

Alpaca Advice

Transporting alpacas

Alpacas are very easily transported in a wide variety of vehicles and trailers. Most are carried in very small numbers compared with other livestock moved on commercial carriers.

Most alpacas will sit in the 'kush' position as soon as the vehicle starts to move, and some experienced travellers even 'kush' as soon as they enter a float or trailer.

Purpose-built floats with internal dividers work very well, as do horse floats and vans that are appropriately fitted out with cargo barriers. Caged box trailers can be used providing the top of the cage is covered (mesh or shade cloth is suitable) to ensure nervous alpacas are not tempted to jump out. The front of the cage should be enclosed to avoid alpacas being harmed by stones etc. which may be flung up by the car.

Fresh straw on the floor of the float or trailer can make it more enticing for the alpacas to load, as well as providing some cushioning from rough road surfaces and absorption of urine and faeces.

Some states require detailed records of any livestock movements with penalties for infringements. The 'Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock' is available at www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au and outlines vehicle and animal welfare requirements for transporting all livestock including alpacas.

Disclaimer: The advice given here is of a general nature. More detailed information for your area may be provided by an agronomist, veterinarian or other expert with local knowledge.