

SOP FOR TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS OF CAPFs, NSG AND ASSAM RIFLES

INTRODUCTION

1. Animals are required to be transported from time to time by different modes of transportation. It is essential for any animal handler to be familiar with all the possible methods by which a force animal can be transported. Following are the types of conveyance mainly available for the transportation of animals-

- (a) By Road
- (b) Railways
- (c) By Air
- (d) By Water

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2. The aim of these guidelines is to acquaint everyone involved in the operations to be familiar with all the possible methods and procedures by which an animal can be transported safely and securely. At the same time safe modes of transportation of animals are also proposed.

TYPES OF TRANSPORTATION

3. In general following types of conveyance are available for the transportations of animals: -

- (a) By road
- (b) Railways
- (c) Air (Fixed and Rotating)
- (d) Small boats
- (e) Ships at sea

CHOICE OF CONVEYANCE:

4. The choice of conveyance for transport selected for any particular situation depends upon the urgency, terrain to be traversed and the distance involved. Whatever be the type of conveyance used, following points should be kept in mind before and during the journey.

- (a). Depending upon the climate conditions at the time of travel, the animals should be provided with suitable equipments and clothing. In winter the animals may have to be provided with a coat and blankets. Provision of clean water always be available with the animals in all seasons.
- (b). The animals should be given chance to defecate before the commencement of the journey.

- (c). If the space permits the handler should accompany the animal during the journey.
- (d). It is to be ensured that all animals must be fit for march and movement.
- (e). Availability of first aid kit and vet cover during whole journey.
- (f). Men, animals and other items be inspected properly before movement.
- (g). Arrangement of water and feeding during journey/march as the case may be.
- (h). Strict march discipline should be adopted as with the troops and constant supervision during journey.
- (i). Proper and holistic training be given to all force animals about exposure of all possible modes of transportation.
- (j). To ensure pre inspection of Van, Wagon or any mechanized Vehicle for presence of any sharp object or hole that needs immediately to be repaired.
- (k). Cleanliness and disinfection of the wagon/vehicle.
- (l). Provision of fire extinguisher.
- (m). If the journey is too long, the animals should be taken out during journey if possible.
- (n). The animals should be fed only light meals before and during the journey.
- (o). Since the animals are likely to get nervous if left alone for too long, they should be reassured by patting and talking whenever possible.
- (p). If some animals are known to have travel sickness, the Veterinary Officer of the Force be the part of the team/detachment.

Transportation by Road: For Dogs

- (q). The most common conveyance used for transportation of animals is by road, either by Dog Van-cum-Ambulance/Light vehicles/Buses/Trucks.
- (r). **Dog Van-Cum-Ambulance:** It is the entitled vehicle for the movement of K9s by road. The dog van consists of earmarked cages for the placement of K9s, seats for the personnel, a K9 treatment station, cabinets for storing veterinary medicines, storage space for personal items of the handlers, dog equipments, arms, drinking water station and food storage cabinet space

for K9s and personnel. The vehicle will be fitted with Air conditioner (hot and cold).

- (s). **Light Vehicles**: Light vehicle modified to carry one or two K9s for easy penetration into areas where heavy vehicle cannot enter, can also be utilized for movement/transportation of K9s. These vehicles should also have temperature control facility i.e. fitted with hot and cold provision AC.
- (t). The vehicle carrying K9s should be halted once every two or three hrs and the K9s taken out for defecation and exercise.

Transportation by Road: For Large Animals

- (u). The most common conveyance used for transportation of animals is by road, either by Horse Floats or Trucks.
- (v). **Animal Float**: It is the entitled vehicle for the movement of large animal (Horse/Pony/Mule/Cattle/Camel) by road. The animal van consists of earmarked partitions for the placement of animal, seats for the personnel, provision of a First Aid box, cabinets for storing veterinary medicines, storage space for personal items of the handlers, equipments, arms, drinking water station and food storage space. The vehicle will be fitted with facility of air conditioning (hot and cold).
- (w). **Heavy Vehicles**: Heavy vehicle modified to carry large animals for easy penetration into areas for movement/transportation of force animals. These vehicles should also be temperature control i.e. fitted with hot and cold provision of AC.

5. Whether its Animal Float or Heavy Vehicle- the following points be checked-

- (a). Checking of floor and sides for any sharp protrusion /angle.
- (b). Cleaning and Disinfection of floor before move.
- (c). Padding of floor
- (d). Partition of vehicle if required with the help of Bamboo/ logs
- (e). Facility of Ramp/improvised ramp is important
- (f). Removal of shoes of the animals
- (g). Bandaging of animals' tail.
- (h). Put up nose bag on each animal.
- (i). Unload the animals during night halt.
- (j). Provision of Fire extinguisher.

6. The vehicle carrying animals should be halted during journey depending on weather conditions and traveling period for watering and feeding.

Transportation by Train: For Small Animals

7. Trains are suitable for long distance transportation of K9s, where ever the aircraft travel is not feasible. As per present ruling of Railways, the following is the class wise entitlement of K9s and its handlers:-

Sr. No	Railway class	K9s permitted to travel	Maximum Nos.
(1)	AC-I	Can be permitted provided if full Coupe/Cabin booked by the organization as per the strength of K9. For one Dog +DH - Coupe For two Dogs+2DHs - Cabin	04 Dogs per Cabin
(5)	Dog boxes/ Cages at Guard room	Yes	02

8. **K9s moving in AC-I Class:** In Police force K9 are trained ones and each K9 is handled by a handler, who is a trained person. For K9s, which are moving on operational duty be entitled in AC-I class along with the handlers to travel in any part of India wherein the latter though not entitled to travel are allowed to travel in AC-I class by virtue of their trade as Dog trainers/Dog handlers. The K9 when transported in AC-I class will always be kept in a portable kennel. Whenever the train makes long halts, the K9 should be taken out for easing out. In summers the K9 should be frequently given cool clean water and in winters it should be protected from direct cold breeze. Strangers should not be allowed to approach the K9 en-route and only light meals to be given during journey.

9. **K9s Moving in a Dog Box/Cages:** The routes which are conducted by trains where in AC-1 accommodation is not available, the K9s can be transported in K9 boxes in the Railway guard’s compartment designed to carry one or two K9s at a time. Before putting the K9 into the box/cage following must be ensured :-

- (a). It must be checked, cleaned and disinfected if possible.
- (b). Checked for any sharp edges on the sides and in the floor which are likely to hurt the K9.
- (c). Bedding as applicable should be provided to give comfort to the K9.
- (d). Whenever the train makes long halts, the K9 should be taken out for easing out drill.

- (e). In summer the K9 should be frequently given cool clean water and in winters it should be protected from direct cold breeze.
- (f). Strangers should not be allowed to approach the k9 en-route and only light meals to be given during journey.

Transportation by Train: For Large Animals

- 10. This type of transportation is adopted when distance of voyage is more and both the stations are connected with train. Animals are transported in Horse/Cattle Wagon- basically it is an ordinary goods wagon only. In one wagon 8 Riding horses or 10 mules/ponies can be accommodated.
- 11. All other precautions and essential steps will be kept in mind before and during journey. However, ensure the following points also-
 - (a). Demand be made well in advance to railway authorities.
 - (b). Cleaning and fumigation of wagons.
 - (c). Hay padding
 - (d). Removal of shoes of the animals
 - (e). Put of nose bag
 - (f). A reliable and calm animal to lead.
 - (g). Advance info at halting points to arrange water available.
 - (h). No smoking and protect hay from fire.
 - (i). Adequate First Aid to be carried.
 - (j). Briefed the accompanying personnel properly about taking all precautions.

TRANSPORTATION BY AIR:

- 12. As per the prompt requirement, K9 has to be inducted swiftly to the affected area. The transportation/mobilization of k9s by aircraft is today's requirement. The aircrafts used are either from Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation or private Airlines which are used for commercial purpose. When the operations are in jungles, swamps or mountains where airstrip for landing of aircraft is not available, a helicopter is used for transportation of K9s.
- 13. The need to keep the helicopter in a balanced position requires the dog and handler team to be so seated that the weight is evenly balanced. To avoid even a remote chance of accident the dogs should be muzzled. The handler must sit with head of their dog be kept between the knees. Once the dogs settle down they may be permitted to lie down during the flight of helicopter.

14. In other types of transport aircraft of AN-32, IL -76 series, the following precautions are advocated:-
- (a). The gap between the tailboard and the aircraft should be covered so that the feet of the K9 do not get caught in the gap. This can be done by one of the handlers filling the gap with his forearm. However, if dog is not confident to jump it should be picked up and placed in the aircraft physically.
 - (b). The trainer/handler should sit with the head of the K9 between his knees. If some K9s known to be quarrelsome then it should be muzzled. Before boarding the aircraft/helicopter, the K9 should be defecated and urinated. The K9s can also be transported in portable kennels also.
15. The general dimension of the portable air kennel is as follows:-
- (c). Length 97 cm
 - (d). Breadth 67 cm
 - (e). Height 75 cm

TRANSPORTATION BY COMMERCIAL AIRLINES:

16. The transportation of dogs is governed by IATA rules and regulations. Common requirements for transportation of K9s in almost all the Airlines are:
- (a) Portable Kennel/Crate/Cage
 - (b) Health and Fitness Certificate
 - (c) A label will be affixed on the container showing the name of the Dog.
 - (d) Vaccination Record
17. The calculation of cost by the airlines is on per Kg basis and the volume. The total Kg includes the weight of the dog and the crate/kennel. The Dog along with crate is booked as Cargo irrespective of the passenger travelling.
18. There is an earmarked space for keeping dogs which is pressurized. Depending upon the Airline, the total capacity in the pressurized compartment is generally 2-4 nos. of dogs. Also, one crate/kennel can accommodate 01-02 dogs.
19. For booking air lines K9 must reach cargo booking office 3 hours before departure of the flight.

INLAND WATER TRANSPORTATION:

20. In river delta regions, network of canals, rivers and flooded marshlands, K9s are required to be crossed by boats. In order to train K9s for travel in this type of countryside, the K9 should be accustomed to getting in and getting out of a boat

tied to a pier of bank as often as possible till the K9 does it confidently. In order to prevent any danger of capsizing of the boat, the handler should enter the boat first, followed by the K9. This provides the handler greater opportunity to control the K9. After entering the boat, the K9 and handler should take up their position and the K9 may be allowed to lie down. The off-loading procedure should be the reverse of loading.

TRANSPORTATION BY SEA:

21. When K9s are required to be transported over a long period overseas, elaborate arrangements may be required :-
 - (a) Individual kennel should be used in a well-ventilated and lighted part of the ship. Permanent kennel structures are not necessary and the portable kennel is quite satisfactory. To prevent accidental movement during storms, each kennel must be either screwed to the deck or securely leashed to the structure of the ship.
 - (b) The main deck, if adequate provision of protection exists against storms and the tropical sun, offers a suitable site. The deck has the advantage of being easily cleaned and in fine weather the K9s can sit on top of their kennels and so benefit from the fresh air. Accommodation must also be allotted for the storage of grooming kit, feeding utensils etc.
 - (c) As much exercise as practicable possible will always be given.
 - (d) Strict attention must be paid to the general hygiene, deck should be hosed down twice daily and all used bedding thrown over the side. On long voyage, the standard daily ration may be reduced by one third. When available stock from the galley will be added to the feeds to soften them. The vegetable components of the ration will always be fed. An adequate water supply is essential and water bowls that cannot be easily overturned should be provided.
 - (e) A veterinary first aid kit should be available. On a long sea voyage, K9s may be expected to suffer from constipation and few may develop bed sores from lying on the hard deck or skin irritation due to contact with tar or oil. In rough weather K9s may suffer a mild form of sea-sickness.

22. The move by air, train, sea and road will be sanctioned by a competent authority as per the prevailing situation.
