

Cart

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A **cart** is a vehicle designed for transport, using two wheels and normally pulled by one or a pair of draught animals. A *handcart* is pulled or pushed by one or more people. It is different from a dray or wagon, which is a heavy transport vehicle with *four* wheels and typically two or more horses, or a carriage, which is used exclusively for transporting humans.

Over time, the term "cart" has come to mean nearly any small conveyance, from shopping carts to golf carts, without regard to number of wheels, load carried, or means of propulsion.

The draught animals used for carts may be horses or ponies, mules, oxen, water buffalo or donkeys, or even smaller animals such as goats or large dogs.



A Haitian hand cart.

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History

Carts have been mentioned in literature as far back as the second millennium B.C. The Indian sacred book Rigveda states that men and women are as equal as two wheels of a cart. Hand-carts pushed by humans have been used around the world. In the 19th century, for instance, some Mormons travelling across the plains of the United States between 1856 and 1860 used handcarts.^[1]

The history of the cart is closely tied to the history of the wheel.

Carts were often used for judicial punishments, both to transport the condemned – a public humiliation in itself (in Ancient Rome defeated leaders were often carried in the victorious general's triumph) – and even, in England until its substitution by the whipping post under Queen Elizabeth I, to tie the condemned to the *cart-tail* and administer him or her a public whipping.



Hand-propelled wheel cart, Indus Valley Civilization (3000–1500 BCE). Housed at the National Museum, New Delhi.

Types of cart

Larger carts may be drawn by animals, such as horses, mules, or oxen. They have been in continuous use since the invention of the wheel, in the 4th millennium BC. Carts may be named for the animal that pulls them, such as *horsecart* or *oxcart*. In modern times, horsecarts are used in competition while draft horse showing. A *dogcart*, however, is usually a cart designed to *carry* hunting dogs: an open cart with two cross-seats back to back; the dogs could be penned between the rear-facing seat and the back end.

The term "cart" (synonymous in this sense with *chair*) is also used for various kinds of lightweight, two-wheeled carriages, some of them *sprung carts* (or *spring carts*), especially those used as open pleasure or sporting vehicles. They could be drawn by a horse, pony or dog. Examples include:

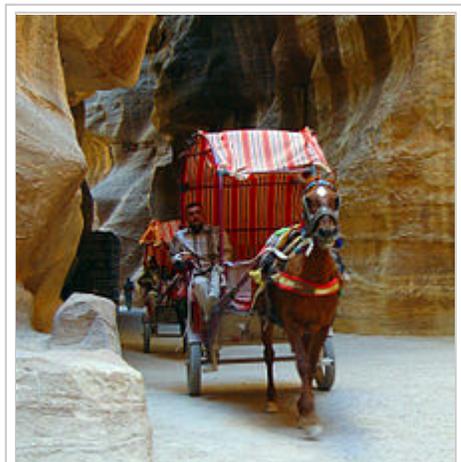
- *cocking cart*: short-bodied, high, two-wheeled, seat for a groom behind the box; for tandem driving^[2]
- *dogcart*: light, usually one horse, commonly two-wheeled and high, two transverse seats set back to back
- *donkey cart*: underslung axle, two lengthwise seats; also called *pony cart*, *tub-cart*
- *float*: a dropped axle to give an especially low loadbed, for carrying heavy or unstable items such as milk churns. The name survives today as a milkfloat.
- *governess cart*: light, two-wheeled, entered from the rear, body partly or wholly of wickerwork, seat for two persons along each side; also called *governess car*, *tub-cart*
- *ralli cart*: light, two-wheeled, horse-drawn, for two persons facing forward, or four, two facing forward and two rearward. The seat is adjustable fore-and-aft to keep the vehicle balanced for two or four people.
- *stolkjaerre*: two-wheeled, front seat for two, rear seat for the driver; used in Norway
- *tax cart*: spring cart, formerly subject to a small tax in England; also called *taxed cart*
- *Whitechapel cart*: spring cart, light, two-wheeled, especially for family or light delivery service^{[3][4][5]}

The builder of a cart may be known as a *cartwright*; the surname "Carter" also derives from the occupation of transporting goods by cart or wagon.

Carts have many different shapes, but the basic idea of transporting material (or maintaining a collection of materials in a portable fashion) remains. Carts may have a pair of shafts, one along each side of the draught animal that supports the forward-balanced load in the cart. The shafts are supported by a saddle on the horse. Alternatively (and normally where the animals are oxen or buffalo), the cart may have a single



A donkey cart used in the Gambia



Tourist carts in Petra Siq (Jordan)

pole between a pair of animals. The draught traces attach to the axle of the vehicle or to the shafts. The traces are attached to a collar (on horses), to a yoke (on other heavy draught animals) or to a harness on dogs or other light animals.

Traces are made from a range of materials depending on the load and frequency of use. Heavy draught traces are made from iron or steel chain. Lighter traces are often leather and sometimes hemp rope, but plaited horse-hair and other similar decorative materials can be used.

The dray is often associated with the transport of barrels, particularly of beer.

Of the cart types not animal-drawn, perhaps the most common example today is the shopping cart (British English: shopping trolley), which has also come to have a metaphorical meaning in relation to online purchases (here, British English uses the metaphor of the shopping basket). Shopping carts first made their appearance in Oklahoma City in 1937.

In golf, both manual push or pull and electric golf trolleys are designed to carry a golfer's bag, clubs and other equipment. Also, the golf cart, car, or buggy, is a powered vehicle that carries golfers and their equipment around a golf course faster and with less effort than walking.

A *Porter's trolley* is a type of small, hand-propelled wheeled platform. This can also be called a baggage cart. since the 13th century.

Autocarts are a type of small, hand-propelled wheeled utility carts having a pivoting base for collapsible storage in vehicles. They eliminate the need for plastic or paper shopping bags and are also used by tradespersons to carry tools, equipment or supplies.

A soap-box cart (also known as a Billy Cart, Go-Cart, Trolley etc.) is a popular children's construction project on wheels, usually pedaled, but also intended for a test race.

An electric cart is an electric vehicle.^[6]

The term "Go-Kart", which exists since 1959, also shortened as "Kart", an alternative spelling of "cart", refers to a tiny race car with frame and two-stroke engine; the old term *go-cart* originally meant a sedan chair or an infant walker

Gallery



Carts from different Malay regions, exhibited at the Muzium Negara.



Ox carts in Madagascar



Cart with iron wheels in a farm at Chinawal village, India



A *charrette*, a wooden French cart (Cévennes).



A horsecart in Santiago de Cuba.



An iron-tyred wooden-spoked cart wheel



A simple wooden cart in Australia.



A Chinese Sui Dynasty (581–618 AD) cart figurine pulled by a bull.



Mormon handcart pioneers crossing the Platte River, modern reenactment of 1856 expedition.



A walking cart, used for long distance travel, seen at Michigan's Mackinac Bridge.

See also

- Araba
- Baby transport
- Baggage cart
- Barouche
- Bicycle trailer
- Brougham
- Bullock cart
- Cabriolet
- Carriage
- Chariot
- Dogcart
- Electric golf trolley
- Float
- Golf cart
- Governess cart

- Guard stone
- Hand truck
- Hansom cab
- Hobcart
- Horse-drawn vehicles
- Jaunting car
- Landau
- Lorry (horse-drawn)
- Ralli car
- Red River ox cart
- Rickshaw
- Rully
- Shopping cart
- Sicilian cart
- Sprung cart
- Sulky
- Taxicab
- Toy wagon
- Trolley (horse-drawn)
- Tumbril
- Un-sprung cart
- Wagon
- Wain
- Wheel
- Wheelbarrow
- Wheel chair

References

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2. CAAOnline: Carriage Tour. (http://www.caaonline.com/caa_content.asp?PageType=Dept&Key=15&MCat=16) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20071027142119/http://www.caaonline.com/caa_content.asp?PageType=Dept&Key=15&MCat=16) October 27, 2007, at the Wayback Machine. The Carriage Association of America, Inc.
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5. "RootsWeb: STAFFORDSHIRE-L [STAFFORDSHIRE] Whitechapel". Archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com. 2014-07-01. Retrieved 2014-08-25.
6. "Mobility and Wheelchair Assistance - Alaska Airlines". Alaskaair.com. Retrieved 2014-08-25.

External links

- Hand and Horse Drawn Firefighting Apparatus (<http://www.hallofflame.org/hand.htm>)
- History of the Shopping Cart (<http://www.ideafinder.com/history/inventions/shopcart.htm>)

- [golf push Cart reviews \(http://www.bestgolfcartsreviews.com\)](http://www.bestgolfcartsreviews.com)

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