

**18 AAC 36 is amended by adding a new article to read:**

**ARTICLE 6. ANIMAL CARE STANDARDS**

**Section**

500. Purpose and applicability

510. Equines

520. Cattle and small ruminants

530. Swine

540. Dogs

550. Poultry

560. General care standards

**18 AAC 36.500. Purpose and applicability.** (a) Establish minimum standards of care for animals to include adequate food and water sufficient to maintain good health, a healthy and safe environment, and reasonable medical care.

(b) This article provides general guidelines for humane care of animals and for treatment of ill and injured animals.

(c) The provisions of 18 AAC 36.500 - 18 AAC 36.550 apply to a person that owns or transports animals. (Eff. \_\_\_/\_\_\_/200\_, Register \_\_\_\_)

Authority: AS 03.55.100 AS 03.55.110 AS 03.55.130 AS 03.55.190

**Editor's note:** Per AS 03.55.110, investigation of animal cruelty complaints may be performed by a peace officer and determinations about the animal's condition and fate are to be

horses.

(4) Excessive feces, urine, mud, standing water or other waste products must not accumulate within the housing enclosures or to the extent that these cause unhealthy conditions.

(5) Ventilation in enclosed areas must be sufficient to control excessive ambient temperature and prevent the accumulation of toxic gases, such as ammonia.

(6) Horses confined to minimal enclosed areas must have access to adequate exercise area. Confined is defined as being housed within the designated space continually, without free access to a paddock, turnout, or other exercise area.

(d) Horses being transported shall not be deprived of food or water or held on a transport vehicle for more than 28 consecutive hours within the state of Alaska. Exception: Horses being transported across water by barge or other means may be held on the vehicle for more than 28 hours but must have room to lie down.

(e) Transport vehicles must be designed and constructed in a manner that protects the health and well being of the horse(s), with adequate ventilation and be free of hazards that might cause injury to the horse. The vehicle must be of sufficient size to allow the horse(s) to stand with head and neck extended to its fullest postural height. The vehicles must be equipped with doors or ramps of sufficient size and location to provide for safe loading and unloading.

(f) All horses must receive adequate hoof care to maintain hooves in a proper functional condition.

(d) Other bovines for which such BCS standards are not published must meet or exceed an appearance comparable to the most appropriate BCS referenced.

(e) Cattle being transported shall not be deprived of food or water or held on a transport vehicle for more than 28 consecutive hours within the state of Alaska. Exception: Cattle being transported across water by barge or other means may be held on the vehicle for more than 28 hours but must have room to lie down.

(f) Cattle transported for any purpose must be handled and transported in a manner that minimizes injury, illness, and death. They must be able to stand in normal posture within the vehicle and should not be overcrowded so as to cause unnecessary injury or hyperthermia.

(g) Cattle shall be grouped according to size and behavior when in a vehicle.

(h) Non-ambulatory disabled cattle and other animals unable to move shall be separated from ambulatory cattle for transport. Such animals shall not be dragged while conscious, except when necessary to provide life saving treatment.

(i) Cattle shall be handled humanely at all times, even if they are to be slaughtered or euthanized, so as not to cause unnecessary pain and injury.

(j) For cattle intended to be raised as veal, the owner must provide an environment that prevents injury to calves and allows proper ventilation, temperature and humidity control. The calves must be permitted to stretch, stand, turn around and lie down comfortably.

(c) Swine being transported shall not be deprived of food or water or held on a transport vehicle for more than 28 consecutive hours within the state of Alaska. Exception: Swine being transported across water by barge or other means may be held on the vehicle for more than 28 hours but must have room to lie down.

(d) Swine transported for any purpose must be handled and transported in a manner that minimizes injury, illness, and death. They must be able to stand in normal posture within the vehicle.

(e) Swine shall be grouped according to size and behavior when in a vehicle.

(f) Non-ambulatory disabled swine unable to move shall be separated from ambulatory animals for transport. Such animals shall not be dragged while conscious, except when necessary to provide life saving treatment.

(g) Swine shall be handled humanely at all times, even if they are to be slaughtered or euthanized, so as not to cause unnecessary pain and injury.

(h) Stalls may be used to feed and monitor individual sows and gilts and to minimize injury to piglets.

(1) The stall size shall not be so small as to require the sow's head to rest on an adjacent feeder or water trough.

(2) The sow's rear quarters must not be in contact with the back of the stall with her nose in contact with the front of the stall at the same time.

(d) Dogs and cats shall not be tethered by any metal collar directly on the neck. They shall not be restrained by any type of choke collar, pinch collar, or chain collar. Exception: A person is not prohibited from using such restraints when walking a dog or cat with a hand held leash or while engaged in an activity where the person is present with the animal including but not limited to hunting, field training, and off-leash dog parks.

(e) Dogs and cats must have adequate feed to maintain a BCS score of at least 2 on the Purina® Canine or Feline Health Body Condition System.

(f) A person shall not allow an animal to be capable of removing or detaching itself from a motor vehicle on a public road. Any restraint used may not allow the animal to:

(1) fall, jump, or be thrown from the vehicle; or,

(2) be exposed to prolonged adverse environmental conditions.

Authority: AS 03.55.100 AS 03.55.110 AS 03.55.190

**18 AAC 36.550. Birds.** (a) Bird cages must be large enough to allow birds to stand up, turn around, extend their tails and spread their wings without restriction.

(b) Feed or water may not be withdrawn from adult poultry during an induced molt. Molting may be induced by feed alteration or change of photoperiod. Mortality and body weight loss must be monitored daily throughout the molt, and normal feed must be returned if the average weight loss exceeds 30 percent of pre-molt weight.

(3) Animals under the direct care of a licensed veterinarian who prescribes the withholding of feed or water for medical reasons.

(d) Sick or injured animals shall be promptly treated utilizing available medical care or humanely euthanized.

(e) Animals must be transported or housed in an area with adequate drainage and sanitation to prevent excessive build up of feces, urine, or water.

(f) A person shall not torture or needlessly mutilate an animal.

(g) A person shall not house or restrain an animal in a manner that causes chronic or repeated serious physical harm (carrying a substantial risk of death, permanent or substantial temporary maiming, or prolonged or severe suffering).

(h) When necessary, euthanasia must be administered in a humane manner that conforms to the American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines. These are available online at [http://www.avma.org/issues/animal\\_welfare/euthanasia.pdf](http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf).

(1) Exception: In locations where no animal control agency or veterinarian is available, or it is the only practical method, cats and dogs may be euthanized by gunshot to the head.

(2) In cases where gunshot is the only practical euthanasia method to prevent possible human exposure to rabies, and it is necessary to preserve the brain for laboratory testing, the gunshot may be to the heart area rather than the head.