

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY



Bóthar's core purpose is to improve the lives of entire families in the developing world by increasing their incomes in a sustainable way. Our vision is for a world where rural farmers, women and men and their communities are empowered to and capable of living a fulfilled life with dignity. We use natural resources (land, animals and water) and our experience is that livestock rearing is a sustainable mechanism to address poverty, food insecurity and to reduce the potential for disaster. Bóthar's unique approach to supporting the rural poor is primarily through the donation of and training in the care of livestock. Therefore, the standards and regulations pertaining to this very important aspect of our development work are followed with zero tolerance. These guidelines apply to live domesticated animals: cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and equines.

Within the EU all transportation of our livestock adheres to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DFAM) regulations. Specifically, although not transporting for economic purposes, we ensure compliance with Council Regulation (EC) 1 of 2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations.

All our donor farmers transporting their own animals in their own vehicle up to a maximum distance of 65km are excluded from the main provisions of the Regulation. However, they must observe General Conditions for the transport of animals as outlined by the DFAM.

Farmers transporting animals on journeys over 65km on a regular basis may have to apply to the DFAM for an authorisation. However, these farmers are deemed to have the necessary competence based on agricultural training undertaken in Ireland, the approval process for herd numbers and the availability of a booklet on standards for animal transport.

When necessary to use commercial animal transportation companies we only and always work with reputable commercial animal transporters. Commercial transporters moving animals on journeys up to a maximum distance of 65km are not required to be authorised or to undergo training. However, they are required to carry documentation in their vehicle stating:

- The origin and ownership of the animals
- The place of departure
- The date and time of departure
- The intended place of destination and the expected duration of the journey.

When transporting animals by air and land outside of Ireland Bóthar only works with farmers and transporters that adhere to the 'Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals during Transport' as outlined by the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC). The Council has adopted the best farm animal husbandry practices and welfare standards, which take account of the five basic needs entitled the Five Freedoms Concept:

1. Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease
4. Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour
5. Freedom from fear and distress