Sheep and lambs: fitness

Ensuring sheep are fit for transport

1. Never transport animals in pain (when moving) or injuries (e.g. open wounds), with severe system disorders or animals with lack of coordination.
2. Never transport sheep which are recently dehorned and not healed yet.
3. Never transport lambs less than 1 week and highly pregnant ewes (more than 90% gestation).
4. Never transport animals that are blind.
5. Never transport sheep which are not able to put weight on all four legs or that refuse to stand.

What are good practices?

1. Before loading, the farmer should notify the driver of any concerns about the sheep to be transported.
2. Asses the sheep for fitness before loading by a qualified person.
3. When you have doubts on the fitness conditions, ask veterinary advice to take proper arrangements for care and treatments.
4. The transporter (as the farmer) is accountable for the fitness of the sheep.

What do to with impaired fitness during transport?

1. Effective containment in a suitable holding area for rest.
2. Provision of feed and water.
3. Veterinary treatment if necessary.

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