

Shelter Guidelines: Animal Transport

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians' Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters

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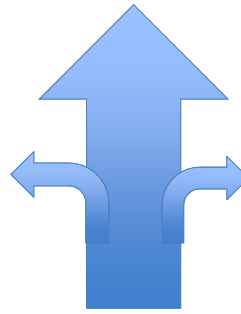
Many models: All can work

- Shelter to Shelter
- Shelter to rescue to foster
- Shelter to individual to adoption
- Foster clubs / foster programs
- Many sources to single destination
- Many sources to multiple destinations
- Large volume multi-shelter systems
- Relay run



Risks

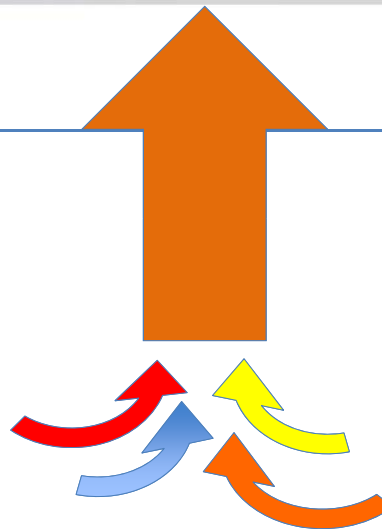
- Stress of transport may increase susceptibility to infection or increase viral shedding.
- Potential to spread infectious diseases along animal transport corridors and to new destinations.



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Risks

Risk of exposure to infectious disease is increased when animals who originate from multiple sources are transported in the same vehicle.



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Every model has some risk!!



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Benefits of risk balancing



←Awaiting a rescue decision then...

↓ aware that he's got it made!



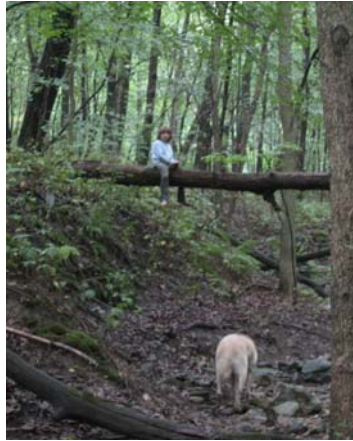
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Who do we need to look out for?

See the forest and ALL the trees

- Individual animals
- The whole group of animals

- Organizations on both ends
- Humans on both ends



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Maintain health for animals and humans while maximizing capacity to save lives.

Preventive planning for health, welfare, and safety is key.



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Who needs protection at the source?

1. Animals waiting
2. Other animals in the source shelter
3. Health of the source organization



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During transport?

Transfer animals and pass-through communities

- Exposure risk
- Stress
- Other health and safety risks



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Who needs protection at the destination?

1. Animals in destination shelter / organization / home
2. Animals and humans in destination community
3. Health of the destination organization



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Evaluating organizations for participation (*Yours or someone else's*)

- Intake, animal flow through, and capacity
- Sanitation and disinfection practices
- Vaccination practices- Vaccination on intake is essential
- Infectious disease protocols
- Veterinary assistance available?
- What kinds of animals are available? Good match? Potential for adoption?
- Can a coordinator be designated?
- Is treatment available?
- Is isolation or separation possible?
- Need for assistance
- Differences in regional / local disease prevalence
- Vehicles!!!



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*****Space and turn around time*****



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It is always a collaboration



ASPCA community



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Relationship building

Prevention and communication create solid working relationships



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Make a collaborative plan that reduces care days

- Foster holding
- Try not to stock up too early
- Transfer early and often
- Consistent plans help most



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Pathway planning



- Think about transfer/transport as a regular outcome (outlet) not as a last resort
- Include transfer in your pathway planning



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Disaster situations

- “Exceptions may be necessary for transport in emergency situations, where short-term compromises may have to be made.”
- “Preplanning for potential disasters is recommended to minimize deviation from accepted transport practices.”
- “**Compromises should not be made when there is ample opportunity to plan.**”



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Responsibilities for participants: General

- Outline responsibilities in detail
- Clear direct communication
- Written records allowing “trace back”
- Written guidelines



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Transfer points

- “A contact person must be identified at each transfer point.”



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What to include in an agreement?

- Selection criteria
 - Medical
 - Behavioral
- Transport requirements
- Destination requirements



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Animal selection process

- Think BIG picture
- Imagine yourself on the other end
- Avoid temptation to mislead
- COMMUNICATE!
- Select early and plan



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Animal selection process

- Adoption potential
- Health problems
 - Health screening performance record
- Behavior evaluation
 - Behavior screening performance record
- Trust and relationship building (again)
- Building trust saves lives!
- Time in shelter
- Age associated risk
- Vaccine records
- Treatment history
- Comingling history



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Know the regulations

- “It is recommended that transporters become familiar with the import requirements for all destinations, which, for states in the United States, are usually regulated by the state Departments of Agriculture and/or Health.”



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CVI and Rabies vaccination

- “For interstate transport, current rabies vaccination is an import requirement for dogs in all states in the United States. The majority of states also require rabies vaccination for cats.”
- Age / species related (12-16 weeks and older)
- “A valid Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (e.g., health certificate) is also required by most states.”



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Responsibilities: Point of Origin

- Preventive health care program
- Vaccination on intake
- Treatment for external and internal parasites
- Health records
- Identification



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Monitoring

- Examined for problems within 24 hours of departure
- “Animals’ health and behavior, as known at the source shelter, must be accurately described and communicated.”



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In need of treatment?

- “In order to minimize the risk of infectious disease and optimize welfare, animals should be in good health at the time of transport.”
- “However, transportation of animals with illness can be justified when life-saving resources, such as medical care and placement opportunities, are available at the destination and **when measures can be taken during transport to provide for their comfort, health, and safety.**”



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During Transport: Primary Enclosure

Provide:

- Adequate space
- Comfortable environmental conditions
- Good air quality

Avoid:

- Acceleration and deceleration stresses
- Cornering
- Noise or vibration



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Adequate Space?

- “Large enough for animals to stand and sit erect, to turn around normally while standing, and to lie in a natural position.”
- “Enough space for each occupant to lie down comfortably at the same time without needing to lie on top of each other.”
- “Unfamiliar animals must not be transported together in the same primary enclosure.”



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Primary Enclosure

- Good Ventilation
- No sharp edges
- Absorbent bedding
- Safe and confined
- Enclosures must be secured
- Flooring must prevent injury, discomfort, and leakage of fluids into other enclosures



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Puppies and kittens

- Prevention of exposure to temperature extremes
- Hydration
- Nutrition (no fasting)
- Infectious disease exposure
- With their mama (under 8 weeks, unless orphans)



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Sedation

- “Animals should not be sedated unless recommended by a veterinarian because this can make them more vulnerable to hypothermia, dehydration, and injury.”
- “If animals are sedated, veterinary guidance must be provided for their care.”



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Transport: Vehicles

- Evaluate as part of the planning process.
- Always before you roll.
- “Vehicles must, at minimum, adhere to all federal or local statutes, recognizing that these regulations may not be sufficient to ensure animal safety and welfare.”



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Vehicles



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During Transport: Vehicles

- Crates and cages must not be stacked upon each other in a manner that:
 - increases animal stress and discomfort
 - compromises ventilation
 - allows waste material to fall from the cage above into the cage below
 - interferes with care and observation
 - hinders emergency removal



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During Transport: Vehicles

- Protection from the weather and extremes of temperature.
- Ambient temperature should be kept above 60°F (15.5°C) and below 80°F (26.6°C) (as in stationary facility)
- Heating and cooling in the cargo space
- “A thermometer should be placed in the animal area of the vehicle at the level of the animals.” (NFHS)



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During Transport: Vehicles

- “Particular attention must be paid to provision of shade, as a vehicle parked in full sun, even in comfortable temperatures, can rapidly exceed safe temperature levels.”



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During Transport: Vehicles

- Fresh air
- Free of exhaust fumes



During Transport: Vehicles

- “Placing unconfined or tethered animals in the back of an open pickup truck for transport is unacceptable and illegal in many jurisdictions.”



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Transporter responsibilities during transport

- “The vehicle driver or animal attendant must have sufficient training in animal health, welfare and safety issues to recognize and respond to animal needs during transport.”



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Observation

- Observed and allowed to rest every 4-6 hours (NFHS)
- Observations as often as possible but not less than every 4 hours (USDA / APHIS)
- “Animals should not be left unattended when it may be detrimental to their health and safety.”



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Travel distance

- No federal regulations limit distance for companion animals
- 28 Hour Law for livestock
- Risk to animal health and welfare increases with distance
- “Maximum transport time to an intermediate or final destination shelter should be no more than 12 hours (NFHS 2010).”



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Sleepovers

- Requires unloading
- Provide food and water overnight
- Provide exercise and rest overnight



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Feeding

- Meet the individual nutritional needs of the animals.
 - At least every 24 hours for adults
 - More frequently for animals under 6 months old.
- Requirements for food and water may be increased during transport, compared to normal nutritional needs.



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Water

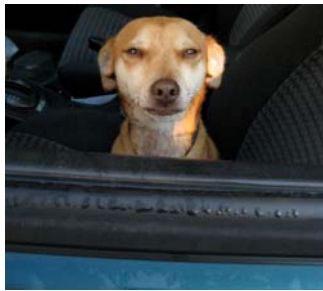
- Available at all times
- Not less than every 4 hours
- Coincides with observation stops



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Maintaining sanitary conditions

- As often as necessary to prevent soiling of the animals
- Plan ahead in case animals must be removed in order to clean
 - Ensure safety
 - Prevent escape



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Destination:



- Enough trained personnel ready to receive and evaluate animals upon arrival
- Documented physical examination
- Veterinary care
- Adequate housing prepared for the arriving animals



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Isolation / Intake Quarantine

- Legal requirements
- Health status
- Source of animals
- Infectious disease risk
 - Incubation periods
- Balance with detrimental effects of increased LOS
 - For individuals
 - For the whole shelter
 - Effect on capacity



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Case study

- Successful adoption center in an urban community
- High demand for puppies and dogs but low community dog intake
- Rare puppy intake
- Pit bull terriers most common intake breed
- Nearby shelters
 - High intake / especially puppies
 - Ongoing problems with parvovirus



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Established Ongoing Collaboration

- Mentoring
- Feedback system
- Funding / training for vaccination on intake
- Volunteer foster coordinator
- On deck foster system
- Transports are scheduled at 1 week intervals
- Adult dogs are transported ASAP
- Puppies transported straight from foster care
- Average LOS in foster is about 2 weeks



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What other assistance does the source community need?



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Flow through plan

- Moved as cohorts through the destination shelter
- Careful monitoring / rapid response
- Adopter education / reporting
- Risk evaluation if parvo shows up
- Limited isolation / treatment available



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Results

- Parvo is rare in destination shelter, foster homes or adoptive homes
- Most transported animals are adopted within 3-5 days
- Adoption of destination community pit bull terriers increased
 - Increased foot traffic and community perceptions
- Source community intake decreasing



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Thanks!

- For the miles driven
- For sending them on their way
- For being there when you said you would
- For the commitment to safety
- For the coordination and the planning
- For the gas money and pit stops
- For going to get a bigger vehicle
- For all your caring...



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- Register for additional webinars in the series
 - Links to webinar recordings
- Download presentation slides and bonus materials

Next Webinar in Series:

Shelter Guidelines: Animal Handling

Thursday, September 29



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