

Supreme Horse Transport Guidance for Loading

From job organisation to job completion.

Once you have received the job details, it is a good idea to check the route and become familiar with where you are heading to. If you have any questions regarding the job, you can raise them at this point.

Arriving at the yard and loading your horse/s

When you approach the stableyard, look out for the best place to park the horsebox and importantly where there is level ground for the ramp.

Turn the box to face the way you will drive out so to avoid turning the box with the horse onboard.

At this point, you are in control of how the horse is loaded. We never load with force and we never allow anyone else use force either.

This is an important ethos for us as a company but it is also government legislation that supports our License.

If the horse is brought out to you, take an observant glance over the horse, is it sound, does it look to have a skin infection etc?

If the horse is lame, we need to clarify if the horse is fit for travel, the exception to this is when we are attending a job where the horse is injured or unwell and going to the vets. The office will discuss details of the job in this case.

If the horse has an obvious lameness or skin infection or appears unwell we can refuse to transport it until a date where it has received treatment.

The ideal is that the driver loads the horse as he/she is familiar with the workings of the horsebox and clients are often unsure.

The following checklist is worth running through mentally prior to loading

- Ensure that the area where you are loading is safe, free from objects that the horse can be hurt on.
- Direct onlookers or groups of people out of the way as this can create anxiety for the horse

- Clarify who is the owner or who is responsible for the horse and advise how they can help. One or two people can be very helpful although we ask that COVID-19 procedures are adhered to.
- If the owner is loading their own horse, please instruct them clearly on what to do.
- If the horse has been sedated or is leaving a close companion it is best to not give a haynet until 1. The sedation is worn off or 2. Until the horse has stopped calling out for his/her companions. This will help avoid choke.
- If the horse is wearing bandages or boots, do they look to be fitting well?
- We prefer to avoid tail bandages as they can cause loss of circulation to the tail if they are too tight. We do have our own tail guards which can be offered for travel.

In the case of a difficult loader, we allow 30 minutes and after that point we ask that you mention to the client that we can continue trying to load but the office may need to invoice for the additional time. We do refer to this in our Terms and Conditions which are pointed out to clients at the time of booking.

Presuming that the horse is safely loaded, leave the yard driving very slowly and steadily. At this point of the journey, the horse is processing their feelings on the situation that they are in. We must ensure that at this point the horse is offered a smooth beginning to their journey.

As many roads leading from stable yards are on small lanes or pot holed tracks it is even more necessary to drive at a steady pace and always take corners slowly. This ethos is to continue throughout the entire journey, our aim is to provide a positive experience.