the animals freedom of movement so that they are not restricted in standing or lying down. Where cages are not used, steps should be taken to prevent the animals from fighting and injuring each other.
7. Different species of animals should not be kept next to each other.
8. Any animal captured or collected should be taken to an SPCA-designated place with minimum delay. Animals can be very easily stressed and succumb to heat stroke if kept in hot vehicles for long periods. Therefore, they should not be transported around longer than necessary or held in vehicles that do not have proper ventilation or air-conditioning.
9. Chemicals, rescue equipment, and other loose objects should not be kept in the same compartment as the animals that are being transported so as to prevent risk of injury to the animals.

¹ Under Section 42 of the Animals and Birds Act, any person charged and convicted in court for an act of cruelty to an animal is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 or a jail term of 12 months, or both.

Table 1. Guidelines for Transportation of animals

Type	Carriers
Carcasses	Containers specified by SPCA (i.e. bags to place the carcasses) Carcasses are to be double bagged Carcass to be placed in cooler box, when size permits
Live Animals	Cages/pet carriers (Not to be co-transported with carcasses)
Animal Sample	Cooler boxes

Others

10. Any sick or injured animal captured or collected is to be provided with veterinary attention as soon as possible to prevent suffering (veterinary attention may mean humane euthanasia by a veterinary surgeon).
11. Proper records and photos of the animals and the date, time and place of capture and delivery to an SPCA-designated place should be kept.