

# Illinois Animal Rescue

## Recommended Guidelines for Sending Organizations/Shelters

Communication and trust between the sending and receiving organizations is imperative. There should be a designated coordinator at each end to coordinate timing, number and types of animals, and any health considerations. If possible, the sending shelter should take pictures of the animals being considered for transport and email those pictures along with their preliminary transport list. It is recommended that the entire list and pictures of the animals, to be transported are emailed to your animal transport coordinator 5 to 7 days prior to transport. Experience has shown that if a list is sent earlier than the day before transport, the list usually changes substantially because of medical conditions, pet was adopted, etc

IAR strongly maintains that all pets should be spayed or neutered prior to adoption. Because of the (often) limited resources of the sending shelters, animals do not have to be altered prior to transport unless otherwise specified by the receiving organization. Again, it is required of the receiving organization that every animal be spayed/neutered prior to going to their new home, unless health prohibits!

The requirements listed below are considered the minimum standards to transport animals in a healthy and safe manner. A receiving organization may have additional requirements/restrictions, which will be communicated to the sending shelters when the transport schedule is released.

The sending organization should provide the complete known vaccination and medical status, description and history of each animal, including physical description, date of intake, how pet was acquired (owner turn-in, stray, etc.), reaction on exposure to children, other pets, housetraining and other behavioral information, if known.

Once the animal is loaded onto the transport vehicle, 'ownership' of that animal transfers to the destination shelter. The destination shelter is responsible for making every effort to find a suitable and loving home for the transported animal.

To be involved in the IAR coalition the receiving organizations are subject to site inspections.

### **Basic Pet Transport Requirements:**

- No known communicable or infectious diseases on transports with other animals or the animals must be specifically quarantine within the vehicle per IAR recommendations.
- Litters of animals or animals < 6 months of age will be kept separate and as far away as possible from any others of the same, and will be quarantined within the vehicle per IAR recommendations.
- If for some reason the animal has been recently neutered by or at the sending shelter, the animal should ideally have at least 48 hours recuperation time from the day of the surgery, before being transported.
- No animals requiring extensive medical treatments during transportation, unless otherwise authorized and accepted by the transporters driving the transport.

- All animals must be labeled to which receiving rescue they are going, whether it is on the crate or collar.
- All animals must be accompanied with paperwork AND picture (original posting is fine). Paperwork must also be labeled with the receiving rescues name. Paperwork MUST include any medical or temperamental history, etc.

### **Medical requirements prior to transport:**

- Whenever possible or appropriate, animals selected for transport should be isolated from the general shelter population for at least 5 -7 days prior to shipment. Isolation can occur at a separate area in the shelter or at a foster home. Isolation is important for increasing the observation time for symptoms of medical problems to surface.
- Ongoing visual exams observing for any bite wounds, open sores/wounds abnormal runny eyes (i.e. conjunctivitis), runny nose, any congestion or trouble breathing, coughing, sneezing, loose stool, bloody stool, pronounced dermatitis, diarrhea, loss of appetite or lethargy.
- A health examination performed not more than 5-7 days prior to shipment. Exam should include, but not be limited to, a general health exam, checks for chronic muscular-skeletal disorders, central nervous system problems, mammary tumors, obvious fractures, obvious pregnancy and severe dental disease/gum recession. Exams must be documented. All veterinarian observations should be noted on a health record or intake form. For any canine >16 weeks, coming into the state of Illinois, a valid health certificate and rabies certificate (proof or rabies inoculation) is to be issued by a licensed veterinarian, and must be sent with the animal.
- All animals with intestinal parasites will be de-wormed. Information to be given to receiving organization for follow-up treatments.
- All animals receiving the rabies inoculation, performed by a licensed veterinarian for dogs 16 weeks or older, Rabies certificate must include the rabies manufacturer, lot #, vaccine expiration date, veterinarian signature, veterinarian's state license # and date vaccination was given.
- An intra-nasal Bordetella vaccine should be administered ideally 5-7 days prior to transport.
- DHPP, DHPPL or Da2ppV inoculation should be ideally administered a minimum of 5-7 days prior to transport (if not previously administered within the last 6 months, or 2 weeks on a puppy 16 weeks or younger). The follow-up vaccines will be the responsibility of the destination shelter.
- Heartworm testing or preventative treatment should be administered in geographical areas where needed and when available, depending on the receiving rescues requirements.

### **Physical considerations 24-hours prior to transport:**

- While this is an ongoing process, particular care should be made to conduct a **visual exam** the day before and the morning of the transport. Animals should appear bright, alert and responsive. Animals lacking any of these qualities may be in the early stages of a contagious or infectious disease, and should not be transported, for their safety.

- No bite wounds or open sores/wounds that need medical care.
- Animals should not be exhibiting excessive scratching, have hair loss or severe dermatitis, unless previously authorized and accepted.
- No runny eyes, runny nose, coughing, congestion nor trouble breathing through the nose, diarrhea, bloody stool, etc.
- Check the quality of the stool - no liquid diarrhea or blood in the stool.
- Check appetite - puppies in particular should be interested in food

Thank you,  
Illinois Animal Rescue and the Coalition