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Enforcement agencies note improvement in livestock transportation

Animal welfare is most important when transporting animals. Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) representative and northern Alberta K Division Livestock Investigator Corporal Dave Heaslip (pro. His-lip) says he has noticed an improvement in animal livestock transportation.

“The thing I really like is that all of the different agencies in the province involved in enforcement have gotten together. This includes Livestock Inspection Services, the RCMP, Alberta Rural Development, the SPCA, Canadian Food Inspection Agency and representatives from the commercial vehicle sector. We set up from early spring to late fall at weigh scales - bring in the livestock transport vehicles - have a good look at them - check the paperwork - check the animals, load density and state of the vehicles. This works very, very well. Its really opened the doors for communication and stepping up our awareness so we can properly police it. We always have the chronic offenders who don't want to follow the rules. We know the major offenders and we deal with them accordingly.”

Heaslip has some tips for those involved in transporting livestock. First, a suitable facility is needed. He cautions animals should not be beat or hurried. “I've always said that when loading livestock, especially horses and cows, don't put them on your timetable and rush them or it will take more time. Instead, coach them along, take your time and let them work a little bit on their own time schedule.

“Shame on you, if you load horses into pots. The pots work well for cattle, sheep and hogs. However, because of their sheer physical size, horses can easily be injured. They don't have head room - they can't stand up as they would normally and they damage their withers. Take a look at how a horse is built and how a cow is built. There needs to be two different loading scenarios.”

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AFAC scripts and clips are also available at www.afac.ab.ca

Clip No. 1:

Animal welfare is most important when transporting animals. Alberta Farm Animal Care representative and northern Alberta K Division Livestock Investigator Corporal Dave Heaslip says only fit livestock should be transported. He explains some other guidelines that should be followed:

(24... 'em.”)

Clip No. 2:

“Shame on you if you transport horses in pots,” says Heaslip. “Pots are efficient when transporting livestock such as cattle sheep and hogs but not horses:”

(20... scenarios.”)

Clip No. 3:

Heaslip adds that from early spring to late fall all enforcement agencies in rural Alberta and the cities work together in a program set up at scales to assure animals that are being transported are well cared for:

(31... “accordingly.”)

Anyone who notices, or have concerns about animal welfare should call the ALERT line: 1-800-506-2273.

For further information contact:

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