



Animal welfare during transport


FREE MOVING ANIMALS

More space, lower temperatures, shorter journeys: these are some of the key recommendations to improve animal welfare during transport, included in five new scientific opinions by EFSA.




**TEMPERATURE**

Severe heat stress for animals **starts at the upper critical temperature (UCT)**. To reduce this risk, the temperature inside vehicles should not exceed the UCT.

**SPACE**


Increased space in the vehicle is important to allow animals to **adjust their posture in response to acceleration** and other events during transport. For pigs, small ruminants, and bovinés the minimum space allowance for an animal depends on the live weight.


**TIME**


The amount of time the animals are exposed to hazards is **dependent on the journey duration**. Based on the scientific evidence on preventing stress, fear and distress in animals, **journey duration should be kept to a minimum**.


RECOMMENDED SPACE AND UCT TEMPERATURE BY ANIMAL


Cattle, sheep and pigs usually travel in groups. Horses usually travel in a single stall.


**CATTLE**


**25 °c**


**1.84 m²**
per animal
Based on a 400 kg bovine


**SHEEP**


**32 °c**
When shorn


**0.43 m²**
per animal
Based on a 40 kg sheep


**PIGS**

**25 °c**
for slaughter pigs

**0.62 m²**
per animal
Based on a 110 kg pig

**HORSES**

**25 °c**

**40 cm**
Each horse needs 40 cm in excess of its width and 40 cm in excess of its length

Good animal welfare practices not only promote intrinsic animal wellbeing but also help to make animals healthier. This is a key element for the safety of the food chain considering the close links between animal welfare, animal health and food-borne diseases, in line with the One Health principle.