Welfare aspects of the long distance transportation of animals
David B. Adams & Peter M. Thornber, Editors
Veterinaria Italiana,
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The long distance transport of animals is not only increasing significantly but is also changing in nature. Statistics show that the value of world trade in live animals soared from US$8.7 billion in 2000 to US$12.1 billion in 2005. This enormous figure does not include zoo animals, wildlife and illicit traffic. What has made circumstances different in the 21st century is the nature of transport (land, sea and air), the volume of traffic and a public awareness of welfare issues with demands that animals be treated humanely and in accordance with best contemporary practices. This increased volume of transport creates an unprecedented risk for disseminating infectious diseases, including those that may affect people.

This issue of Veterinaria Italiana deals with livestock transportation. It is not a collation of scientific articles on the subject per se. Rather, its uniqueness derives from the fact that it provides advice and guidance on practical measures to improve approaches based on analyses of the science. Policy makers, risk analysts, regulators, quality managers, engineers and educators will gain greatly from this edition, which will serve as a key reference document on the subject.

This book includes contributions from 53 of the world's top specialists in this field in a total of 27 peer-reviewed papers (see Contents opposite) presented in eight chapters (history, the views of civil society organisations, development of public policy, quality management and the various animal species, future directions for quality management, design and engineering of infrastructures, transport safety, training, education and outreach).

Contents
Gardner Murray
Foreword – welfare aspects of the long distance transportation of animals
David B. Adams, Peter M. Thornber & Gardner Murray
Executive overview: welfare aspects of the long distance transportation of animals

History
Jean Blancou & Ian Parsonson
Historical perspectives on long distance transport of animals

The views of civil society organisations
Tim Harris
Welfare aspects of the long distance transportation of animals – the Animal Transportation Association
Klaas Johan Osinga
Long distance animal transport: the way forward
Peter Linhart†, David B. Adams & Thomas Voracek
The international transportation of zoo animals: conserving biological diversity and protecting animal welfare
Leah Garcés, Victoria Cussen & Hugh Wirth
Viewpoint of animal welfare organisations on the long distance transportation of farm animals

The development of public policy for the long distance transportation of animals
Andrea Gavinvelli, Maria Ferrara & Denis Simonin
Formulating policies for the welfare of animals during long distance transportation
Oriol Ribò, Denise Candiann, Elisa Aliasa, Sandra Correia, Ana Afonso, Fabrizio De Massis & Jordi Serratosa
Using scientific evidence to inform public policy on the long distance transportation of animals: role of the European Food Safety Authority
Gordon Doonan & Martin Appelt
The Canadian approach to science-based regulation of the long distance transport of animals
Peter M. Thornber & David B. Adams
How scientific evidence is used in Australia to inform public policy on the long distance transportation of animals
Carmen B. Gallo
Using scientific evidence to inform public policy on the long distance transportation of animals in South America

Quality management and the long distance transportation of various species of animals
John L. Barnett, Michelle K. Edge & Paul H. Hemsworth
The place of quality assurance in managing animal welfare during long distance transport

Steven L. Leary
Quality management for the international transport of laboratory animals
David B. Elmore
Quality management for the international transportation of non-human primates
Des Leadon, Natalie Waran, Conny Herholz & Mariann Klay
Veterinary management of horse transport

Future directions for quality management in the long distance transportation of animals
David B. Adams & Peter M. Thornber
Epidemiology, ethics and managing risks for physiological and behavioural stability of animals during long distance transportation
Peter R. Stinson
Two incidents that changed quality management in the Australian livestock export industry
Paolo Dalla Villa, Luigi Iannetti, Cesare Di Francesco, Adriano Di Pasquale, Gianluca Fiore & Vincenzo Caporale
Quality management for the road transportation of livestock

Design and engineering of infrastructures for the long distance transportation of animals
Malcolm A. Mitchell & Peter J. Kettlewell
Engineering and design of vehicles for long distance road transport of livestock (ruminants, pigs and poultry)
John W. Lapworth
Engineering and design of vehicles for long distance road transport of livestock: the example of cattle transport in northern Australia
Carolyn L. Stull
Engineering and performance standards parameters for long distance road transport in the United States: the special case of horses
Temple Grandin
Engineering and design of holding yards, loading ramps and handling facilities for land and sea transport of livestock

Transport safety and the welfare of animals
Alexander G.T. Schultz-Altmann
Engineering and design of vessels for sea transport of animals: the Australian design regulations for livestock carriers
Jennifer Woods & Temple Grandin
Fatigue: a major cause of commercial livestock truck accidents

Training, education and outreach for the long distance transportation of animals
Rosanne M. Ramsley
Competencies, education and training in the international animal transportation industry – sea transport
Karen S. Schwartzkopf-Genswein, Derek B. Haley, Susan Church, Jennifer Woods & Tim O’Byrne
An education and training programme for livestock transporters in Canada
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**History**

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