



*Leaders Committed to Excellence*

# Give 'em a Ride:

## Best Practices for Transport of Companion Animals

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*SAWA Board Member*

# Best Practices versus Minimum Standards

- **SAWA merger with the National Federation of Humane Societies (November 2015)**
  - Established the Best Practices & Emerging Trends Committee
  - Committee's first assignment – BP on Transport of Companion Animals
- **Best Practices really means BEST**
  - May be aspirational for some
  - We believe every organization involved in transport should strive to achieve these BEST practices
- **Next BP document due out in June 2017 – Animal Enrichment**



# Role of Transport

- Addresses market demand
- Highlights collective responsibility for animals
- Drives placement of more animals
- Focuses on local, *then* regional, *then* national needs



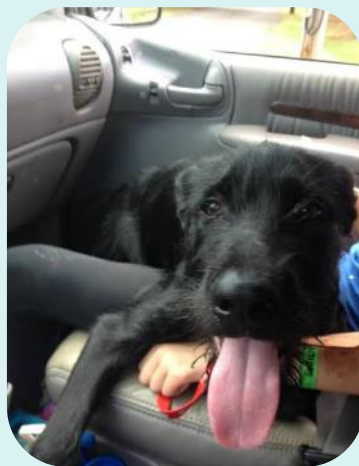
## Goals of the Transport Best Practices

- **Foster open relationships**
- **Improve the quality**
- **Meet or exceed Regulations**
- **Promote best practices**
- **Collect data**



# Models for Transport

- Agency-to-Agency
- Shelter Aggregator (aka, “Hub and Spoke” model)
- Third-party Aggregator
- Volunteer Transport



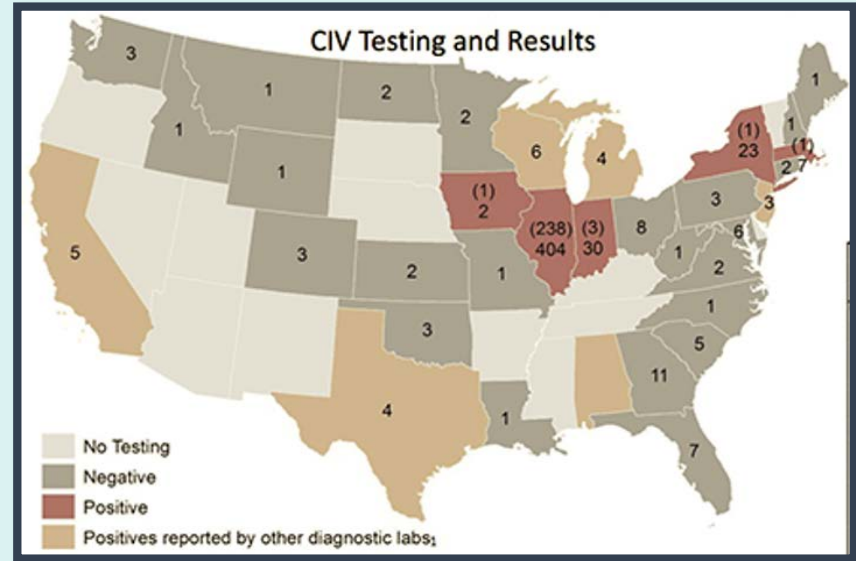
A woman with long dark hair is petting a black dog on a wooden table. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter.

## **Key Considerations**

- **Motivation**
- **Impact on your agency**
- **Impact on your community**
- **Outcomes**
- **Partnerships**

# Key Elements

- Public health
- Agency status
- Legal compliance
- Standards of Care





# General Requirements for Transfer Programs

## 1. Partners should establish solid working relationships

### MOU's should include:

- ✓ Disease concerns
- ✓ Capacity for medical treatment
- ✓ Outcomes and returns





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- 3. Short and long term positive impact**



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4. Destination shelters must have:

✓ Community  
demand



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2. 501(C)3 or municipal
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4. Destination shelters must have:

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## General Requirements for Transfer Programs

1. Partners should establish solid working relationships
2. 501(C)3 or municipal
3. Short and long term positive impact
4. Destination shelters must have:

✓ Solid infrastructure



# General Requirements for Transfer Programs

1. Partners should establish solid working relationships
2. 501(C)3 or municipal
3. Short and long term positive impact
4. Destination shelters must:

✓ Comply with the law



# **General Requirements for Transfer Programs**

- 1. Partners should establish solid working relationships**
- 2. 501(C)3 or municipal**
- 3. Short and long term positive impact**
- 4. Destination shelters must be capable**
- 5. Designated coordinators**



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Organize timing,  
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Evaluate  
health  
behavior

Open  
communication

# General Requirements for Transfer Programs

## 6. Develop a transport census

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	To be filled in once chosen								Enter N/A if in shelter	Please enter the DATE in the box, or "NO" if not				
2	Destination	Name or ID#	Weight (lbs)	Breed	Color	Sex	DOB	Age	Date in Foster/Quarantine	Altered	Rabies	DHPP1	DHPP2	Bordet
3														
4														
5														
6														
7														
8														
9														
10														

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



# **General Requirements for Transfer Programs**

- 6. Develop a transport census**
- 7. Valid Health certificates**



## **General Requirements for Transfer Programs**

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- 7. Valid Health certificates**
- 8. Agencies should be flexible**



## **General Requirements for Transfer Programs**

- 6. Develop a transport census**
- 7. Valid Health certificates**
- 8. Agencies should be flexible**
- 9. Each animal should be treated with care and concern**

# Land Transport

- A. Cleaning and sanitation**
- B. Climate control**
- C. Appropriate housing**
- D. Fresh water provided at breaks**
- E. Felines access to litterboxes**
- F. Felines provided with a hiding place**
- G. Stops every 4-6 hours**



# Land Transport

## **H. Walking dogs**

### **I. State and Federal guidelines**

### **J. Sufficient personnel**

### **K. Cell phone, maps, GPS and emergency equipment**

### **L. Contingency plans**

### **M. Appropriate ID**

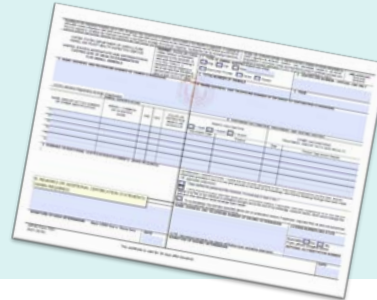




# Transport preparation and receipt

## Consult with a veterinarian

- 1) Core Vaccines
- 2) Rabies vaccination
- 3) Health Certificate



# Transport preparation and receipt



- 4) Physical exam within 24 hours
- 5) Handling contagious disease
- 6) Minimum age for transport

# Transport preparation and receipt

7) Internal and external parasites

8) Behavior assessment

9) Sterilization prior to adoption.



# Transport preparation and receipt

10) Individual records

11) Identification

12) Federal and State regulations





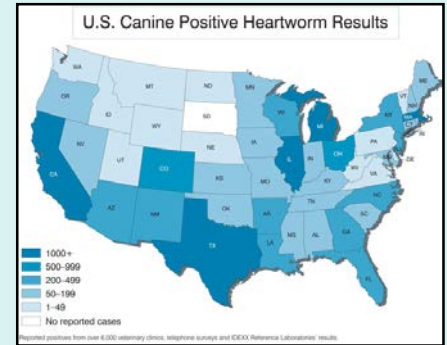
**Above and  
beyond**

**13) Additional vaccinations**

**14) Flea and tick preventative**

**15) Parvo virus test**

**16) Heartworm test**



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**Above and  
beyond**

**17) Microchip**

**18) FELV and FIV tests**

**19) Animal photo**

**20) Animal records emailed**

# Funding Transport



- **Destinations should pay for transport**
- **Destinations should make a financial contribution for programs**
- **Additional support**
- **Source financial responsibility**

# Measurement

- **Continuous improvement:**
  - What went right?
  - What went wrong?
  - What could have gone better?
- **Document**
- **SHARE**



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**Thank you, from the SAWA Best Practices &  
Emerging Trends Committee and Transport  
Experts**

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## QUESTIONS?



<http://www.sawanetwork.org/best-practices.html>

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