

Commissioner David Byrne  
Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection  
The European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels

16th September 2002

Dear Mr Byrne,

**RE: Commercial Transport of Companion Animals.**

I am writing to express grave concern at the lack of specific detail with regards to the current EU Directive on live animal transport. I am particularly concerned about the low level of detail in ensuring the welfare of dogs, as a result of which, many are routinely transported for extended periods without any safeguards for their health and welfare. I urge you to propose specific provisions relating to the transport of dogs, as well as all other companion animals, at the earliest opportunity.

For example, young puppies and kittens have very different needs from adults with respect to feeding regimes, yet current rules make no such distinction. The nutritional needs of growing dogs and cats can only be satisfied effectively by dividing their daily food intake into several meals (e.g. four or five meals a day at ten weeks old.) Despite this, a feeding interval of 24 hours is permitted under the current Directive. Similar - but even greater - concerns also apply to the provision for watering. A medium-sized dog needs more than two litres of water a day. For a normal daily intake to be achieved, a dog offered water at 12-hour intervals (as currently permitted) would therefore have to drink over a litre at once. In hot conditions and in the case of young animals, the situation is even more serious and current watering intervals are completely inadequate.

I would be grateful for your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Caroline Lucas MEP