



The Effect of Transportation on Puppy Welfare from Commercial Breeding Kennels to a Distributor

Puppies from all populations undergo transportation.

Transportation may cause fear and stress, which may have lasting effects on welfare, especially when they occur during early development.

This study aimed to evaluate puppy welfare before and after transportation.

Methods



383 8-week-old puppies



12 commercial breeding kennels



1 of 3 Distributors

Before & after transport, assessed for:

Immune activation	Physical health
Stress hormones	Behavior
	Parasites

Results

After transportation:

- ↑ stress hormones and immune activation
- ↑ friendly behavior towards new people
- ↑ activity, ↑ escape attempts, and ↓ exploration when alone in a new place
- ↑ puppies testing negative for parasites



Good physical health at both time points



Research Takeaways

Ground transportation may affect puppy welfare

To set puppies up for success...

- Ensure appropriate transport conditions
- Monitor puppies at all times
- Ensure positive social interactions with caretakers to buffer stress

