

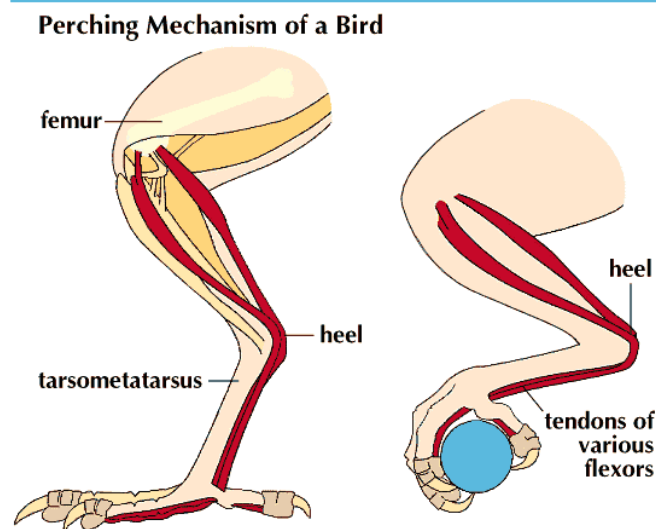
2017-10-31

PERCHES REQUIRED FOR PERCHING BIRDS

Dear airlines clients

Due to the increase of birds being flown over the world and South Africa, the NSPCA had notice the use of crates for birds not complying with the IATA Live Animals Regulations. Especially the perching birds which are required to have suitable perches in the crates for the bird's specific for each size of birds being transported.

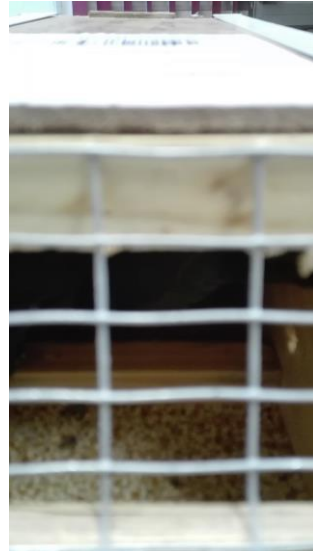
As to the question generally ask what perching birds is and which is not. The following diagram will show the typical perching birds legs forming over a perch.



This needs to be taken into consideration when crates are supplied for the transport of birds. Flat surfaces are not acceptable for birds for flight as to the IATA live animals regulation due to the natural stance of perching birds.



Crates as below are in violation as to the IATA Live Animals Regulations as well the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962.



Perch supplied in the crate above is flat and the small birds cannot perch as natural position on it.

Even with only small distance flying this should not be allowed as no natural perching bird can perch on a flat surface.

Even with birds like pigeons being transported by any means in crates must have perches in the crates.

Requirements as per the IATA Live Animals Regulations the following must be in place for the crates for transporting birds or any live animals.

- All birds must be able to perched simultaneously as to the stocking density;
- A suitable perch must be fixed inside the container at a height that just allows the bird to perch naturally with minimum head and tail clearance. (Birds must be able to sit on the perch up straight without touching its head.)
- Separated flanged feed and water containers with outside access, must be fixed inside the container.
- The roof must be padded with soft material that cannot be destroyed for some species.
- Handlebars must be provided and must be secured.
- when constructing containers for animal shipment , the normal habits and necessary freedom of movement must be considered;
- the container must be well constructed and able to withstand other freight damage it or cause the structure to buckle or bend;
- Containers must be constructed of non-toxic materials. Chemically impregnated wood may be poisonous and must not be used.
- The container must not cause the animal to damage itself. All the edges must be smooth or rounded. There must be no sharp objects, such as nails, upon which the animal can injured itself. The inside joints of a wooden container must be made to that they cannot be damage by the animal gnawing or clawing the container from the inside.

- Handlebars and spacebars must be provided to prevent handlers from being bitten by the birds.
- Feeding and watering must be made available for the birds inside the crates with access from the outside for allowing accessible for replenishment purposes. They must be rounded and made out of non-toxic material suitable for the species.



Plastic crates made for birds, all still requirement as to the IATA Live Animals Regulations



WOODEN CRATES MADE FOR BIGGER BIRDS



Typical wood crates being used with mesh over the holes to prevent birds from enlarging the holes and escape.

Custom Bird Carriers. Safe & Dependable



Plastic pet container modified for birds

CRATES NOT IATA COMPLIANT.



No space bars and no perches



This form of transport is a concern and not compliant as to IATA live animal's regulations. As to the rule this form of crate would not withstand damage by other shipment. Animal's wellbeing inside this crate inside the cargo hole is at risk.

Hope this letter will clear up the requirements for birds for transport by air.

Kind regards

Jacques van der Merwe
National Inspector NSPCA
Special Projects Unit
(011) 907 3590