

Is it fit for transport?

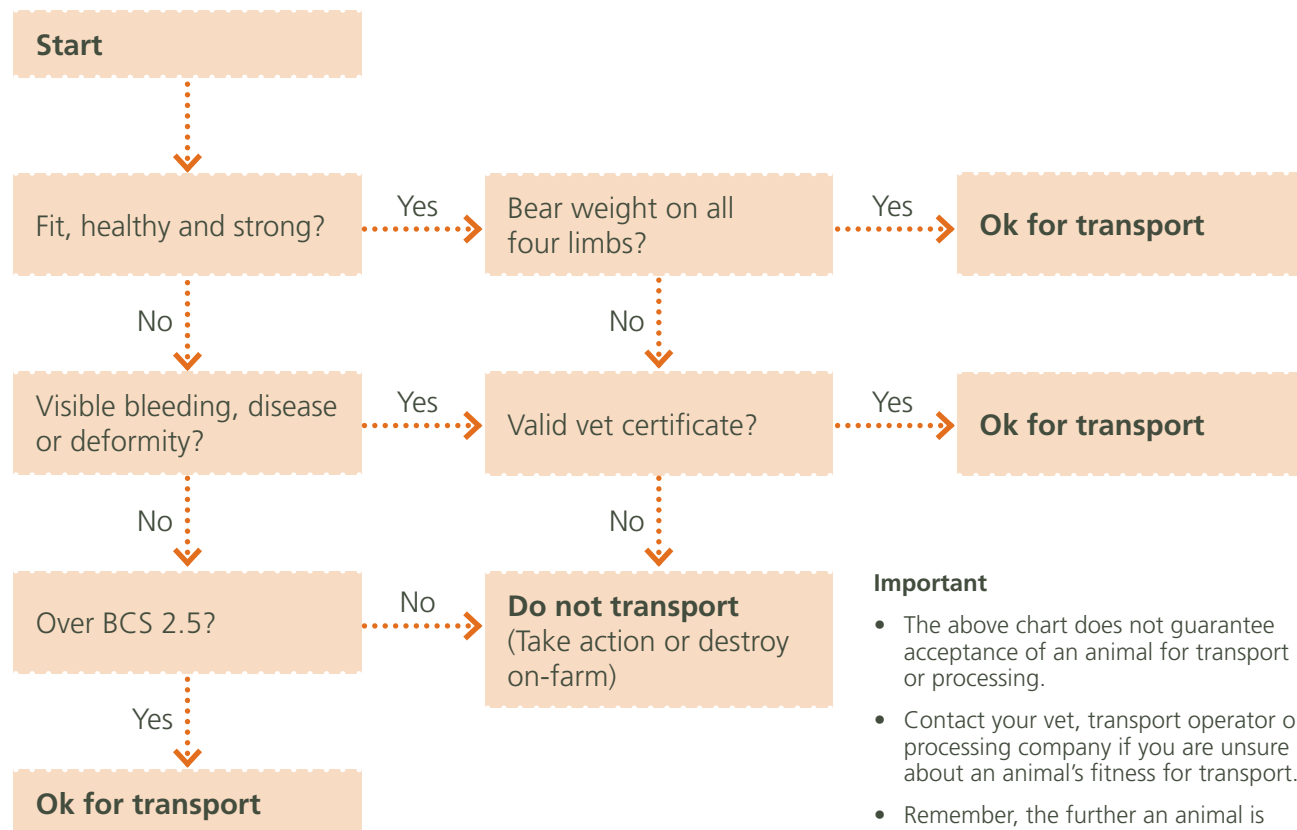
A fit animal is:

- Healthy
- In good condition
- Has a good coat
- Is bright eyed
- Able to bear weight on all four limbs
- Able to withstand the stress of transport



An unfit animal:

If a cow is thinner than this (BCS 2.5), it is recommended that you do not transport it.



Important

- The above chart does not guarantee acceptance of an animal for transport or processing.
- Contact your vet, transport operator or processing company if you are unsure about an animal's fitness for transport.
- Remember, the further an animal is transported the better the condition it needs to be in.

Animals at body condition score 2.5 or below will have the following features:

Backbone	Very prominent, with visible notches which can be easily counted.
Ribs	Clearly visible and easily counted. The short ribs will have very sharp edges. The long ribs may be visible as far down as the udder.
Hip bones	Deep depressions on the side of the hooks.
Rump	Severely depressed (hollow).
Pins	Very clear 'three pronged tap' formation.
Thigh	No visible fat and very little muscle.
Tail-head	Very prominent and angular, with a very deep 'V' shape.



Penalties

New Zealand law takes animal welfare seriously. The Animal Welfare Act 1999 has strict rules related to animal transport and suffering. Keeping an animal alive when it should be destroyed and transporting animals which are unfit are both crimes punishable by fines of up to \$25,000 or six months in jail.