

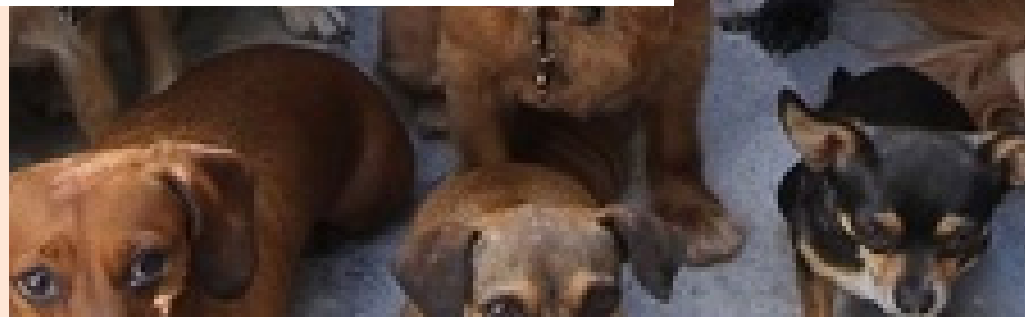


AUGUST 2021

Canine Transport Best Practices - Advanced Manual

Charlee Schulte

MPH Candidate at Virginia Tech

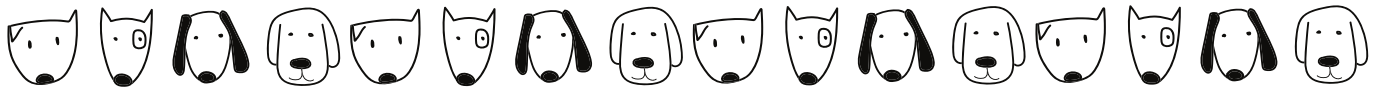


Preceptor: Dr. Virginia Maxwell; assisted by Alexandra Freeze



Table of Contents

The ***purpose*** of this manual is to provide the advanced reader to the best practices of animal transport in order to ensure the welfare of shelter dogs and instill a solid knowledge base of infectious disease control, regulations, and safety pertaining to canine transport.



I. Introduction

II. Chapter 1: *Federal, State and Local Shipping Laws and Regulations*

III. Chapter 2: *Preparing the Relinquished Dog for Transport*

IV. Chapter 3: *Pre-conditioning and Low Stress/ Humane Animal Transport*

V. Chapter 4: *Keeping Animal Healthy After Arrival*

VI. Chapter 5: *Relationship & Responsibility Delineation Guidelines Between Transferring Shelters*



Introduction

An overview of the topics presented in this advanced manual.

The transportation of shelter animals is a common and often unavoidable step in the process of getting those animals adopted. With the heartwarming thought of having a cat or dog in the arms of a new loving family, it can be easy to overlook some of the risks that can occur with this transportation. These risks can include spread of infectious disease, animal welfare and potential injury to the human transporter. With these risks, there are a set of best practices and procedures to avoid them and ensure the safe travel of both the animal and the transporter themselves.

When looking into animal transport, it is important to look at the reasons that shelter animals are transported in the first place. These reasons could include that there is a certain location that the animals would have a better chance of being adopted and/or there is a shortage or over-abundance of animals in one location (Relocation of Dogs and Cats for Adoption Within the United States, n.d.). One location could have a better chance of adoption due to a higher demand in one area rather than another, or it could be that one shelter is under resourced and even though they may have the demand they cannot give the dogs the care they need at the moment at that particular location (Relocation of Dogs etc., n.d.).

As discussed, the relocation of animals is often a beneficial process to both the animals as well as the shelters. However, transporting animals poses certain challenges. Challenges include ensuring proper testing for infectious diseases, vaccines, or proper shipping equipment such as properly sized cages, leashes, and bedding to name a few. These are considered challenges because they can be difficult to obtain due to limited financial resources of shelters, unknown laws and regulations, and misunderstanding or lack of awareness of protocols. If these are not obtained, there are a cascade of issues that will need to be addressed later including treating animals for serious disease and injury, death of animals, or injury to the transporter or other staff.

The purpose of this review is to address protocols to minimize the issues resulting from transport and to increase awareness of transport laws and regulations, infectious disease and infectious disease prevention and management, and recommended protocols for transporting animals.



Chapter 1

Federal, State, and Local Shipping Laws and Regulations

Charlee Schulte, MPH Candidate

There are many VA state regulations concerning the import of animals as well as animal welfare. There are three preliminary and foundational points of interest within VA code 2VAC5-141-80 which are described below:

1. "Within the 10 days prior to its date of entry into Virginia, a pet animal must be deemed healthy and free of infectious diseases after examination by an accredited veterinarian. Proof of examination must be submitted with the permit request and on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection in a format approved by the State Veterinarian."
2. "No dog or cat older than seven weeks of age may be imported into Virginia unless accompanied by its dam if the dam is known to be alive."
3. "Any dog or cat older than four months of age entering Virginia shall be currently vaccinated for rabies" (Pet animal entry requirements; exceptions, 2019).
- 4.

In addition to the above requirements, any pet animal that is to be imported to Virginia must have a certification of veterinary inspection outlined within VA code 3.2-5902:

- **"§ 3.2-5902. Certificate of veterinary inspection required for importation of certain pet animals; examination; exceptions; penalty**
- *A. It shall be unlawful for any person to import into the Commonwealth from another state any pet animal, including dogs, cats, monkeys, or other animals, ferae naturae, wild or tame under domestication or in custody, or any poultry not intended for commercial use that by its nature is fit for use only as a pet, unless such animal is accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian. Such certificate shall be on an official interstate certificate of veterinary inspection issued by the state of origin, shall be dated no more than 10 days before shipment, and shall contain such evidence of proof of the health of the animal as the Board, by regulation, may require.*
- *B. Any animal imported into the Commonwealth without a certificate may be examined immediately by the State Veterinarian, his representative, or a licensed veterinarian designated by him, and the examination cost may be charged to the owner or the person in possession of the animal. If, in the opinion of the State Veterinarian or his representative, there is danger from contagion or infection, the animal may be placed in quarantine at the expense of the owner until all danger of infection or contagion has passed, whereupon the animal shall be released upon the order of the State Veterinarian or his representative.*
- *C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any ornamental aquarium fish or invertebrate animal, or an animal accompanied by a passport approved by the State Veterinarian. The provisions of this section shall also not apply to: (i) any animal as herein defined passing directly through the Commonwealth to another state in interstate commerce, or when such animal is kept properly under control by its owner or custodian when passing through the Commonwealth to another state; (ii) any animal brought into the Commonwealth by a resident or by a resident of another state who intends to make his residence in the Commonwealth except if brought into the Commonwealth with the intent of offering it for public sale, trade, or promotional incentive; or (iii) to any animal brought into the Commonwealth temporarily for the purpose of hunting or legal exhibition within this state.*

1-“§ 3.2-6509. Misrepresentation of animal's condition; penalties

No person shall misrepresent the physical condition of any animal at the animal's sale, trade, delivery, or other method of transfer. For the purpose of this section, misrepresentation shall include selling, trading, delivering or otherwise transferring an animal to another person with the knowledge that the animal has an infection, communicable disease, parasitic infestation, abnormality or other physical defect that is not made known to the person receiving the animal. The sale of an agricultural animal that has external or internal parasites that are not made known to the person receiving the animal shall not be a violation of this section unless the animal is clinically ill or debilitated due to such parasites at the time of sale, trade, delivery or transfer of the animal. Violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

Any violation of this section by a pet dealer shall also constitute a prohibited practice under § 59.1-200 and shall be subject to the enforcement provisions of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act (§ 59.1-196 et seq.)." (Misrepresentation of animal's condition, 2021).

As stated in the initial and foundational regulations of VA code 2VAC5-141-80, all animals above the age of four months must be currently vaccinated for rabies. Any additional vaccination requirements are not found in VA or US regulations. The specificities of this regulation is described below:

“§ 3.2-6521. Rabies inoculation of companion animals; availability of certificate; rabies clinics

A. The owner or custodian of all dogs and cats four months of age and older shall have such animal currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician who is under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian on the premises unless otherwise provided by regulations. The supervising veterinarian on the premises shall provide the owner or custodian of the dog or the cat with a rabies vaccination certificate or herd rabies vaccination certificate and shall keep a copy in his own files. The owner or custodian of the dog or the cat shall furnish within a reasonable period of time, upon the request of an animal control officer, humane investigator, law-enforcement officer, State Veterinarian's representative, or official of the Department of Health, the certificate of vaccination for such dog or cat. The vaccine used shall be licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use in that species. At the discretion of the local health director, a medical record from a licensed veterinary establishment reflecting a currently vaccinated status may serve as proof of vaccination.

B. All rabies clinics require the approval by the appropriate local health department and governing body. The licensed veterinarian who administers rabies vaccinations at the clinic shall (i) provide the owner or custodian a rabies vaccination certificate for each vaccinated animal and (ii) ensure that a licensed veterinary facility retains a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate. The sponsoring organization of a rabies clinic shall, upon the request of the owner or custodian, an animal control officer, a humane investigator, a law-enforcement officer, a State Veterinarian's representative, a licensed veterinarian, or an official of the Department of Health, provide the name and contact information of the licensed veterinary facility where a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate is retained.

However, the county or city shall ensure that a clinic is conducted to serve its jurisdiction at least once every two years.

C. Vaccination subsequent to a summons to appear before a court for failure to do so shall not operate to relieve such owner from the penalties or court costs provided under § 16.1-69.48:1 or 17.1-275.7.

- *D. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.” (Certificate of veterinary inspection required for the importation of certain pet animals; examination; exceptions; penalty, 2021).*

In VA code 3.2-6508 above, it is noted that animals must not be confined for more than 24 hours. This law is more strict than that of the US regulation, 49-USC-80502, which also concerns animal welfare during travel, known as the “Twenty Eight Hour Law”, are described as follows:

- **“(a) Confinement.--(1)** *Except as provided in this section, a rail carrier, express carrier, or common carrier (except by air or water), a receiver, trustee, or lessee of one of those carriers, or an owner or master of a vessel transporting animals from a place in a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States through or to a place in another State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession, may not confine animals in a vehicle or vessel for more than 28 consecutive hours without unloading the animals for feeding, water, and rest.*
- **(b) Unloading, feeding, watering, and rest.** *--Animals being transported shall be unloaded in a humane way into pens equipped for feeding, water, and rest for at least 5 consecutive hours. The owner or person having custody of the animals shall feed and water the animals. When the animals are not fed and watered by the owner or person having custody, the rail carrier, express carrier, or common carrier (except by air or water), the receiver, trustee, or lessee of one of those carriers, or the owner or master of a vessel transporting the animals--*
 - **(1)** *shall feed and water the animals at the reasonable expense of the owner or person having custody, except that the owner or shipper may provide food;*
 - **(2)** *has a lien on the animals for providing food, care, and custody that may be collected at the destination in the same way that a transportation charge is collected; and*
 - **(3)** *is not liable for detaining the animals for a reasonable period to comply with subsection (a) of this section.*
- **(c) Nonapplication.** *--This section does not apply when animals are transported in a vehicle or vessel in which the animals have food, water, space, and an opportunity for rest.*
- **(d) Civil penalty.** *--A rail carrier, express carrier, or common carrier (except by air or water), a receiver, trustee, or lessee of one of those carriers, or an owner or master of a vessel that knowingly and willfully violates this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of at least \$100 but not more than \$500 for each violation. On learning of a violation, the Attorney General shall bring a civil action to collect the penalty in the district court of the United States for the judicial district in which the violation occurred or the defendant resides or does business.” (Twenty Eight Hour Law, 2020).*

In comparing the national regulations and the Virginia State law regulations, they are very similar with small differences. It is important to note both of them because the national regulation outlines more specific guidelines on the expectations of when the hours of confinement have been completed, which are that the animals should be let out for at least 5 consecutive hours with adequate space and feed. The VA code doesn't outline this, but nonetheless the US regulations as well as the VA regulations should be followed as outlined per legal requirement.

In the following code, entitled “Misrepresentation of animal’s condition; penalties”, the VA regulations describe what is considered a misrepresentation of an animal’s condition and the consequences of such if this takes place. The purpose of this section is to ensure that animals are not being transported with an infectious disease, which could in turn cause an outbreak of infection to other animals at the place of transfer, such as an animal shelter.

1-“§ 3.2-6509. Misrepresentation of animal's condition; penalties

No person shall misrepresent the physical condition of any animal at the animal's sale, trade, delivery, or other method of transfer. For the purpose of this section, misrepresentation shall include selling, trading, delivering or otherwise transferring an animal to another person with the knowledge that the animal has an infection, communicable disease, parasitic infestation, abnormality or other physical defect that is not made known to the person receiving the animal. The sale of an agricultural animal that has external or internal parasites that are not made known to the person receiving the animal shall not be a violation of this section unless the animal is clinically ill or debilitated due to such parasites at the time of sale, trade, delivery or transfer of the animal. Violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

Any violation of this section by a pet dealer shall also constitute a prohibited practice under § 59.1-200 and shall be subject to the enforcement provisions of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act (§ 59.1-196 et seq.)." (Misrepresentation of animal's condition, 2021).

As stated in the initial and foundational regulations of VA code 2VAC5-141-80, all animals above the age of four months must be currently vaccinated for rabies. Any additional vaccination requirements are not found in VA or US regulations. The specificities of this regulation is described below:

“§ 3.2-6521. Rabies inoculation of companion animals; availability of certificate; rabies clinics

A. The owner or custodian of all dogs and cats four months of age and older shall have such animal currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician who is under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian on the premises unless otherwise provided by regulations. The supervising veterinarian on the premises shall provide the owner or custodian of the dog or the cat with a rabies vaccination certificate or herd rabies vaccination certificate and shall keep a copy in his own files. The owner or custodian of the dog or the cat shall furnish within a reasonable period of time, upon the request of an animal control officer, humane investigator, law-enforcement officer, State Veterinarian's representative, or official of the Department of Health, the certificate of vaccination for such dog or cat. The vaccine used shall be licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use in that species. At the discretion of the local health director, a medical record from a licensed veterinary establishment reflecting a currently vaccinated status may serve as proof of vaccination.

B. All rabies clinics require the approval by the appropriate local health department and governing body. The licensed veterinarian who administers rabies vaccinations at the clinic shall (i) provide the owner or custodian a rabies vaccination certificate for each vaccinated animal and (ii) ensure that a licensed veterinary facility retains a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate. The sponsoring organization of a rabies clinic shall, upon the request of the owner or custodian, an animal control officer, a humane investigator, a law-enforcement officer, a State Veterinarian's representative, a licensed veterinarian, or an official of the Department of Health, provide the name and contact information of the licensed veterinary facility where a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate is retained.

However, the county or city shall ensure that a clinic is conducted to serve its jurisdiction at least once every two years.

C. Vaccination subsequent to a summons to appear before a court for failure to do so shall not operate to relieve such owner from the penalties or court costs provided under § 16.1-69.48:1 or 17.1-275.7.

D. The Board of Health shall, by regulation, provide an exemption to the requirements of subsection A if an animal suffers from an underlying medical condition that is likely to result in a life-threatening condition in response to vaccination and such exemption would not risk public health and safety. For the purposes of § 3.2-6522, such exemption shall mean that the animal is considered not currently vaccinated for rabies. For the purposes of §§ 3.2-5902, 3.2-6526, and 3.2-6527, such exemption shall be considered in place of a current certificate of vaccination.” (Rabies inoculation of companion animals; availability of certificate; rabies clinics, 2021).

The above regulations are the entirety of what can be found concerning animal welfare and transport in the state of Virginia and the United States. The prevention of rabies through vaccination and the prevention of dogs below the age of 7 weeks was emphasized throughout, however there is a concerning lack of sanitation and cleanliness regulations when it comes to infectious disease control which should also be considered a large part of animal welfare. There are no regulations for this, but there are recommended protocols that can be found to prevent notable diseases. In the following section of this review there is a summary of these notable diseases as well as how and why they are a concern specifically in canine travel.

Just as there are federal and state regulations, the final layer of regulation are local regulations. As in the Virginia regulations, there are specificities about which animals can be transported into the state rather than out of the state. This being said, it is extremely important that the transporter checks the state as well as the local level regulations of transporting animals into that area. These regulations should be looked into at both the county and the town level. The best way to find these regulations or ordinances prior to transport is a simple Google Search of the county or town that the animals are being transported to followed by “animal regulations” or “animal ordinances”. A reputable source for county ordinances is www.naco.org which is the website for the National Association of Counties. Alternatively, the search tool on www.animallaw.info, a website run by the Michigan State University College of Law, is also a great source for finding local, state, and federal laws on animals; in the search bar all that is needed is the country, state, county or town of interest.



Chapter 3

Pre-Conditioning and Low Stress/Humane Animal Transport

Charlee Schulte, MPH Candidate

Animal Characteristics for Travel

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) requires that dogs be at least 8 weeks old and fully weaned from their mother by the time of travel (*Dog's Health and Readiness for Travel - Dog's Age*, 2020). Although puppies may travel at 8 weeks of age, puppies are at increased risk of disease and illness; if transporting puppies increased attention to sanitization and infectious disease diagnostics prior to travel should be instilled (*Non-Emergency Relocation of Dogs and Cats for Adoption Within the United States*, 2020). In addition to age, the breed of the dog should also be taken into account when considering air travel. Short-nosed dogs, such as Boston Terriers, Boxers, and Bulldogs, are extremely susceptible to heat stroke and trouble breathing as a result of stress or high levels of heat (*Dog's Health and Readiness for Travel - Dog Breed*, 2020). Because of this, when needing to transport short nosed dogs, it is important to ensure extra attention to these breeds to ensure as little stress as possible during a transfer as well as tightly controlled temperature environments; if possible, car travel or air travel in cooler months could be used as a better alternative for these breeds.

There is a series of recommendations for diagnostic testing for infectious diseases and vaccinations prior to transport (described in detail in another chapter), but overall the animals being transported should be deemed healthy and low risk for complications during travel (*Non-Emergency Relocation of Dogs and Cats for Adoption Within the United States*, 2020). This most notably relates to dogs that are pregnant, elderly, ill, or recovering from a serious illness or surgery as these conditions could result in injury, death or other complications for the animal and those around it (*Non-Emergency Relocation of Dogs and Cats for Adoption Within the United States*, 2020). Preventing the transport of animals who are ill in conjunction with vaccinations and diagnostic testing reduce the chances of infectious disease transfer and increase the overall welfare of the animals being transported and better secure the safety of animals at the destination.

Determining Kennel Size and Preparation for Travel

Before transporting any animal, it is important to have a solid knowledge base of both the requirements of the USDA and other recommendations to ensure the safety of both the animals and the transporter themselves. The most crucial part of this is ensuring that all of the animals are housed comfortably within a kennel during the transportation process.

When choosing a kennel for either airline and ground vehicle travel, the general rule of thumb when transporting dogs is that there will be one adult dog per kennel which will be large enough that the dog of interest can stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably (*Inspecting the Kennel - Kennel Size*, 2020). A pet crate distributing company recommends that the crate be 6" longer than their body length and 6" taller than their height ((*Dog crate sizes - by breed*, NA). Using these recommendations, as well as the table below, the dog being transported by either air or ground will have the most ideal comfort and safety level.

Crate Length (inches)	Weight of Dog (pounds)	Approximate Size of Dog
18" to 24"	25 lbs and under (ideal) No more than 30lbs	Extra small to small
24" to 30"	25 lbs to 40 lbs	Small to medium
30" to 36"	40 lbs to 70 lbs	Medium to intermediate
36" to 42"	70 lbs to 90 lbs	Intermediate to large
42" to 48"	90 lbs and up	Large to extra large

Adapted from: (Choosing the right crate size, 2017; Dog crate sizes- by breed, N/A; Finding The Right Crate Size For Your Dog, 2021)

During loading of the animals onto the vehicle, which are already prepped in their kennels according to recommendations, special attention must still be concentrated on minimizing stress to the animals (*Transporting and handling of dogs - handling dog kennels, 2020*). These stress minimizing tactics could include ensuring minimal contact with extreme weather and carefully carrying the kennel in a level manner so that the dog is not falling, rolling, or otherwise abruptly disturbed (*Transporting and handling of dogs - handling dog kennels, 2020*). Similarly, this also applies to the driver or pilot of the associated vehicle; any sudden or abrupt movements such as swift breaking or unnecessary high acceleration should be avoided whenever possible (Newbury et al., 2010). In arranging the kennels in the vehicle, plane or ground vehicle, it's important that the kennels are not stacked in an insecure way that could cause the kennel with the animal inside to tumble or fall in any way; this could be done by strapping the kennels down securely to the vehicle if stacking is necessary but should ideally be avoided (Newbury et al., 2010). As earlier mentioned, ensuring that the kennels are also securely closed so that the animals are not accidentally freed from the kennel prematurely will avoid (Newbury et al., 2010).

Once loaded onto the vehicle, dogs should be checked on in a manner that is contactless with the animal in the kennel, every four hours at minimum but ideally as often as safely possible (*Transporting and handling of dogs - regular care when handling dogs, 2020*). The maximum travel time for animals without being let out of the kennel for exercise or to urinate/defecate is 12 hours; however, in best practice every animal should be safely and controllably be allowed out every 4-6 hours (Newbury et al., 2010). This may only be possible in ground transportation, and is expected in air travel for the animal to not be let out for several hours; however, the animals should be visually checked on for signs of extreme stress, drastic change of conditions within the kennel, or injury (self inflicted or from the the faulty set up of kennels causing them to move during travel) (*Companion Animal Transport Programs Best Practices, 2019*). If the kennel of the animal becomes dirty from vomit, urine or feces, it must be cleaned as soon as and as quickly as possible during travel while the animal is otherwise safely contained (Newbury et al., 2010).

Transport Vehicle Environment

Prior to transport in the holding areas, ventilation must be adequate; this is especially important in hot weather above 85°F where fans or other air circulation/conditioning must be provided (*Transporting and handling of dogs - holding area conditions, 2020*). Whether the animal or animals are waiting to be transported or are in the vehicle of transport, it is important to ensure that the temperature in either situation does not exceed 85° F or below 45° F for more than 4 hours (*Transporting and handling of dogs - shelter from extreme temperatures 2020*).

Moreover, they should be kept in the shade at all times possible in correlation to avoiding the swift change of temperature within the kennel (Transporting and handling of dogs - shelter from extreme weather, 2020). During transport, the conditions including temperature, wind, sunlight/brightness, humidity should stay as consistent as possible (Transporting and handling of dogs - cargo area conditions, 2020). The ideal temperature that should be attempted to achieve is between 50°F and 80°F (Newbury et al., 2010).

Noise during transport may be difficult to control, but it is important to limit any sounds that are controllable in order to avoid increased stress on the dog (Companion Animal Transport Programs Best Practices, 2019).

Conclusion

All of the recommendations mentioned throughout have to do with ensuring that the travel conditions for the dogs are as stable as possible to minimize the stress on the dog. Any extreme fluctuations or otherwise uncomfortable conditions can increase the stress on the dog which can create dangerous situations for the caretaker(s)/transporters, and additionally can cause the animal to be more susceptible to injury or disease.



Chapter 5

Relationship & Responsibility Delineation Guidelines Between Transferring Shelters

Charlee Schulte, MPH Candidate

Transporting animals between shelters is often a necessary and opportunistic process, however the oversimplification of the process due to under-communication between the shelters can stem issues farther down the road. Developing goals and expectations of responsibilities is the best way to prevent misunderstandings, improve animal health and wellbeing, and overall increase the positive outcomes of animal transport between the shelters. These communication tactics can verbally, but a written document of guidelines to be used between shelters is recommended (Newbury et al., 2010).

Recommended Goals and Questions to Ask

What one shelter may have in mind for transport may be different from another. Before transport, presenting how and why animals are being transported is an important element to add to discussion. One way this can be worded is by asking what the goal of the transport is for the dogs. Generally goals should include how humane treatment with an infectious disease prevention concentration is going to occur during transports between the shelters.

The process at which this should go can be answered in a series of questions. In the following paragraphs, a question will be listed followed by the relevance and importance of it. These questions have been adapted from the American Veterinary Medical Association Best Practices for the Relocation of Dogs and Cats for Adoption Within The United States. These questions are ones that should be included in discussion with the transferring shelter prior to planning the physical transfer. Although these questions are a good starting point for beginning good communication, each shelter is recommended to add or otherwise modify questions so that the expectations of each respective shelter are followed through as closely to perfect as possible. Before beginning the conversation, ensure that you have a thorough and extensive answer to these questions as if you were answering them yourself in addition to an equally extensive list of your own practices and procedures concerning intake, medical care and vaccinations, and transport.

Question 1: Who will be the main contact person for the shelter in the transport process?

This question may seem like an obvious first step, but it is important to recognize and to deliberately state to avoid confusion at the foundational level. The contact person will be the one responsible to know the ins and outs of the shelter's transport procedures, ensuring those procedures are followed through, and for ensuring the successful planning of the transport. Prior to asking this question, it is best that the contact person for the home shelter embodies these qualities as well. This person on both ends of the shelters, transferring and receiving, should be trustworthy, easy to come into contact with, and well enough acquainted with the varying degrees of staff members at their own shelter. Knowing the other staff members at their own shelter is important so that they understand what the goals of the shelter are in terms of procedures, but at the same time understanding the realities of the practice of procedure in case that problems arise. Lastly, it is important that the contact person is well versed with the laws and regulations concerning animal transport in the state to which they are being

transported to, such as vaccine regulations.

Question 2: What medical treatment do you consistently provide to your animals? What vaccines are they given and what are they tested for upon intake and before transport?

Vaccinations and testing are a crucial part of transport programs because without them, animals who are unknowingly positive for an infectious disease or parasite can risk the spread of illness to the other animals on the transport as well as those who are currently housed in the receiving shelter. This is arguably the most important question to ask a shelter prior to planning transportation because if the animals are unwell, this poses life threatening issues to the animals at the shelter and potentially very high economic costs as well. If the animals on the transport are ill, they will probably need to be treated at the receiving shelter; if the illness spreads to the general population of the shelter animals then that will also need medical treatment that also raises the expenses. Regardless of medical expenses, this will also ultimately delay the time at which these animals will be adopted.

Inquiring upon the medical care and vaccination protocols in another shelter will give an insight into whether or not this will be a mutually beneficial transport. Generally, the reason for a shelter to transport animals is for overcrowding and therefore transport increases the chances that the animal will be adopted rather than euthanized or kept in overcrowded and unhealthy environments. On the receiving end, even though it may be tempting and difficult to refuse a transportation request, the general welfare of the animals that are currently housed at the shelter should be prioritized. In an ideal situation, the vaccination and medical care protocol will closely match that of both of the shelters at hand. In this situation, it is safe to go forward with the transport procedure with little concern of infectious disease or illness spreading. However, if this does not match there are several things that could be done to preserve the transport as opposed to refusing it altogether. The first would be to discuss the minimal requirements from the shelter, and how they would strongly prefer the shelter to do "X, Y, Z" prior to transport, such as to fully vaccinate the animal(s) a certain number of days before transport. This does not limit to vaccination, but also to testing for disease; testing for pathogens within the recommended incubation period for the respective pathogens before travel is an effective indicator, if done correctly, on ensuring that the animals are well. If testing for disease is not feasible for economic reasons, then if the receiving shelter is able to afford the testing costs, possibly offering to cover the costs prior to transport is a viable option. Alternatively, quarantining the transporting animals prior to, and/or after transportation, while monitoring the dogs for any abnormal symptoms, could also be an effective alternative.

All in all, understanding the medical practices and vaccination protocols of a shelter is beneficial for all parties involved- the transporting shelter, the animals, and the receiving shelter.

Question 3: Will the animals be examined by a veterinarian or other reliable veterinary health professional within 24 hours of transport?

This is included in the best practices of animal transport. A standard "walk-by" check in will not properly suffice here because a deeper understanding of the signs and symptoms of illness are strongly, strongly preferred. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is actually required by most places in the United States, so in addition to ensuring the animals are well by a medical professional, this examination will also ensure that legally the transport will be sound as well. A subsequent question that is recommended after this is inquiring about the record keeping of the animals. The record keeping is also relevant to question 2 because documentation of the vaccinations will ultimately be needed for adoption as well, and so that vaccinations are not unnecessarily repeated.

Moreover, having documentation of the origin of the animal (prior to intake, if available) as well as demeanor and other notes will be highly useful to future adopters and veterinary care providers.

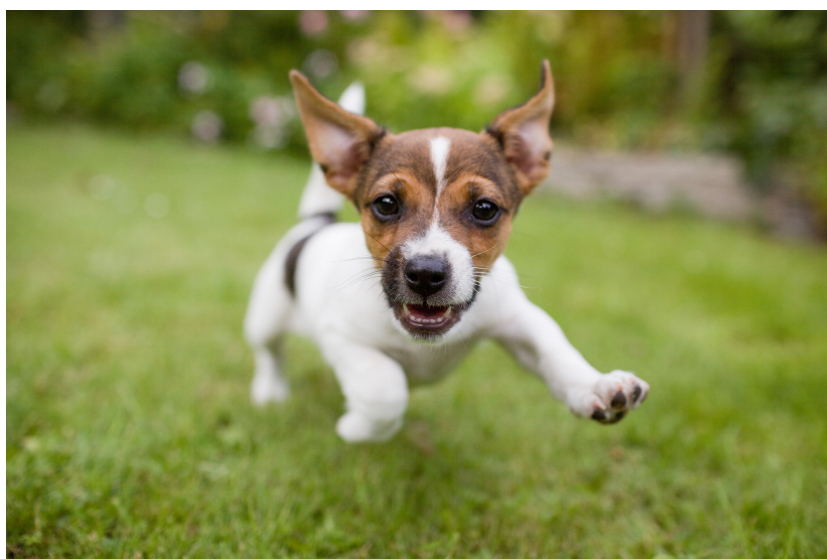
If the shelter denies that they will be checked, once again offer to cover the cost of the examination if feasible or see if there is a possible compromise that can be made that satisfies both shelters to the best of their abilities.

Question 4: How do you plan on shipping the animals? Will they all be in crates?

When it comes to shipping animals, safety and lowest-stress environments for them is of utmost importance when it comes to humane and sanitary transportation. The foundation to this is ensuring that all of the animals, with an exception for litters of puppies 8 weeks and older, have their own crate which is large enough for them to stand up, turn around, and lay down in comfortably. These crates may be stacked upon one another as long as they are safely secure and have no chance of falling or have any other unnecessary movement that could result in injury to the animal. No matter the animal's demeanor, size, or age, it is essential that each animal get transported in a crate to avoid urine and feces contact between animals, and any other physical contact between the animals to decrease the chances for infectious disease transfer or unnecessary excitement or stress as a result of contact. Crates are one example of transport protocols that are frequently overlooked, but should be a part of the expectations and protocols of all shelters.

If at any point there are discrepancies between your shelter's and the other shelter's practices and procedures, just as with the other questions, find a reasonable compromise between the two that allows for the safety and infectious disease prevention of the dogs even if best practices cannot be performed perfectly.

Good communication about expectations and planning is essential in creating a relationship of any manner between shelters. These questions are extremely important to ensure the wellbeing of the animals, but there is no replacement for having the highest utmost respect for the contact person and the shelter at hand. Even if the practices of the shelter do not align with yours in a few or many ways, being deliberate in asking questions and making requests in a respectful and non-demeaning way is foundational in creating a healthy, long lasting and equally beneficial relationship between transferring shelters.



References

- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). (2020). *Non-Emergency Relocation of Dogs and Cats for Adoption Within the United States*. AVMA.org.
<https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/AWF-TransportAdoptionBestPractices.pdf>.
- Animal Movement: Interstate Regulations*. USDA APHIS | Interstate Regulations. (2020, June 2).
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/nvap/NVAP-Reference-Guide/Animal-Movement/interstate-regulations>.
- APHIS. (2020, June 2). *Transporting and handling of dogs - feeding and watering information*. USDA APHIS | Transporting and Handling of Dogs - Feeding and Watering Information.
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-feed-water-info>.
- The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement. (2019, March). *Companion Animal Transport Programs Best Practices*. AAWA.
- Certificate of veterinary inspection required for importation of certain pet animals; examination; exceptions; penalty, Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-5902 (2021).
<https://www.animallaw.info/statute/va-dogs-consolidated-dog-laws#s6509>
- Choosing the right crate size*. APDT. (2017, March 13).
<https://apdt.com/resource-center/choosing-right-crate-size/>.
- Dog crate sizes - by breed*. Pet Crates Direct. (n.d.).
<https://www.petcratesdirect.com/pages/dog-crate-sizes>.
- Newbury, S., Blinn, M. K., Bushby, P. A., Cox, C. B., Dinnage, J. D., Griffin, B., Hurley, K. F., Isaza, N., Jones, W., Miller, L., O'Quin, J., Patronek, G. J., Smith-Blackmore, M., & Spindel, M. (2010). *Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters*. The Association of Shelter Veterinarians.
- Dog's Health and Readiness for Travel - Dog's Age*. USDA APHIS | Dog's Health and Readiness for Travel - Dog's Age. (2020, June 2).
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-dogs-age>.
- Dog's Health and Readiness for Travel - Dog Breed*. USDA APHIS | Dog's Health and Readiness for Travel - Dog Breed. (2020, June 2).
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-dog-breed>.
- Inspecting the Kennel - Kennel Cleanliness and Safety*. USDA APHIS | Inspecting the Kennel - Kennel Cleanliness and Safety. (2020, June 2).
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-kennel-cleanliness-safety>.

References

- Inspecting the Kennel - Kennel Construction and Quality.* USDA APHIS | Inspecting the Kennel - Kennel Construction and Quality. (2020, June 2).
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-kennel-const-ruktion-quality>.
- Inspecting the Kennel - Kennel Size.* USDA APHIS | Inspecting the Kennel - Kennel Size. (2020, June 2).
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-kennel-size>.
- Inspecting the Kennel - Watering and Feeding Containers.* USDA APHIS | Inspecting the Kennel - Watering and Feeding Containers. (2020, June 2).
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-water-feed-c-ontainers>.
- Misrepresentation of animal's condition; penalties, Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-6509 (2021).
<https://www.animallaw.info/statute/va-dogs-consolidated-dog-laws#s6509>
- Newbury, S., Blinn, M. K., Bushby, P. A., Cox, C. B., Dinnage, J. D., Griffin, B., Hurley, K. F., Isaza, N., Jones, W., Miller, L., O'Quin, J., Patronek, G. J., Smith-Blackmore, M., & Spindel, M. (2010). Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters . The Association of Shelter Veterinarians.
- Pet animal entry requirements; exceptions, Virginia Administrative Code § 3.2-5902 (2019).
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincodeexpand/title2/agency5/chapter141/>
- Petco. (2021, July 1). *Finding The Right Crate Size For Your Dog.* Petco.
https://www.petco.com/content/petco/PetcoStore/en_US/pet-services/resource-center/pet-guides/dog-crates-guide.html.
- Rabies inoculation of companion animals; availability of certificate; rabies clinics, Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-6521 (2021).
<https://www.animallaw.info/statute/va-dogs-consolidated-dog-laws#s6509>
- Transporting and handling of dogs - cargo area conditions.* USDA APHIS | Transporting and Handling of Dogs - Cargo Area Conditions. (2020, June 2).
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-cargo-area>.
- Transporting and handling of dogs - handling dog kennels.* USDA APHIS | Transporting and Handling of Dogs - Handling Dog Kennels. (2020, June 2).
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-handling-dog-kennels>.
- Transporting and handling of dogs - holding area conditions.* USDA APHIS | Transporting and Handling of Dogs - Holding Area Conditions. (2020, June 2).
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-holding-area>.

References

- Transporting and handling of dogs - regular care when handling dogs.* USDA APHIS | Transporting and Handling of Dogs - Regular Care When Handling Dogs. (2020, June 2). <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-regular-care-handling-dogs>.
- Transporting and handling of dogs - shelter from extreme temperatures.* USDA APHIS | Transporting and Handling of Dogs - Shelter from Extreme Temperatures. (2020, June 2). <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-extreme-temperatures>.
- Transporting and handling of dogs - shelter from extreme weather.* USDA APHIS | Transporting and Handling of Dogs - Shelter from Extreme Weather. (2020, June 2). <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pets-on-planes/quiz-series/quiz-extreme-weather>.
- Transporting animals; requirements; penalty, Va. Code Ann. § 3.2-6508 (2021). <https://www.animallaw.info/statute/va-dogs-consolidated-dog-laws#s6509>
- Twenty Eight Hour Law, 49 USC § 80502 (2020). <https://www.animallaw.info/statute/us-food-animal-twenty-eight-hour-law>