

Toyota Putting the Freedom of Mobility for Everyone

The Meaning behind Toyota's 'Welcab' Welfare Vehicle

Welcab

Welfare
Well + Cabin
Welcome

The name 'Welcab' combines the words "welfare" and "cabin" and is intended to convey Toyota's intent to create a vehicle which helps increase the happiness of its user as much as possible.



Ractis Welcab wheelchair-adapted model (Ramp Type)



The Porte Welcab Friendmatic Seat Weldrive Model

As Japan develops into an aging society unprecedented anywhere else in the world, there is a greater need for society to enable disadvantaged persons, such as the elderly and the disabled, to enjoy greater freedom in the lives. According to statistics, the elderly expected to make up 25% of the entire population of Japan by 2015 as the result of the declining birthrate and increasing life expectancy. Furthermore, the bedridden elderly currently number some 2.5 million, while 86% of caregivers are women and 49% are aged 60 or over. If the aging of Japanese society continues, the percentage of seniors taking care of other seniors will increase further. In such a society, the benefits of the freedom of mobility offered by automobiles have even greater significance than for people who are young and health. Toyota believes it is its duty to make such benefits available to as many people as possible.

What is being sought in the case of specially equipped vehicles is not only easier use for caregivers but also appropriate functions corresponding to the fundamental ideal of nursing care, which is to make it possible for care recipients to do as much as they can on their own. It is important to facilitate use not only from the care recipient perspective, but also to make use safe and easy from the perspective of the caregiver. This will reduce the burden on caregivers while making it easier for people to request assistance. In order to search for new functions that benefit both care recipients and caregivers, Toyota has positioned the Welcab series (specially equipped vehicles with factory-installed features for disabled people) as one form of Toyota's universal design and is working to develop and popularize these vehicles based on the philosophy of providing the freedom of mobility in comfort to all people. Wholehearted attention and strict quality control is devoted to each Welcab manufactured.