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Measuring and Monitoring Goat Welfare during Transportation

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Transportation can cause emotional and physical stress in live animals, which affects their welfare. Previous studies evaluated the stress responses to transportation and suggested weight loss (Kannan et al., 2000; Minka and Ayo, 2013) and other detrimental impacts on goats that were transported under different conditions and management. The aim of this paper is to discuss the validity of welfare indicators related to the goats' physiological and behavioural responses to transport stress. It will also present a rationale for the assessment of sheep welfare during long journeys, as part of a project called "Development of an EU wide animal transport certification system and renovation of control posts in the European Union- SANCO/2011/GR/CRPA/SI2.610274" (Sossidou and de Roest, 2012; Kees de Roest et al., 2013; Sossidou et al., 2013; Sossidou and Messori, 2013). The ultimate purpose is to conclude with a number of indicators that can form a protocol to be used for measuring and monitoring goat welfare during transportation.