Best Practices
Your presenters.

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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
- Meet or exceed local, state and federal regulations pertaining to public health and animal safety
- Promote 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 motivation for transport
- Impact on/capacity of your agency
- Impact on/capacity of your community
- Outcomes for animals
- The partnership capacity between source and destination agencies
Key Elements

- Public health and safety **must** be the primary concern
- All transfer agencies **must** be a registered 501(C)3 or a municipal shelter
- All participants **must** be committed to abiding by all local, state and federal laws
- Humane standards of care **must** be afforded to every animal being transported
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?
1. Partners should establish solid working relationships
2. 501(C)3 or municipal
General Requirements for Transfer Programs

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2. 501(C)3 or municipal
3. Short and long-term positive impact on the community and the animals
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General Requirements for Transfer Programs

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✓ Community demand for dogs, puppies, cats or kittens
General Requirements for Transfer Programs

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4. Destination shelters must be “qualified”

✔ Will not euthanize for lack of space or capacity for care
General Requirements for Transfer Programs

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✓ Solid infrastructure to support transferred animals
1. Partners should establish solid working relationships
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4. Destination shelters must be “qualified”

✓ Compliance with all local and state laws.
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2. 501(C)3 or municipal
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4. Destination shelters must be “qualified”
5. Designated coordinator at both agencies essential
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Organize timing, number and type of animals
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Organize timing, number and type of animals
Evaluate health/behavior
1. Partners should establish solid working relationships
2. 501(C)3 or municipal
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General Requirements for Transfer Programs

- Organize timing, number and type of animals
- Evaluate health behavior
- Open communication
6. Develop a transport census

Source should share lists of animals available for transport.

Final transport list to include all available info about each animal.

Mutually acceptable protocol and timeframe for selection and approval.
6. Develop a transport census

7. Valid health certificates are required for interstate travel
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8. Destinations should be flexible; sources should select animals that can be easily adopted
General Requirements for Transfer Programs

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7. Valid Health certificates are required for interstate travel
8. Destinations should be flexible; sources should select animals that can be easily adopted
9. Each animal should be treated with care and concern.
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 provided with 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
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 two- to three 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.
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.
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.
10) Transported animals will be accompanied by their individual record
11) Transported animals will be identified with collar and tag, tape collar or other means of ID that ties back to the animal’s records
12) Federal and State regulations for animal transport must be adhered to.
13) Additional vaccinations beyond core vaccines

14) Transported animals are administered flea and tick preventative prior to transport

15) A Parvo virus test may be used to assist in health evaluation

16) Transported animals over 6 months are administered a heartworm test
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 the 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
• Continuous improvement:
  • What went right?
  • What went wrong?
  • What could have gone better?

• Document

• SHARE
What are your questions?