

Protecting the welfare of dogs and cats during transport. Guidance for Owners, Transporters and Journey Organisers

Introduction:

This guide is designed to help you care for and protect your dogs and/or cats during journeys to, from and through Great Britain (GB).

This guidance is not an exhaustive guide, and anyone transporting or engaged in the transport of dogs and/or cats should familiarise themselves with all the requirements of the relevant legislation prior to transport. This guidance document should be read in conjunction with all the relevant legislation, and other supporting guidance already on Gov.uk, and not as a standalone document.

The rules concerning the commercial transportation of dogs and cats are set out in retained EU legislation; Assimilated Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, which is implemented in England by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 ("WATEO").

As animal welfare is a devolved area, separate implementing legislation exists in Scotland and Wales; the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 ("WATSR") and the **Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2007 ("WATWO")**.

Assimilated Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 ("The Regulation") aims to protect the welfare of animals during transportation and applies to dogs and cats transported in connection with an economic activity (commercial) on journeys over 65km. **However, under WATEO and the other implementing legislation there are some general provisions for the protection of dogs and cats which are not covered under the Regulation but are being transported as pets (non-commercially).**

The Regulation imposes an obligation that *anyone* who handles, or transports dogs and cats must do so in a way that does not or is not likely to cause injury or suffering to them. Transport, handling, loading, and unloading may be stressful to dogs/cats so it is important that everyone involved in these operations has training, skills and is aware of the correct action to take to minimise adverse effects of handling and transport. Whenever animals are transported, including journeys with pets, the Regulation as well as the implementing legislation says that:

It is an offence to transport any animal in a way which causes, or is likely to cause, injury or unnecessary suffering to that animal.

When you transport dogs and cats, you **must**:

- plan the journey properly and keep it as short as possible, including having contingency plans to deal with emergencies or delays.
- check them during the journey to make sure you meet their needs for water, feed, and rest.
- make sure they are fit to travel.
- design, construct and maintain the vehicle/containers/crates and loading and unloading facilities to avoid injury and suffering.
- make sure anyone handling them is trained or competent in the task and does not use violent practices and/or unnecessary force including any methods likely to cause unnecessary fear, injury, or suffering..
- give them sufficient floor space and height.

If you contract or pay a 'Carrier' (ferry/ship, plane, or train) or "Transporter" (road transporter, including pet taxis or pet couriers) to transport your dogs/cats, by law they must meet the conditions for *commercial* transport set out in the Regulation, even if they are transporting someone's pet.

Anyone who transports any dog/cat as part of an economic activity (e.g., is paid to transport) by air, sea, rail, or road in GB (England, Scotland, and Wales) must have a Transporter Authorisation. This includes but is not limited to pet breeders, rescue organisations and pet couriers or pet taxis. This also includes anyone transporting dogs or cats commercially under the Pet Travel Rules. The Transporter Authorisation must have been issued by the relevant competent authority in either Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, or the Isle of Man.

Carriers and Transporters must hold Transporter Authorisation in compliance with the Regulation, which covers the entire journey of the dogs/cats, regardless of the length of the journey being undertaken by the transporter.

In addition to Transporter Authorisation, to transport dogs and cats by road, the transporter will also need the following documents:

- a certificate of vehicle approval for journeys exceeding 8 hours (issued in UK, Channel Islands, or Isle of Man)
- Animal Transport Certificate (ATC) for **all** journeys

Further details on Transporter Authorisation, including how to obtain Transporter Authorisation and vehicle approval certificates, as well as the Pet Travel Rules, can be found at the end of this guidance.

Animal transport certificates (ATC)

An animal transport certificate must be completed by the Transporter and contain the following information (as a minimum):

- origin and ownership of animals
- place of departure and place of destination
- date and time of departure
- expected duration of journey

The animal transport certificate should be carried in the vehicle during the whole journey, be retained by the transporter for 6 months following the end of the journey and provided on request to the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA), local authorities or any other enforcement partners (like the police).

APHA can provide a template for use.

Before the Journey.

You, and/or the transporter should plan for travelling with dogs/cats well before the journey starts. Think about the type of journey it is and whether all necessary arrangements have been made in advance to minimise the length of the journey and meet animals' needs during the journey. In particular, think about the effect that it will have on the dogs/cats, considering how big they are, their nature, whether they have any disabilities, the vehicle type, space, and facilities available and making sure the journey is kept as short as possible. Delays to the journey through a lack of planning, are a breach of the Regulations.

When planning the transport of dogs/cats, it is important to remember that a journey starts from a place where they are first loaded onto a vehicle; where they have been fed, watered and accommodated for at least 48 hours prior to loading commencing (this is deemed the place of departure). The "journey" begins with the loading of the first dog/cat onto the vehicle and does not end until the unloading of the last dog/cat at the final destination. The journey should be planned accordingly, and all necessary arrangements should be made in advance to minimise the length of the journey. The practice of transporting multiple dog/cats from different departure points and to different destinations, within the same vehicle, can lead to unnecessary delays if correct route planning has not occurred. All persons transporting dogs and cats should have appropriate contingency plans in place in the event of an emergency, or delay.

The Regulation requires that the road vehicles, carriers and any containers or crates being used, are designed, constructed, maintained, and operated to avoid injury and suffering and ensure the safety of the dogs/cats. This includes, but is not limited to requirements for ventilation, space, cleansing and disinfecting, anti-slip flooring and lighting. It is considered good practice to introduce the dogs/cats to the travel enclosure or container before travelling, as this should help reduce the stress of transport. A familiar object (for example, a toy or a cloth) may help them settle into strange surroundings.

If you cannot be sure that you or the transporter can protect the welfare of the dogs/cats on the journey, you should consider making other travel plans or not transporting them at all.

Transport should be planned to avoid hotter parts of the day and ventilation systems and other weather protection systems should be checked to ensure they are fully working and functioning correctly.

You should make sure that you know and understand the carrier's conditions for transporting dogs and cats, and that you have booked a place for them to travel. You should contact the carrier directly to obtain details of their requirements prior to travel.

Dogs and cats being transported under the Pet Travel Rules must travel on an authorised route with an approved carrier. A list of approved carriers can be found at the end of this guidance.

If possible, make sure your dogs/cats have been to the toilet just before leaving or before they are placed in their travel enclosure or container. Ensure the container/crate they will be travelling in, has been sufficiently cleaned and disinfected prior to the journey and after any other animal may have used it; and it is adequately maintained so that it does not cause injury or suffering.

Sedatives are only allowed to be given to your dog/cat by a qualified vet and you should follow your vet's advice in relation to their use. Sedatives should not be used unless it is strictly necessary to assist in the welfare of the animal. This is because it is difficult to predict the effect that the sedative will have on the animal. If your vet does give your animal a sedative, it is best practice for you or your transporter to carry a certificate from the vet, which states the drug, dosage, and the date and time it was given.

Recognised Assistance Dogs:

Tell the carrier beforehand if the dog is a "Recognised Assistance Dog," so that they can make special arrangements if necessary. Further information pertaining to recognised assistance dogs, including what is defined as a recognised assistance dog in GB, is provided in the links at the bottom of this guidance.

Make sure the dogs/cats are fit to travel:

The Regulation requires that all dogs/cats must be fit for the intended journey before the journey starts, and they must remain sufficiently fit throughout the journey. This means the dogs/cats should be healthy enough to withstand the entire journey they are about to make (including loading, unloading and any journey breaks) with no adverse effect on them and the journey should not cause them any unnecessary suffering or injury.

A dog or cat is **not fit for transport** if:

- it is ill or injured.
- It is unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted.
- It has a severe open wound or prolapse.
- it is new-born with an unhealed navel.
- it has given birth one week before starting the journey.
- it is in the last 10% of the gestation period.
- Is under 8 weeks of age, unless accompanied by its mother.

Sick or injured dogs and cats may only be considered fit for transport if:

- transport would not cause additional suffering. In these cases, written veterinary evidence should be provided detailing their medical history, the strict transport conditions that the animal can be transported under and the care plan in place on arrival in Great Britain. The transporter may be requested to provide evidence of how these conditions have been maintained throughout the journey.
- transported under veterinary supervision, for or following, veterinary treatment or diagnosis. However, such transport shall be permitted only where no unnecessary suffering or ill treatment is caused to the animals concerned.

However, dogs/cats which are travelling long distances would not be considered by APHA to meet these requirements and should be taken to their **nearest** vet for any relevant treatment.

During the journey

Make sure that the dogs/cats are safely enclosed in the vehicle, travel enclosure or container. Keep the door secure.

The vehicle, travel enclosure or container should always have enough ventilation. Heat and moisture can quickly build up inside unless there is enough air flowing through.

Shortly after the start of the journey, check that they have settled down, and continue to check that they are well during the journey.

Your dogs/cats must not be without water for more than 8 hours, or without food for more than 24 hours, in any circumstance. Commercial transporters must carry written instructions on feeding and watering for every animal they have on board their vehicle.

At the end of the journey:

The transporter is responsible for delivering the dogs/cats to the stated destination on the accompanying paperwork (passport, health certificates or animal transport certificate). The destination is defined within the Regulations to be the premises where the dogs/cats are removed from the vehicle and will remain there for at least 48 hours.

You are **not permitted** to deliver dogs/cats to car parks, or centralised pick-up points which are different from the address stated on the animal's accompanying paperwork, as the commercial journey ends when the dogs/cats have arrived at their recorded destination.

Transport of dogs and cats in hot and cold temperatures

Hot temperatures:

Exposure to high temperatures and humidity is a major threat to animal welfare during transport. The temperature inside a vehicle can become significantly higher than the external temperature during a journey.

Failure to take account of high temperatures can cause unnecessary suffering to animals and, in the worst-case scenario, death.

Vulnerable groups such as young or older animals are less able to thermo-regulate and their fitness to travel and transport conditions should be assessed accordingly. Humidity can significantly increase the adverse effects of high temperatures on animals and cause greater suffering.

In conditions of both high temperature and high humidity, animals may be subject to further heat stress. You, and any transporters you use, should fully take account of the risks to animal welfare from hot weather when planning and conducting any journey.

You should ensure that animals are not transported:

- if the external temperature is over 30°C* and
- a suitable temperature cannot be maintained for the animals during their transportation.

If a suitable temperature cannot be maintained throughout a journey, you should not place the welfare of the animals at risk by starting the journey in the first place.

*For these purposes, it is essential to check the 'feels like' temperature for the intended route if humidity is high

Actions to Take:

There are key actions that you, and any transporter you use, can take to minimise the effects of thermal stress due to hot weather.

You should always plan to travel early morning, late evening or overnight where possible, when the temperatures may be cooler.

Actions include but are not limited to those outlined below:

Before a journey:

Undertake checks on the vehicle to ensure that:

- Ventilation systems are fully functioning.
- Watering systems are fully functioning, and enough water will be carried in the vehicle for the number of animals being transported and the length of the journey.
- If fitted, the vehicle temperature monitoring system is fully functioning.

Liaise in advance with rail and ferry operators to ensure:

- provision of an area out of direct sunlight where the vehicle can be parked prior to loading to assist with keeping the internal temperature within the vehicle to a minimum.
- that the vehicle can be placed on board in an area with maximum ventilation and out of direct sunlight.
- that the vehicle transporting animals has windows/ventilation apertures open which allows sufficient air flow to reach all animals.
- that arrangements will be in place/available during a sea crossing for the animals to be monitored either by deck patrols or the transporter.
- that a temperature-controlled vehicle can be operated on the train/ferry, by access to plug-ins where necessary (e.g., where systems cannot run independently of the engine).
- Where vessels offer access to a pet lounge during the crossing, we recommend their use.
- Contingency plans should be in place for every journey and are particularly important in hot conditions as delays can become critical very quickly. Drivers should be familiar with and able to implement contingency plans which should detail who to contact in an emergency, where to obtain water, location of emergency facilities to offload, recognition of signs of heat stress and appropriate action to be taken including access to veterinary support if required.

During a journey:

Drivers and attendants should:

- Inspect animals more frequently for signs of heat stress and know what emergency action to take if necessary.
- Provide water or electrolyte solutions more frequently.
- Minimise the time spent in the vehicle and never leave a dog/cat in a vehicle in direct sunlight or in high temperatures. The temperature inside a vehicle in the full sun on a hot day can quickly rise to double the temperatures outside, leading rapidly to distress for any animal in the vehicle.
- If fitted with a temperature-controlled system, regularly check that the temperature is being maintained at a level suitable for animals being transported. Where the alert system issues a warning, the driver must take immediate action to safeguard animal welfare.
- increase the headroom to maximise ventilation and air movement in the vehicle, including parking in shaded areas.

How to recognise heat stress:

Dogs and cats differ from people in how they cope with heat. They lose heat mainly by panting and, unlike people, do not sweat a lot. Dogs and cats with flat faces (for example, dogs such as French Bulldogs, pugs, or cats like Persians) or animals with breathing problems are much more likely to suffer from heat stress. Long-haired animals are more likely to be affected than those with short hair.

The first signs are often faster, heavier panting exposing their tongue and more activity, with barking or whining in dogs. Dogs will look obviously agitated while cats may have lower energy.

They may produce more saliva than normal, often with drooling and with strands of saliva hanging from the mouth.

Extreme panting and dark-coloured gums will follow. The eyes may become glassy, and the animal may appear to be unconscious.

Once the body temperature is raised enough, seizures, coma and death can follow.

Detecting overheating early and treating it promptly is essential to your dog or cat recovering successfully. Take them to a cool shaded place, give it water to drink and spray it with cool water; you can also cool down the animal by blowing cool air from a fan over it. Get advice from a vet immediately if the dog/cat does not respond promptly.

Cold temperatures:

Actions to Take:

There are key actions that should be taken to minimise the effects of thermal stress due to cold weather.

In cold temperatures you should adjust ventilation to minimise windchill while maintaining appropriate ventilation. You should consider if the dogs or cats require access to additional food or bedding and you should check the dogs/cats more regularly for signs of cold stress, such as lethargy, shivering or huddling where animals are placed in containers together.

Before a journey:

Before the journey starts you should:

- Check conditions along the whole of the intended route as snow and freezing temperatures will inevitably cause disruption to the transport networks.
- Check and prepare the vehicle and all equipment.
- If your journey relies on another means of transport; contact the relevant ferry, rail, or airline company to obtain up to date information regarding any potential delays to services.

Contingency plans should be in place for every journey, and are particularly important in cold conditions as delays, which might be relatively insignificant under normal conditions, can become critical very quickly. Drivers must be familiar with and able to implement contingency plans which should detail who to contact in an emergency, where to obtain water and feed, location of control posts, recognition of signs of cold stress and appropriate action to be taken including access to veterinary support if required.

During a journey:

- The vehicle may require heating prior to loading.
- During the journey ventilation apertures may need to be adjusted to minimise impact of wind chill whilst maintaining adequate air movement.
- Enough water must be carried and prevented from freezing on the vehicle for the number of dogs/cats being transported and the length of the journey.
- If fitted, the vehicle temperature monitoring system must be fully functioning and checked regularly during the journey to ensure temperature is being maintained at a level suitable for the species being transported. Where the alert system issues a warning, the driver must take immediate action to safeguard animal welfare.
- Additional and suitable bedding may be added to increase thermal comfort.
- It may be necessary to feed the dogs/cats during the journey to improve their ability to cope with low temperatures.

Travelling by Road Vehicle

Dogs and cats should travel securely, and in a container which meets particular standards (see further guidance on containers). The container should be placed where it:

- cannot move when you accelerate, brake, and go round corners.
- is easy to access and get inside; and is not surrounded by loose luggage, parcels, furniture, or other goods which could affect ventilation or cause damage to the container.
- is not exposed to strong sunlight or cold draughts.

Dogs or cats should not travel loose and if not travelling in a container, should be appropriately restrained inside the vehicle. When windows need to be left open, we suggest you use 'window guards' to prevent the animal escaping.

Providing enough ventilation at all times is essential; both when the vehicle is moving, and even more so when it is stationary, particularly in hot or sunny conditions. There will be much less air flowing through the vehicle when it is in an enclosed space during ferry or Channel Tunnel crossings unless you leave the windows open enough.

You should carry water, and food if necessary, and have a way of giving these to the dogs/cats.

Travelling by ferry

If you are a foot passenger travelling with your dog or cat, you may need to take them onto the ferry in a container and keep them in the container during the voyage. The ferry company may be able to provide kennels and walking areas, but this should be discussed with the ferry company when the booking is made.

If you are travelling on a ferry in a vehicle:

- try and get to the port promptly so that the carrier can give you the most suitable position in the car deck for your dogs/cats.
- make sure that the ferry officials responsible for loading your vehicle, know that there are dogs/cats in your vehicle, and you follow their instructions.
- make sure your dog and/or cat is comfortable and has enough water.
- before you leave your vehicle, make sure that your dog/cat will have enough ventilation for the crossing. Never leave your dog or cat in a vehicle in direct sunlight or high temperatures as it is difficult to make sure there is enough ventilation to keep it cool. The inside of a vehicle left in strong sunlight on an open deck, or in an enclosed deck where the temperature is likely to be higher than 25°C for more than a few minutes, will very quickly become too hot for the animal inside and cause distress and suffering.
- For commercial transporters, the vehicle being used must have appropriate chaining points to travel on a ferry. This will be stated on the vehicle approval certificate. Please also check that your transporter authorisation does not restrict you from ferry travel.

For safety reasons, you are not normally able to visit the vehicle decks while the ferry is at sea. However, you can arrange this, and the ferry company should tell you about its access policy.

Travelling through the Channel Tunnel

Make sure that the tunnel officials responsible for loading know that there are dogs/cats in your vehicle and follow their instructions.

Your dogs and cats will stay with you on the train and should remain securely inside your vehicle.

Travelling by plane

Because of the special circumstances of travelling by plane, including how altitude affects dogs/cats, there are stricter rules and precautions than for other types of transport.

When you book your flight, make sure that the airline knows you will have a dog and/or cat and ask for their advice about:

- the size and design of container to use; and
- which kinds of animals can travel.

The Regulation sets out a requirement to comply with the International Air Transport Association Live Animals Regulations ("IATA LAR") on those transporting animals by plane. IATA LAR contains specific details for containers for dogs and cats, including:

- design.
- ventilation.
- size; and
- arrangements for providing water and food.

The airline should check that the container you use is suitable for your dog/cat and that it meets the conditions of the IATA LAR before accepting it. In most cases your dog or cat will travel in the aircraft hold, and you cannot normally visit them during the flight.

The IATA LAR does not allow the following animals to travel by plane:

- Puppies and kittens under eight weeks old.
- Female animals with suckling young.
- Some airlines have extra restrictions on young animals and snub-nosed/flat faced dogs.

You can visit the IATA website for more information at: <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/live-animals/>

Every dog or cat animal travelling to Great Britain by plane must also meet the additional conditions shown on its animal health import documentation.

Containers/Crates and their requirements

Containers and/or crates ("containers") which dogs/cats are placed in, legally, must be designed, constructed, maintained and operated to ensure the welfare of the dogs/cats is maintained during the journey.

Containers which dogs and cats are placed in, must provide sufficient space to allow the animal to stand in a natural position and move around. There must be adequate ventilation in the area above the animal when they are stood in their natural position. Containers which cannot provide this level of space for the animal within it, are not deemed compliant with the Regulations or suitable for use. A means of lighting for sufficient inspection of the dogs/cats is also required under the Regulations.

- The container should not contain anything which could injure the animal or cause any suffering. As per the Regulations, it should be maintained and designed so that no part of the animal (such as the head, paws, or tail) can stick out or get trapped. It should be designed, constructed, and maintained and operated to ensure the safety of the dogs/cats at all times.
- It is a requirement that the container must provide enough ventilation and fresh air for your pet throughout the journey to make sure they do not get too hot. The container should protect the dogs/cats from inclement weather, extreme temperatures and adverse changes in climatic conditions. Remember that a container put in a travel enclosure (for example, the hold of an aircraft) may be in 'still air' conditions for prolonged periods of time.
- Your dog and/or cat should have access to water, and to food if the journey is longer than a few hours. It is advisable to place food and water bowls (preferably spill-proof) in the container or fix them to it so that the animal cannot knock them over or spill the contents. On longer journeys bowls should be able to be refilled easily.
- The containers are required to present a flooring which is anti-slip as well as ensuring that the floor surface minimises the leakage of urine and faeces.
- There must be enough absorbent bedding in the container – newspaper alone is not enough for long journeys, but you can use several layers of it with other absorbent material, such as matting or puppy pads. During the journey, bedding should be regularly changed, with urine and faeces removed. Containers for cats should have litter trays which are either heavy enough not to move around or fixed to stop them moving.
- All containers should be cleansed and disinfected after each use.
- All containers must provide access to allow the dogs/cats to be inspected and cared for

Container Construction

You can buy rigid plastic pet containers from good pet shops and suppliers. Or, the container can be made of other materials, particularly for large or aggressive dogs. A container which is suitable for a short domestic journey may not necessarily be strong enough, large enough, or suitably designed for long journeys, particularly by air. The airline will decide whether to accept containers for air transport. The following guidance is a summary of the basic standards in the IATA LAR for transporting dogs and cats during a flight, however the principles apply to other types of transport.

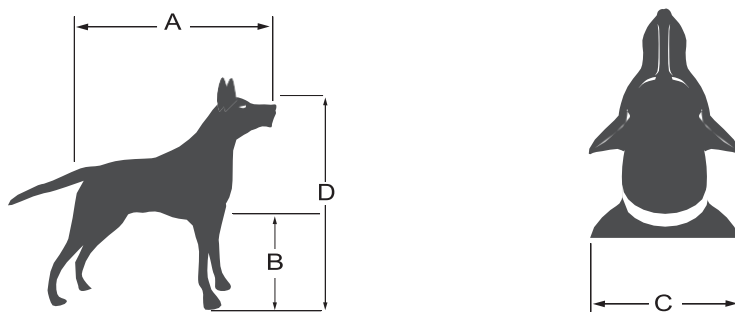
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|-------|--|
| Frame | For containers made of wood, the outer frame should be made from timber at least 2.5 centimetres by 7.5 centimetres (1 inch by 3 inches) thick and screwed or bolted together. |
| Sides | The container must be smooth inside, with no pieces that the animal can bite or scratch to damage the unit or itself. The sides should be solid, but with enough ventilation. Wooden containers: use plywood which is at least 12mm (1/2 an inch) thick for dogs and 6mm (1/4 an inch) for cats. Plastic containers: Where containers are assembled from a top and bottom part, they must be securely bolted together. Plastic clips must not be the only fastening, holding the sections together. The use of metal bolts and nuts is recommended. |
| Ends | One whole end should be open and covered with bars, weldmesh or smooth expanded metal which is securely fixed so that the animal cannot move it. |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| | |
| Floor | The floor should be anti-slip, solid and leak-proof. |
| Roof | The roof should be solid but there can be ventilation holes over the whole surface as long as they do not affect the strength of the roof. |
| Door | <p>The door should make up one whole end of the container. It can either be sliding or hinged.</p> <p>Large doors will need extra hinges and two or three secure fasteners to be fully secure.</p> <p>The door should be made of plastic, wood, plywood, welded or cast metal thick enough to prevent the animal from bending or distorting the door. Doors made of plastic material are only acceptable if the hinges and locking pins are made of thick enough metal. Many pet containers you can buy with plastic doors do not come with metal hinges.</p> <p>For containers using doors as locking pins, the locking pins should engage the container by at least 1.6cm (5/8 of an inch)</p> <p>There must be adequate means of sealing a container closed, when travelling to a country where sealing is required.</p> |
| Ventilation | <p>Must be provided on all 4 sides of a container. Ventilation openings on the side and back must be placed in the upper two thirds of the container. The whole of one end of the container (which can be the door) must be ventilated.</p> <p>The total ventilated area should be at least 16% of the total surface of the four sides. You can provide more holes on the roof or sides of the container, or larger mesh-covered holes, to give the container better ventilation.</p> <p>Your pet should not be able to get its nose or paws through the holes, and for cats and small dogs you may have to cover the holes with mesh. It is very important that ventilation holes do not give an animal a surface or edge at which it can gnaw or scratch and that the animals cannot dislodge the mesh.</p> |
| Food and water | You should provide a spill-proof water container which can be filled from outside the container. You should also provide a container for food. |
| Bedding | <p>You must provide enough absorbent bedding for the journey.</p> <p>Newspaper alone is not enough for long journeys, but you can use several layers of it with other absorbent material, such as matting.</p> <p>Containers for cats should have litter trays which are either heavy enough not to move around or fixed to stop them moving.</p> |

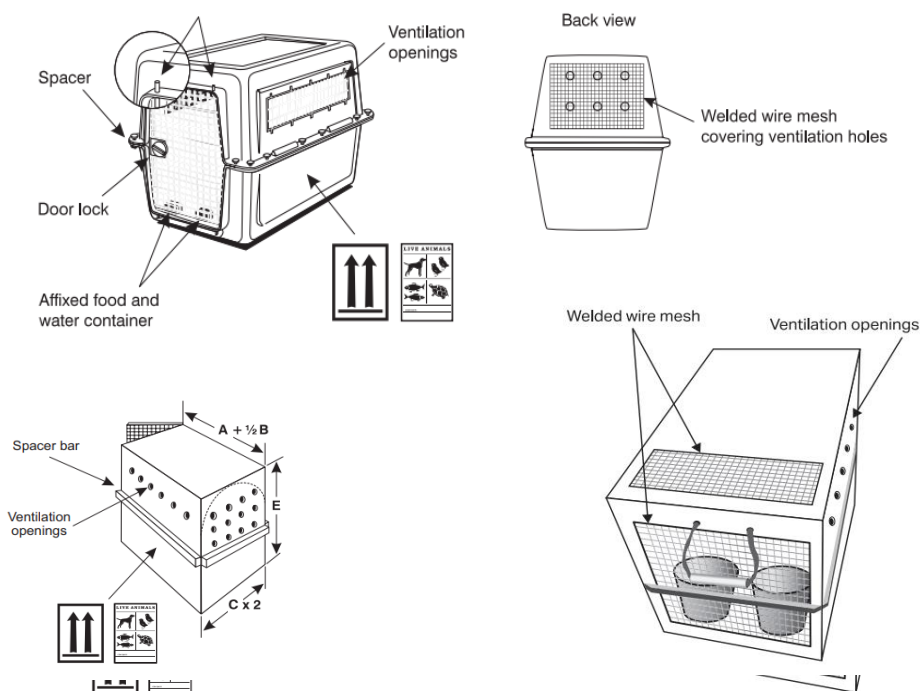
Container measurements

(All measurements are for the inside of the container.)

| Size of animal | Size of container |
|--|--|
| A is the length of the animal from its nose to the base of the tail. | A + $\frac{1}{2}$ B = length of the container. |
| B is the height from the ground to the animal's elbow joint. | |
| C is the width across the widest part of the shoulders. | C x 2 = width of the container. |
| D is the height of the animal standing up naturally, from top of the head or the ear tip, whichever is higher. | D = height of the container. |
| <p>a) Snub nosed breeds require at least 10% larger container.</p> <p>b) If animals are travelling together, the container dimensions must relate to the largest animal.</p> | |



Examples of Containers



When transporting by road, your container must have a 'Live animals' label attached to it.

On planes, you must use a green IATA 'Live animals' label and a 'This way up' label on at least two opposite side.

Enforcement

It is the responsibility of anyone transporting dogs/cats to ensure that injury or unnecessary suffering does not occur.

The responsibility for the enforcement of the welfare in transport legislation for journeys to, from or through GB rests with Local Authorities. Local Authorities conduct routine welfare checks on animals and their means of transport and will take appropriate enforcement measures up to and including prosecution if required.

APHA work closely with Local Authority and are responsible for conducting regulatory work such as checks at ports. APHA have the power to issue statutory notices. Statutory notices provide us with the power to seize or detain animals, prohibit transporters/driver/vehicles from operating within GB or place conditions upon the transport. APHA are also responsible for issuing transporter authorisations. APHA staff have the power to

suspend or revoke these authorisations where incidents of non-compliance with the welfare in transport Regulations are identified.

Who to contact about Welfare in Transport?

For any additional advice and guidance on Welfare in Transport, please contact:

Welfare in Transport Team
The Animal & Plant Health Agency
Centre for International Trade
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street, Carlisle
CA3 8DX
Phone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301
E-mail: WIT@apha.gov.uk

Further guidance can be found on Gov.uk:

- [Animal welfare during transport](#)
- [Taking your pet dog, cat or ferret abroad](#)
- [Bringing your pet dog, cat or ferret to Great Britain](#)
- [Pet travel: approved air, sea and rail carriers and routes](#)
- [Commercial Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets](#)
- [Travel with Assistance Dogs](#)
- [Animal welfare - Gov.Wales](#)
- [Animal welfare - Gov.Scotland](#)