

Animal welfare during transport



ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

More space, lower temperatures, journeys up to max 12 hours: these are some of the key recommendations to improve the welfare of animals transported in containers, included in a new scientific opinion by EFSA.



POULTRY



RABBITS



SPACE



POULTRY



RABBITS

Sufficient floor space **so all can sit at the same time without overlapping**. The height of the container should be such that the comb or head does not touch the ceiling when birds sit with their head and neck in a natural posture.

Sufficient floor space to sit in a natural resting posture. The height of the container should be at least 35 cm to **ensure rabbits (up to 3 kg) can sit with their ears extended in a comfortable position**.

12h max



TIME

The journey duration of animals transported in containers **should be considered as the whole time the animals are confined**. EFSA recommends journeys up to a maximum of 12 hours, including 'on farm' feed withdrawal.



TEMPERATURE

The most efficient measure for preventing heat stress is to transport animals in **vehicles using effective mechanical ventilation or air conditioning**.



DAY-OLD CHICKS

EFSA recommends **transporting fertilised eggs**, instead of day-old chicks, and **hatching them on the farm of destination**.



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.



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EFSA is the keystone of EU risk assessment regarding food and feed safety. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks.

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