

# SAFE TRANSPORTATION

We always recommend crating pigs! Transporting safely is one of the more difficult tasks with pigs. Transporting pigs loose in your vehicle can be very dangerous. We have known pigs to:

- ◆ Break through a van window, shattering glass to escape from a moving vehicle
- ◆ Jump 4-feet straight up in the air to go over barricades or the back door of a horse trailer
- ◆ Multiple pigs will use each others bodies to make a pyramid to climb up and out a horse trailer door
- ◆ Pigs are incredibly strong and determined to be free....a combination that makes them harder to confine than a 2,000 pound bull.
- ◆ Pigs will die or suffer life-long disabilities from heat stress if moved in temperatures too hot and get lung disease from being moved in temperatures too cold.
- ◆ Pigs are often unable to cope with a lot of stress and the sounds and smells of the highway mean many die if moved in crates in a truck bed.
- ◆ They can climb over the seats in your car and land in your lap; a hysterical 180 pound pig does not make a good co-pilot.
- ◆ Handmade barricades, plastic and wire cages are invitations for injuries too numerous to mention. (Warning: plastic cuts are the most deadly, as the broken edge of plastic is ragged and tears the flesh instead of cutting it)

## So, how to transport them safely:

- ◆ In a **large crate**: big enough to turn around in; put blankets or towels inside so they don't slip and slide, and inside a vehicle with air conditioning to keep it cool. Wear a sweater when hauling pigs as they cannot tolerate heat when stressed. About 60 to 65 degrees is good.
- ◆ In a **horse trailer** where the openings above the walls are:
  1. Over 4-feet above ground level (or)
  2. Reinforced by welded mesh or rods (or)
  3. Too small for the pig to get through (and)
  4. Temperature should not get outside the 45 to 70 degree range for the duration of the trip. Check temps **INSIDE** the trailer for safety. It can get very hot even with the vents.
  5. Plenty of hay and a heavy rubber mat under it to cushion the hard ride.
  6. A ramp to load/unload them without stress
- ◆ If loose in a **cargo van**: use heavy mats and a driver protection door or barricade (most are equipped) This is a good choice for multiple pigs. Put down a tarp, cover with rubber mats or a sheet or two of cardboard and add heavy blankets. Carry the ramp with you, placed where they can walk through it so they don't get hurt with it. Keep temperature cool and they will travel almost stress-free. The cost of renting a cargo van is under \$100. A very inexpensive way to make for a safe trip. By planning and being patient and careful, you will always have a safe trip. ~ from: <https://www.9sites.org/pigrescue/rescue.htm>