



December 10, 2020

Dear Sirs,

**Re: Prospective Study on Long Distance Air Transport of Horses**

You are receiving this letter since you are involved in the equine shipping industry by air and might also have expressed your interest in this project in the past.

We do admit that it has been quite a while since we last published some information about this prospective study. Needless to say, that Covid-19 has also had a big impact on the shipping of live horses in general and on our survey. This doesn't mean however that the working committee came to complete still during the pandemic; contrary the last couple of months have given us the time to evaluate the first test-cases which were done in 2019-20 and to adjust where required.

And there is also some really fantastic news as we are proud, privileged and honored to advise that our Study has now received a substantial grant from the Morris Animal Foundation, based in Colorado, USA ([www.morrisanimalfoundation.org](http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org)). This grant, together with the much-appreciated sponsorships by our initial partners will help us to finance the project.

Notwithstanding this important development, we are still looking for contributions from organizations and companies who are active in our industry. Not only we are still looking for financial help, but you might also contribute by helping to collect data on various shipments of horses worldwide. For further details, please contact our head investigator, Professor Dr. Barbara Padalino, DVM, PhD by e-mail on [Barbara.padalino@unibo.it](mailto:Barbara.padalino@unibo.it).

Your input or donation for sure will help to determine the effects on horses in transit and to improve their welfare and safety.

Thanking you for your kind consideration, we remain,

Yours sincerely,



Alberto Torres Rodriguez, PhD  
President ATA.

Filip Vande Cappelle,  
Past-President ATA.



## **ATA**

*The Animal Air Transportation Association (ATA) was organized in 1976 in response to the concerns of industry leaders, government officials, and humane association representatives. In 1989, the name of ATA was changed to "The Animal Transportation Association" to emphasize that sea, air, and land transport are of equal importance in the safe and humane transport of animals.*

*The ATA's members comprise the entire spectrum of those concerned with the transportation of animals: Airlines, Truckers & Shipping Firms; Government Agencies throughout the world; Universities & Research Organizations; Breeders; Importers/Exporters; Veterinarians; etc.*

*Website: [Animaltransportationassociation.org](http://Animaltransportationassociation.org)*

## **Morris Animal Foundation**

*Morris Animal Foundation is a nonprofit organization that invests in science to advance animal health. Since our founding in 1948, we have invested more than \$136 million toward 2,780+ studies that have led to significant breakthroughs in diagnostics, treatments and preventions to benefit animals worldwide.*

*Since 1959, we have invested over \$20 million in more than 510 equine health studies. We've contributed to the development of genetic screening tests for multiple equine diseases, including combined immunodeficiency disease, equine type I polysaccharide storage myopathy, and lavender foal syndrome. We also provided timely funding which led to the discovery of the cause, and subsequent vaccine development for Potomac horse fever.*

*Website: [Morrisanimalfoundation.org](http://Morrisanimalfoundation.org)*