



**QUOIN ISLAND**  
TURTLE REHABILITATION CENTRE



# Transporting a sea turtle

If one of our staff have advised that a sea turtle will have to come into care, it will need a "turtle taxi" to Gladstone.

## What kind of vehicle:

- Small and medium size turtles:
  - in boot of stationwagon/suv/hatchback/any car with boot that can be accessed inside car (do not put in boot in sedan)
  - on floor of passenger side if animal is small, but don't put feet on animal (see top photo)
  - in tub on back seat for any car
- Large turtle
  - in tray of covered ute/in boot of large stationwagon/suv

## What to put the sea turtle in:

- A tub is not necessary but ideal to keep your car clean, and prevents the turtle from 'walking around' during transport.
- Only use a tub if it is large enough for the turtle. The turtle needs to be able to lay flat and move its flippers back – and forwards. The head, shell and flippers should not be restricted in any way. Keeping a turtle in a tub that's too small can result in serious injuries. Ensure no flippers are folded or tucked away under the shell. Also make sure to add padding to the tub, line it with some towels or something soft (see middle photo).

## What to put the sea turtle on (if no tub):

Put the sea turtle on a few towels or a mat, or anything soft to make its journey comfortable. Further injuries can be caused if the turtle is transported on a hard surface, especially when underweight or presenting with injuries on flippers or plastron. Ensure no flippers are folded or tucked away under the shell, to prevent fractures.

## During transport

- No A/C use. Keep the turtle warm as it can't regulate its own body temperature. Transporting a sea turtle at temperatures below 25C can have a huge impact on their chance of survival.
- No domestic animals in car.
- No loud music in car.
- Remove items that may fall on the sea turtle during transport.
- Take care when going around corners.

## Stress

If the animal is stressed, covering it with a towel over the head will sometimes calm it down. Ensure the animal can still lift its head, breathe and move freely.

**Thank you for your help! We wouldn't be able to save sea turtles without you!**

Please phone our centre directly if you have spotted a beached or floating sea turtle:

**Turtle Rescue Hotline**  
**0408 431 304**

