



Our Mission:

We are committed to saving lives and reducing suffering of homeless dogs and cats through education, advancement of knowledge and shelter outreach.

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Shelter Watch



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From the Director's Desk

This issue is devoted to various aspects of transport programs. Great strides have been made to decrease the reliance on euthanasia as a tool to manage the flood of animals entering shelters in many parts of the U.S. As a result, many shelters no longer euthanize for lack of space, and have achieved live release rates of 80% or better, particularly for dogs. In many of these communities, shelters receive few puppies or small dogs and, as a consequence, must turn away adopters looking to adopt dogs with these characteristics.

In stark contrast, shelters in other communities must still euthanize puppies because of their sheer numbers, and they have no shortage of small- or medium-sized pets. Recognizing these disparities between communities, organizations (e.g., PetSmart Charities, Best Friends), individual shelters, rescue organizations, and enterprising individuals operate transport programs to bring puppies and other adoptable dogs from areas with high euthanasia rates to those with low rates. When done well, the sending shelters lower their euthanasia rates, the receiving shelters provide animals that people are seeking in their areas, and lives are saved!

We'll discuss the characteristics of well-conceived and managed programs later in this issue. Unfortunately, poorly conceived and managed programs damage the reputation of good ones and can (and have) led to legal restrictions that make it very difficult for even well-run programs to function. Problems that have ensued from poorly conceived transport programs include: the introduction of diseases (e.g., leishmaniasis) to areas previously free of those maladies; disillusioned owners encountering large

veterinary bills for sick dogs or dogs with severe behavioral issues; dogs arriving with infectious diseases that threaten the health of animals in the receiving communities; violations of state laws regarding transportation of animals from other states or countries; inadequate facilities or care during relocation leading to highly stressed dogs that are unable to resist disease; irate veterinarians in receiving communities; euthanasia or lengthened time in shelters for local, less adoptable dogs; and highly restrictive legislation that discourages most (if not all transport) into a state.

If your shelter is contemplating initiating a transport program, please study as many resources as possible, including those provided in this issue, to insure that your program is legal, humane, and avoids issues such as those mentioned above.

Jan M. Scarlett, DVM, PhD





“Fundamental necessities include choosing a shelter with the complementary resources, and having designated coordinators at both ends to manage plans and contingency plans.”



Animal Transport Preparedness: Ms. Anne Marie McPartlin, LVT

Animal transport can be a valuable life-saving tool. However, there are many things to consider before renting a van or buying a plane ticket. Transporting animals requires a great amount of organization, which could be good news if you have a type A personality. Fundamental necessities include choosing a shelter with the complementary resources, and having designated coordinators at both ends to manage plans and contingency plans. Communication is a key component when determining aspects like who your partner will be, which animals are healthy and available for transport, and which end will be responsible for medical treatment. Examples of items that need to be decided on prior to transport include:

- 🐾 Are the animals behaviorally and physically healthy for travel?
- 🐾 Who is responsible for vaccines, spay/neuter?
- 🐾 What are the state law requirements at both ends?
- 🐾 What mode of transportation will be used and what is the maximum transport time?
- 🐾 How will each animal be identified and how will their records be transported?
- 🐾 Does the “partner” shelter justify having the necessary resources or adoption pool?
- 🐾 What is the cost? And who is responsible to cover finances?

There are a number of websites that offer great information to help create a transport program listed below:

The National Federation of Humane Societies describes their three tier process, which is incredibly straight forward and user friendly:

(<http://www.humanefederation.org/TransferBestPractice.cfm>).

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians Guidelines for Standards of Care discusses basic transport requirements and expectations at both ends:

(<http://www.sheltervet.org/about/shelter-standards/>).

The Petsmart Charities Rescue Waggin’ program is a good example of a successful large scale transport program:

(<http://www.petsmartcharities.org/rescue-waggin/>).



Association of Shelter Veterinarians™

Medical Guidelines for Transport of Dogs and Cats: Dr. Natalie Lowry

Transport poses many concerns for the health and welfare of the animals involved. Every transport system, no matter how well planned, poses some degree of risk. Transport can be a period of significant stress for animals, which can result in increased susceptibility to illness, and increased shedding of certain pathogens. Not only do we need to safeguard the physical and psychological health of the transported animals, but also that of the animals and people at the receiving shelter, as well as those in stop-over communities. Below are some basic recommendations to help ensure a successful transport.

1. Medical record – Every animal should have its own medical record, which contains: animal name/number/id, age, sex, reproductive status, physical exam findings, behavioral evaluation findings, vaccination history (date, type, serial number, expiration) parasiticide history, heartworm or retrovirus test results, and any other treatments or diagnostics performed. All information should be written down on each record – word of mouth (ex. “all cats were tested for FIV/FelV”) is not sufficient.

2. Animal Identification – each animal should be clearly identified in such a way that it can be easily matched up with its medical record. Animals should have visible identifiers on their bodies, such that the receiving staff can identify them without having to handle them (such as letters/numbers written boldly on collars, numbers/symbols painted on fur or clothing, etc). Animal transport carriers should also be tagged with corresponding identifiers, so that the animal can be returned to its original carrier following stop-overs and check-ins at the final destination.

3. Vaccinations – All states require proof of rabies vaccination for interstate travel, which may impact the minimum age of animals that can be legally transported.

Many states also require proof of rabies vaccination in cats for interstate travel. Dogs should receive distemper, parvo, and bordetella vaccinations prior to transport. Cats should receive panleukopenia, herpes, and calici vaccinations prior to transport. Optimal times for vaccination and number of vaccines necessary will depend on the type of vaccine being used (killed/modified live, recombinant).

4. Diagnostic testing – All dogs should be screened for heartworm prior to transport, and the test results communicated to the receiving shelter prior to transport. All cats should be tested for FeLV and possibly FIV prior to transport, and the test results communicated to the receiving shelter prior to transport. Cats may be tested for FIV if old enough, at the discretion of the receiving shelter.

5. Parasiticides – All dogs and cats should be dewormed prior to transport, ideally with a product that covers roundworms and tapeworms. Dogs and cats should be treated with an ectoparasiticide, ideally with a product effective against fleas, ticks, and mites.

Once the animals arrive at their final destination, they should be matched up with their medical records. Animals should be evaluated by medical staff members for any signs of disease, and their medical records assessed for completeness. It is not uncommon for animals to break with respiratory or GI problems following transport, so quick and efficient triage of affected animals into isolation is crucial to limit the spread of disease. With that said, the most efficient treatment is prevention!



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**Transportation Guidelines: Where does behavior fit in the equation?
Dr. Erin Henry**

When designing a transport program, it is important for each shelter involved to collaborate on what constitutes a dog that is “healthy” enough for transport. Beyond medical health, the behavioral health of the dog must also be considered, keeping in mind that behavioral evaluations can really *only* tell you about a dog’s reaction to the specific situation at hand. This may or may not be a predictor of future reactions and unfortunately, that’s all we’ve got!

The considerations for both partners play a huge role in arranging transportation partnerships. Organizations should ideally partner up based on complementary abilities. Perhaps a receiving shelter that has more extensive resources can partner with a shelter with limited resources to help provide for an in-depth evaluation of the dog/puppy’s behavior. One final and important consideration is to remember that the onus is on the receiving organization to make sure that the dogs adopted in their community are safe, and behavior evaluations should be performed as an attempt to ensure this.



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Receiving Shelter	Source Shelter
<p>Determine what can be managed/ worked with in terms of behavioral issues.</p> <p>Do you have the time and/or resources to dedicate to a fearful puppy, or a mild to moderate resource guarding adult?</p> <p>Do you have the time and/or resources to evaluate dogs that may <i>not</i> have had as thorough an evaluation?</p>	<p>Determine what level of behavioral evaluation can be provided.</p> <p>Do you have the ability to at least identify whether a dog is aggressive in the most basic sense?</p> <p>Can you more thoroughly evaluate a dog to determine possible underlying triggers for aggression?</p>





The NATIONAL FEDERATION
of HUMANE SOCIETIES

“Furthermore, all transported animals must be accompanied by a health certificate signed by a veterinarian in the state of origin, and each animals must also have a health certificate from a veterinarian in CT within 48 hours of arrival in the state.”



It Could Happen in your State Dr. Jan Scarlett

Before October 2011, many reputable people and organizations were responsibly transporting dogs (and sometimes cats) into Connecticut from areas outside of the state with high euthanasia rates. Unfortunately, some unscrupulous and naive individuals were also importing animals from other states (often without health certificates, carrying heartworm and other diseases uncommon in the state). In response to complaints from irate adopters and veterinarians regarding these transport operations, the House of Representatives in CT passed legislation that went into effect in October, 2011. What followed was a law that has all but shut down importation of homeless dogs and cats from areas with high euthanasia rates into the state of CT.

The Connecticut law defines *animal importers* (AIs) as a person(s) who brings any dog or cat into the state . . . for the purpose of offering [these animals] for sale, adoption or transfer, in exchange for any fee, sale, voluntary contribution, service or any other consideration. The law pertains to commercial, nonprofit animal rescue or adoption, humane relocation, or delivery organizations that are not otherwise required to be licensed.

The law requires registration of all *animal importers*, and they must comply with all regulations that exist or that can be issued with respect to the health, safety and humane treatment of transported animals. Furthermore, all transported animals must be accompanied by a health certificate signed by a veterinarian in the state of origin, and each animal must also have a health certificate from a veterinarian in CT within 48 hours of arrival into the state. Animals not finding homes or transferred out of the state must be re-examined (and certified healthy) every 90 days until a home is found.

The Commissioner of Agriculture in CT is authorized to inspect all transported animals and their records which must be retained for 3 years. If the animals are to be offered for sale, adoption or transfer at a location that is open to the public, the Department of Agriculture and the zoning enforcement officer in the area must be notified of when, where and how many animals will be available no less than 10 days preceding the event. Fines are associated with failure to comply with various components of these regulations.

Reputable transport programs save (and have saved) many lives. If you, your shelter or rescue organization participates in a transport program, please be sure to adhere to the guidelines for Companion Animal Transport Programs drafted by the National Federation of Humane Societies (www.humanefederation.org) and to federal and state laws regulating companion animal transport. Exercising respect for potential adopters, pets and their owners in receiving states, as well as providing for humane transport, will go a long way towards preventing highly restrictive legislation in your state that prevents life-saving animal transport.





“While certainly large-scale or long distance transports are potentially more problematic, strategic planning should occur for any transport activity to minimize risk and maximize saving lives.”



Driving Miss Daisy: Best Practices for Land Transport Dr. Elizabeth Berliner, DVM

Transporting animals in vehicles is not without risk for the animals, the handler, and the public. While certainly large-scale or long distance transports are potentially more problematic, strategic planning should occur for any transport activity to minimize risk and maximize saving lives.

The following are general guidelines for land transport, taking into account the fact that transports vary greatly in terms of size, distance, and mission. These guidelines can apply to small groups of animals in SUVs and vans, as well as commercial haulers transporting dozens of animals. The principles are the same and resources should not impact either shelter, sending or receiving.

Proper Vehicles: Horse trailers and box trucks are not appropriate vehicles for transports. Horse trailer suspension is designed for heavy loads and will “bounce” animals around. Box trucks do not allow proper climate control or stabilization of enclosures. Climate controlled cargo vans can work, but enclosures must be arranged so as to keep animals separate, safe, and visible.

Sanitation: Transport vehicles and the cages/carriers within them must be cleaned and sanitized using appropriate protocols. This means surface materials must withstand chemicals, such as bleach, and appropriate coverage, such as sheet plastic, can be disposed.

Housing: Animals (other than litters) should be transported in separate enclosures that allow them to stand up, turn around, and rest comfortably. There should be adequate bedding. Units should be arranged so that every animal can easily be seen by just opening vehicle doors, and so that units are secure at speeds and stops.

Husbandry: Animals (and people) should take a break every 4-6 hours, at which time there should be access to fresh water and a small meal provided for puppies. Also, a visual check should occur during this time that includes appropriate cleaning and care.

Climate Control: The vehicle must be able to provide heating and cooling to the animal housing areas and be properly ventilated. Temperatures should remain between 60 and 85 degree F, measured by thermometers in the enclosure area.

Safety: Transports should have no fewer than two people, and more when the numbers of animals require care beyond what two people can provide. Drivers should travel with cell phones and emergency equipment. There should be emergency plans in place for vehicle breakdown, weather issues, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Documentation: Animals and enclosures should both be clearly marked, and paperwork easily accessible and traced to the appropriate animal. Pictures on carriers and records are very helpful in identifying animals without removing them from their enclosures.

For more details of best land transport practices, please see the National Federation of Humane Societies' Website.

(<http://www.humanefederation.org/TransferBestPractice.cfm>)

Events Calendar

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
Clinical Rotation in Shelter Medicine (end of week 2) →						
3	4 Companion Animal Welfare Course	5 Companion Animal Welfare Course	6 Shelter Med Club Clinic	7 Interns Travel to PA for Shelter Tours	8	9
10	11 Companion Animal Welfare Course	12 Companion Animal Welfare Course	13 Healthy Pet Clinic	14 Companion Animal Welfare Course	15	16 RAVS Trip
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day Spring Break →						
24 Dr. Henry @ Lollypop Farms	25	26 Shelter Med I Course	27 Healthy Pet Clinic	28 Shelter Med I Course	29	30
Dr. Lowry on Exotics →						
31						



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