



Preparation of vehicle, driver and loading for poultry



ANIMAL TRANSPORT GUIDES

Page 1

For full guides and more information:
www.animaltransportguides.eu

What are the responsibilities of the driver / operator?

1. **Planning** of the transport, subject to weather conditions
2. Ensuring all birds on the vehicle are **fit for transport**
3. **Bird welfare**: from loading to unloading of the truck
4. Gentle and correct **loading** of the birds onto the truck
5. Knowing how to handle **emergency procedures**



What is necessary to prepare my vehicle for the birds?

Ensure that the **vehicle** is suitable and clean for the transport

Ensure sufficient lighting and equipment to **inspect** the birds during unscheduled stops

Make sure to adjust the **micro climate** (temperature and humidity in the vehicle) to weather conditions, especially for day old chicks

Give birds **access to drinking water** (in case of transport more than 12 hours)

Use side covers to **protect** birds from cold and wet weather. Air circulation should not be impeded!



© AVEC

Crates: 'How to use?'



© AVEC

Use crates or containers, that allow **easy loading** of the birds, to minimise injury

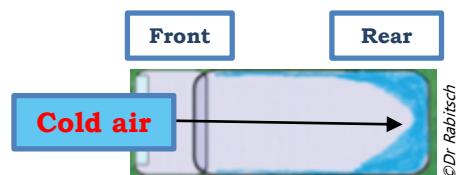
Solid, safe, not broken, clean, and anti-slip = **good crates!** Access doors on the side - even better!



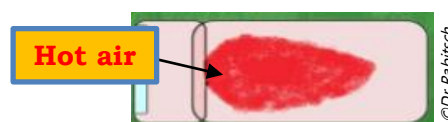
© AVEC

✓ Loading crates on the vehicle

1. Coordinate with the farmer to optimise the **position of the vehicle**
2. Make sure all **equipment** is safe, clean and undamaged
3. **Loading area** should be protected from rain, snow, heavy winds or bright sun
4. Avoid **loading** wet birds in the coldest part of the vehicle. Some parts are colder than others. It is the responsibility of the driver to load animals in the vehicle properly
5. Leave some crates / containers empty to stimulate air flow on **warm days**
6. Load **crates and containers** properly
 - ✓ Bring crates and containers as **close** as possible to the birds – trolleys can be used for crates
 - ✓ **Avoid** tilting of crates or containers, keep them in balance
 - ✓ **Prevent** crates from falling down (in case crates fall down; check for injuries, remove and humanely euthanize these)
 - ✓ **Secure** all crates and containers in the vehicle
 - ✓ Make sure the **stack** of crates / containers is **not too high**, as it is difficult to lift birds carefully above shoulder height



In case of cold weather, birds in the blue part are at highest risks for cold stress



In case of hot weather, birds in the red part are at highest risks for heat stress



✓ During transport: 'How to drive?'

- Drive **smoothly**
 - Change gears gently
 - Take curves with care
 - Maintain constant speed
- **Avoid** sudden braking
- Use **highways** wherever possible
- Choose the **quickest route**
- **Check** birds at every stop for signs of abnormal behaviour (e.g. panting / shivering)
- If the **weather changes**, stop and use side covers
- In hot weather conditions: park the vehicle on a **shady area** at resting to avoid heat stress

✓ Emergencies: 'What to do?'

1. Carry your **contingency plan** on the vehicle, so you know how to act in case of emergency (this may include : contact details of the key resource people, protocol to check fitness of the birds)
2. In case of **delay or accident**: contact organizer to decide on the best plan to protect birds and minimize suffering
3. Always carry an **emergency generator** in an air-conditioned vehicle. In case of engine failure, you need to maintain a constant temperature for the birds