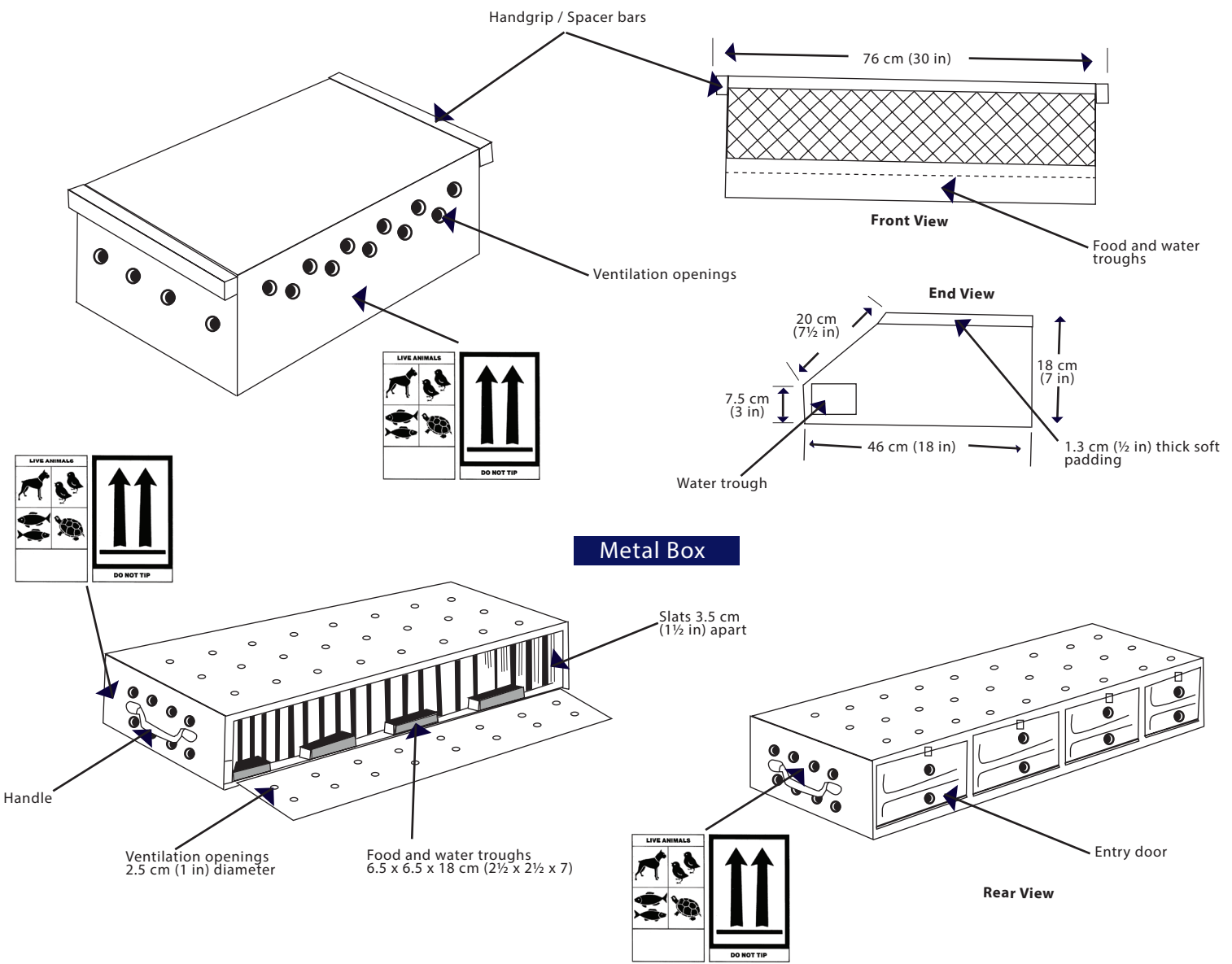


# REQUIREMENTS FOR DOVE & PIGEON SPECIES



Kindly note: Only the above crates will be accepted. We may not accept any modified or incorrect crates.

## MATERIALS

Wood, water-resistant fibreboard, non-toxic plastic, fibre-glass, synthetics, wire mesh, padding, eg: felt, sponge or plastic foam and muslin cloth or similar material.

## SIZE

The height of the container must only be just sufficient to allow the birds to perch naturally and leave the perch without hitting their heads. Excessive height allows these nervous species to injure themselves

## SIDES

The front of the container must be covered in welded wire mesh, which must comprise 75% of the frontal area. The welded wire mesh must be no greater than 19mm x 19mm (3/4 in x 3/4 in) and at least 1.5mm (0.06 in) or thicker.

There must be a curtain, which can be raised and lowered, fixed over the wire mesh to provide dim light inside the container.

## HANDLING SPACER BARS/HANDLES

Must be provided.

**NOTE:** Food and water troughs must be provided.

## PERCHES

Not required for pigeons of the Columbidae and other non-perching dove and pigeon species.

## STOCKING DENSITY

If perching, all birds must be able to perch simultaneously. No more than 25 of the smaller species must be packed in a single container or compartment of a container and the number must be reduced for the larger species in order to avoid smothering by overcrowding.

## ROOF

Must be padded with a non-destructible soft material

## VENTILATION

Meshed ventilation openings with a diameter of 2.5cm (1 in) must be provided at intervals of approximately 5cm (2 in) on the three solid sides of the container. The welded wire mesh must be no greater than 19mm x 19mm (¾ in x ¾ in) and at least 1.5mm (0.06 in) or thicker.

The edges of the mesh must be protected so that the birds cannot injure themselves.

## FOOD & WATER CONTAINERS

Flanged food and water containers must be provided with outside access for refilling. A float of balsa wood or similar material with perforations of 1cm (½ in) must be placed on top of the water to prevent the birds drowning.

Rounded wooden or metal bars/slats may be fixed internally within the container to segregate the birds from the food and water containers. The bars/slats should be 3.5cm (1½ in) apart or at least wide enough apart to allow the birds to pass their heads through in order to feed and drink.

Soldered tin must not be used.

## RIGID PLASTIC PET CONTAINERS

Modified rigid pet containers can be used for small shipments or individual birds. *The following modifications must be made:*

If required, 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.

The roof must be padded with a non-destructible soft material.

The door and ventilation openings must be covered with a fine wire mesh. A curtain, which can be raised and lowered must be fixed to the container over the door. If the bird is very nervous the ventilation openings must also be curtained.

Separate flanged feed and water containers with outside access must be fixed inside the container. The container must be correctly labelled.

If a container has wheels, they must be removed or rendered inoperable.

## PREPARATIONS BEFORE DISPATCH

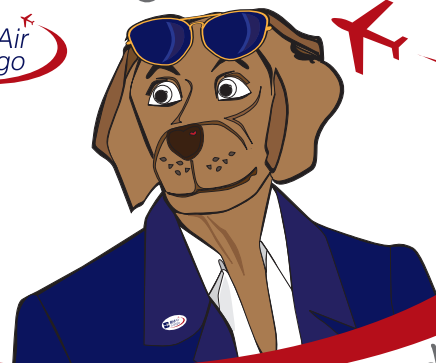
It is advisable that the shippers must ensure that wild birds have been held after capture for approximately thirty days before dispatch to overcome the stress of capture and allow them to become accustomed to confinement and their new diet.

It is of the utmost importance that all birds be given, under close supervision, an opportunity to drink an ample supply of water before departure.

There are many wild species of pigeons and doves. The largest species must be packed singly and those of medium size not more than two in each compartment, providing they are a matched pair

**Overcrowding must be avoided.** On no account must excess birds be loaded to ensure against mortality. Species of widely differing sizes must not be mixed in the same compartment.

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