



# Loading and space allowance for horses



ANIMAL TRANSPORT GUIDES

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## Preparation for loading

- 1 Choose a **vehicle** appropriate for the number and type of horses and journey duration
- 2 **Unbroken** horses shall **not** be transported on **long journeys**
- 3 Make a **loading plan**
- 4 In case of **loose loading**, only four unbroken horses per group
- 5 Unless it will cause extra stress to the horses, the following should be stalled and handled **separately**:
  1. *Animals of different species, or significantly different sizes or ages*
  2. *Adult stallions*
  3. *Sexually mature males and females*
  4. *Animals hostile to each other*
  5. *Tied animals and untied animals*
- 6 Can be transported **together**: socialised groups, a mare travelling with her foal



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**Cold weather:** drive during warmest hours of the day with normal space allowance



**Hot weather:** drive during coldest hours of the day with more space allowance



## Space allowance

| Type of horse                     | Min. space allowance | Min. width x length |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Adult                             | 1,75 m <sup>2</sup>  | (0,7 x 2,5 m)       |
| Young (6 – 24 months, < 48 hours) | 1,2 m <sup>2</sup>   | (0,6 x 2 m)         |
| Young (6 – 24 months, > 48 hours) | 2,4 m <sup>2</sup>   | (1,2 x 2 m)         |
| Ponies (< 144 cm)                 | 1 m <sup>2</sup>     | (0,6 x 1,8 m)       |
| Foals (0 – 6 months)              | 1,4 m <sup>2</sup>   | (1 x 1,4 m)         |



- Provide the horses with space to **prevent** problems with balancing and injuries
- Large, young or 'wide-standing' horses **need more space** than others
- Hot weather or long journeys = give **more space**

Provide 10 – 20 cm between animal and partitions



- For best balancing, transport **diagonally** (hindquarter in driving direction) with stalls 30 – 40 cm skewed
- Ideally, horses are **not tied**. If they are tied, the rope length should allow horses to lower their heads sufficiently in order to balance and clear their airways, but should be short enough to prevent the front legs becoming tangled

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