



Companion Animal Transport Programs

Best Practices



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Role of Transport



- Addresses market demand
- Highlights collective responsibility for animals
- Drives placement of more animals
- Focuses on local, *then* regional, *then* national needs



Goals of the Transport Best Practices

- Foster open relationships between source and destination agencies
- Improve the quality of transfers - minimizing animal stress and disease transmission
- Ensure that transport programs meet or exceed local, state and federal regulations pertaining to public health and animal safety.
- Promote transfer best practices to achieve the above.
- Collect data on transports



Models for Transport

- Agency to Agency
- Shelter Aggregator (aka "hub and spoke" model)
- Third Party Aggregator
- Volunteer Transport

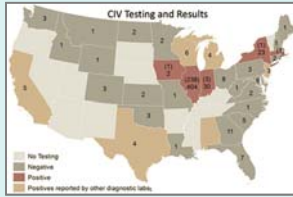


Key Considerations

- Your agency's motivations for transport
- Impact on/capacity of your agency
- Impact on/capacity of your community
- Outcomes for animals
- Partnership capacity between source and destination agencies



Key Elements



- Public health and safety must be the primary concern
- All transfer agencies must be registered 501(c)3 agencies or be a municipal agency
- All participants must be committed to abiding by all local, state and federal regulations
- Humane standards of care must be afforded to every animal being transported



General Requirements for Transfer Programs

1. Partners should establish solid working relationships



MOU's should include:

- ✓ Disease concerns specific to local or geographic regions
- ✓ Each agency's capacity for providing medical treatment
- ✓ Outcomes and returns: who is responsible if an animal is not placeable?



General Requirements for Transfer Programs

2. 501(c)3 or municipal agency



General Requirements for Transfer Programs


3. Short and Long Term Positive Impact on the community and the animals.



General Requirements for Transfer Programs




4. Destination shelters must have:


Community Need: Community demand for dogs, puppies, cats or kittens	Capacity and Space: Capacity and space available for care; will not euthanize for lack of these items	Strong Infrastructure: Have strong infrastructure to support transported animals	Legal Compliance: Comply with all state and local laws
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General Requirements for Transfer Programs

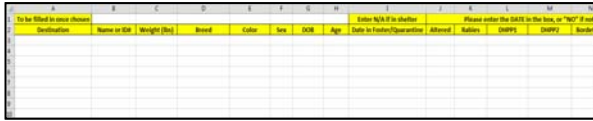
5. A designated coordinator at both agencies is essential. Coordinator will:

-  Organize timing, number, and types of animals
-  Evaluate health or behavior considerations
-  Maintain good communication between agencies



General Requirements for Transfer Programs

6. Develop a transport census:



- Source should share lists of animals available for transport
- Final transport list should include all available info about each animal
- Mutually acceptable protocol and timeframe for selection and approval



General Requirements for Transfer Programs

7. Valid health certificates are required for interstate transport

8. Destinations should be flexible, sources should select animals that can be easily adopted

9. Each animal should be treated with dignity and respect.



Land Transport

- a. Transport vehicles and equipment must be cleaned and sanitized to industry standards.
- b. Proper climate control including heat, air conditioning and air ventilation
- c. Appropriate housing used for all animals
- d. Fresh water provided at breaks
- e. Felines have access to litterbox for transports >2 hours
- f. Felines given a hiding place in their kennel
- g. At minimum, stop every 4-6 hours for visual checks, and to provide water and spot clean as necessary



Land Transport



- h. Walk dogs when trips require overnight stays or when moving to a different vehicle.
- i. Transporters should meet State and Federal DOT guidelines for driver safety
- j. Staff transports with sufficient personnel to care for animals
- k. Drivers should carry cell phone, maps, GPS and emergency equipment
- l. Contingency plans in place for weather, mechanical or unexpected situations
- m. Appropriate ID on each animal and its containment



Transport Preparation and Receipt

Consultation with a veterinarian is recommended with implementation of these practices.

1. Transported animals will have received core vaccinations prior to or upon intake at the source shelter and have received boosters every 2-3 weeks until transport.
2. Transported animals 16 weeks and older will be administered a rabies vaccination.
3. Animals transported across state lines will have a Health Certificate.



Transport Preparation and Receipt



4. Transported animals will have a physical exam within 24 hours of transport
5. Generally, animals with contagious diseases should be deemed ineligible for transport. However, transfer of animals with a known illness may be justified if life-saving resources are available at the destination.
6. In general, puppies and kittens should be at least 8 weeks old at time of transport unless they are with their mother. Exceptions may be made if resources for proper orphan care are available at the destination.



Transport Preparation and Receipt

- 7. Transported animals will be treated for diagnosed internal and external parasites, and at a minimum dewormed for hookworms and roundworms.
- 8. Transported canines will undergo a behavior assessment.
- 9. All transported animals will be sterilized prior to adoption.



Transport Preparation and Receipt

- 10. Transported animals will be accompanied by individual records.
- 11. Transported animals will be identified with collar and tag, tape collar or other means of ID that ties back to animal's records.
- 12. Federal and State regulations for animals transport must be adhered to.



Above and Beyond

- 13. Additional vaccinations beyond core vaccines
- 14. Transported animals are administered flea and tick preventive prior to transport.
- 15. A Parvo virus titer test may be used to assist in health evaluation.
- 16. Transported animals over 6 months are administered a heartworm test.



Above and Beyond



- 17. Transported animals will receive a microchip registered to the destination shelter.
- 18. Transported cats will be tested for FELV and FIV.
- 19. A photo of the transported animals will be included in the paperwork.
- 20. Individual animal records are emailed to the destination shelter prior to transport.



Funding Transport

- Destinations should pay transport costs
- Destinations should make a financial contribution to the source agency to support affordable spay/neuter programs for community animals
- Destinations should consider additional ways to support source partners.
- Sources are responsible for part or all of the cost to prepare animals for transport



Measurement of the Transport Best Practices





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