



The guide for good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of donkeys and donkey hybrids - Factsheet

Transporting donkeys by road

Any transport can be a stressful event and may put donkey welfare at risk. Training the donkey before loading can improve the entire transport experience – for everyone!

How to do it properly

- Plan the journey carefully to avoid delays during travel and ensure a safe arrival.
- Train the donkey to load before planned travel and allow adequate time for loading.
- During loading:
 - Take advantage of natural gregarious and bonding behavior;
 - Manage lighting to avoid shadows within the vehicle;
 - Cover the ramp to reduce noise, light reflections or unpleasant vibrations if necessary.
- Use side-gates if available
- Avoid travel during hottest and coldest hours of the day/night.
- Use bedding inside the trailer to absorb urine and faeces and reduce slipping.
- Pay attention to ventilation and space requirements.
- Provide high-fibre feed during the journey and offer water regularly depending on journey time.
- Drive smoothly. Avoid sudden acceleration, deceleration and sharp cornering.
- Ensure vehicles and drivers comply with legal requirements and thoroughly check all equipment before travel.



This picture illustrates poor practices

Don't

- Transport unfit donkeys
- Pull donkeys into vehicles
- Load from light into shadow
- Leave ramp un-bedded
- Use ramp with steep incline
- Travel by choice in the full heat of the day



Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Equidae

Always ensure that donkeys are fit for transport. Transporting an unfit animal compromises its welfare and is prohibited under European legislation. Read the [Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Equidae](#).

Photographs used in this factsheet to illustrate some situations should not be considered to illustrate the sole solution to situations described.