



Things you should know about Alpaca Transport. Many of your questions are answered below. Should you have any questions, or specific needs, please feel to contact us either at the ranch or via cell phone.

This form covers the following:

- What kind of equipment do we use
- How to prepare for transport
- What happens during the Transport
- Do we have Air Conditioning
- Does the driver ever sleep
- Additional Equipment

Equipment:

- Our trailer is a 30 foot aluminum livestock trailer specially designed and equipped for alpacas and llamas. We added 6 roof vents for additional flow-through ventilation and two 18" turbo fans powered by an inverter for use when driving or parked in extreme temperatures. The two upper window panels can be removed during the warmer months, and the trailer can be completely enclosed during the winter.
- The trailer is equipped with an on-board video camera with a monitor in the cab of the truck. We can observe the animals at all times, adding to the overall care and safety of your animals. We also have a wireless temperature and humidity monitor so we always know the exact conditions within the trailer. An on-board GPS system helps us find those rural farm locations, well most of the time.
- We carry basic veterinary and birthing supplies for emergencies only.
- We carry several basic tools for minor repairs, and we are always in contact with other transporters should a breakdown occur.
- The trailer can be divided into several different compartments, all of which can be observed by the cameras.
- The trailer is bedded with a combination of rubber mats and straw or hay, and is re-bedded after each trip. Combined with the trailers soft-ride axles, it provides a comfortable, clean accommodation for your animals.

Preparing for Transport:

- All animals are required to have external identification, such as a neck or ear tag. No animal will be allowed on board without an external tag. The driver does carry some tags, however we prefer you to provide your own so it can stay with the animal at the time of drop off.
- A health certificate is required for all animals, and any other necessary health papers must be provided prior to transport. Check with your veterinarian to determine required tests. We can supply information on state requirements as necessary.
- We recommend that you do not give any medications within five days of transport.
- It is helpful if your animals are trained to halter and lead.
- We strongly suggest that owners obtain trip insurance from any of the several camelid insurance specialists. In most cases, this can be added as a rider to your mortality policy.
- During times of hot weather, we recommend that any animal being transported be fully shorn to prevent risk of heat stress.
- On occasion we will allow for small freight items such as fleeces, hay, gifts ect. Please package all items in such a way that **no** damage will occur during transport.
- We also ask that you retain your own halters and leads to avoid loss. We do carry enough for getting the animals on and off the trailer, and for emergencies.

During Transport:

- Animals are divided into male and female compartments. If separate stalls are needed, such as a nursing mother or aggressive male, with prior notice, we can make such accommodations.
- Once underway, we feed and water as needed, usually morning and evening. During the warmer months, extra water is always carried on-board. We supply grass hay as part of our service. We do not feed supplements during transport.
- We usually travel with one driver, normally driving 16-18 hours per day depending on conditions. Fuel stops are scheduled every three to four hours, at which time we check the animals, feed, and water.

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Air Conditioning:

Many ask about this. After discussions with many veterinarians, many of whom you are familiar with, although we installed air conditioning in our trailers, it is only used in extreme emergencies. There are several reasons for this decision:

- In purchasing and designing our trailer, we placed great emphasis on airflow, adding 6 roof vents and flow-through stall dividers to provide constant air flow while driving.
- We find that interior temperature of the trailer remains much cooler than outside temperature while moving.
- We believe that constant airflow is critical for the health of the animals, both in reducing the risk of pulmonary problems and overheating. When we stop for fuel or food, the two 18" fans are switched on to maintain the airflow.
- If your planning on transporting your animals during times of high temperatures, we recommend shearing to allow the animal full benefit of the trailer's air flow.

Overnights:

- When we stop for the night, the animals are fed and watered.
- The trailer remains locked at all times. We choose other farms, or secure motels where risk of vandalism is minimal. Since the walls of the trailer are high, the animals are not seen by the public.
- As much as we'd like to advertise our Alpacas and our business to the public while on the road, for the security of your animals, our trailers have NO Markings (Alpacas On Board) to indicate that there are high valued livestock in the trailer.
- Over the years, we have found that both alpacas and llamas are easy travelers and adjust well to being in the trailer. They appear to easily accept the confinement, much as they accept being in the barn for a few days.
- If the weather is hot, the 18" fans are run in order to provide cooling and a continual flow of fresh air.
- While driving at night, the lights are on in the trailer for the animal's safety and comfort, and to allow the driver to monitor conditions in the trailer. The lights are off when we are parked over night.

Additional Equipment:

- We carry 2 cell phones to assure communication throughout the areas we travel.
- While we are in route, we contact our clients with updates and discuss arrival times at their farms. We try very hard to deliver your alpacas during the daylight hours, however this is not always possible while trying to maintain a schedule for others on the trailer.
- We do our best to provide our clients with an arrival time that works best for them so they can maintain their normal schedules, however this is not always possible. If arrangements are made in advance with us, we can deliver your animals without you being there.

- **What really goes on in the trailer during transport.**
While they may kush for a while, in as little as 30 minutes, alpacas begin to treat the trailer as a rolling barn. Based on observations via our cameras, we have found that the animals do everything in the trailer that they might do in the barn. Alpacas have no problems performing normal bodily functions, including crias nursing.

- **Transport causes early birth or abortion due to stress.**
We do not believe this is true. We have transported females at all stages of gestation with no known problems. An exception is that we do not recommend transport for any long distance within the first sixty days of pregnancy. We have had in-transit births, all went full-term, with no problems. *Note: We do charge extra for the additional time and services when this occurs.*

Mom's and Crias Not To Worry!!!

Everybody loves new crias, especially me! I take extra measures to make sure your kids are safe as if they were my own.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact us here at the farm anytime. We want to earn your trust, and allow us to provide you with the sort of service you expect.

John Malkus

West Coast Alpaca Transport Services