

Scottish Association for Country Sports



Advice for Gundog Handlers Transporting Dogs on Irish Sea Ferries

September 2006

Transporting Gundogs Generally

It is incumbent upon every sportsman who use gundogs in their sport to ensure that the transport arrangements they have in place for their dogs are (a) safe and (b) fit for purpose. The SACS information leaflet "Gundog Care" details the steps that must be taken for general transportation of gundogs in vehicles.

This leaflet concentrates on transporting gundogs in vehicles that are using Irish Sea ferries.

Conditions of Carriage

The Scottish Association for Country Sports has negotiated for its members preferential rates on P&O Irish Sea. All Ferry Operators have a duty to ensure that all vehicles carried on ships are safe and that their cargo, including livestock, is not placed at risk. Consequently, anyone travelling on a ferry who is transporting a dog in a fashion that is either inappropriate or, does not satisfy the minimum standard for transportation of livestock, may be refused carriage.

By following the advice given here, members will be able to avail of the discounted ferry travel and transport their dogs with confidence.

Ferry Travel with Gundogs

- Dog trailers must be "fit for purpose" and be of suitable construction to render them roadworthy
- Dog trailers should be lockable
- Dog trailers must not have more than one dog in each compartment
- "In-car" dog cages/boxes must be of sufficient size to permit a dog to (a) stand upright (b) lie down comfortably and (c) have sufficient turning space for the breed size.
- Estate cars fitted with dog guard cages are permissible provided there is sufficient space for the activities described in the previous bullet point
- Dogs **must not** be transported in car boots
- Ventilation must be provided for the dog/dogs throughout the journey and may be in the form of trailer air vents or air conditioning units or ventilation via car windows left slightly ajar
- Drinking water should be available for the dogs throughout the trip

Please remember that it is the duty of the sportsman to satisfy regulations pertaining to the transportation of livestock on Irish Sea ferries. All Ferry Operators have the right to refuse carriage where, in their opinion, adequate arrangements have not been made for the safe and humane transport of dogs.