



# TRAVELING TAILS

A guide to effective dog  
transport programs.

This workbook was created in collaboration with  
Kristen Hassen of Outcomes for Pets Consulting.



**PEDIGREE  
FOUNDATION.**

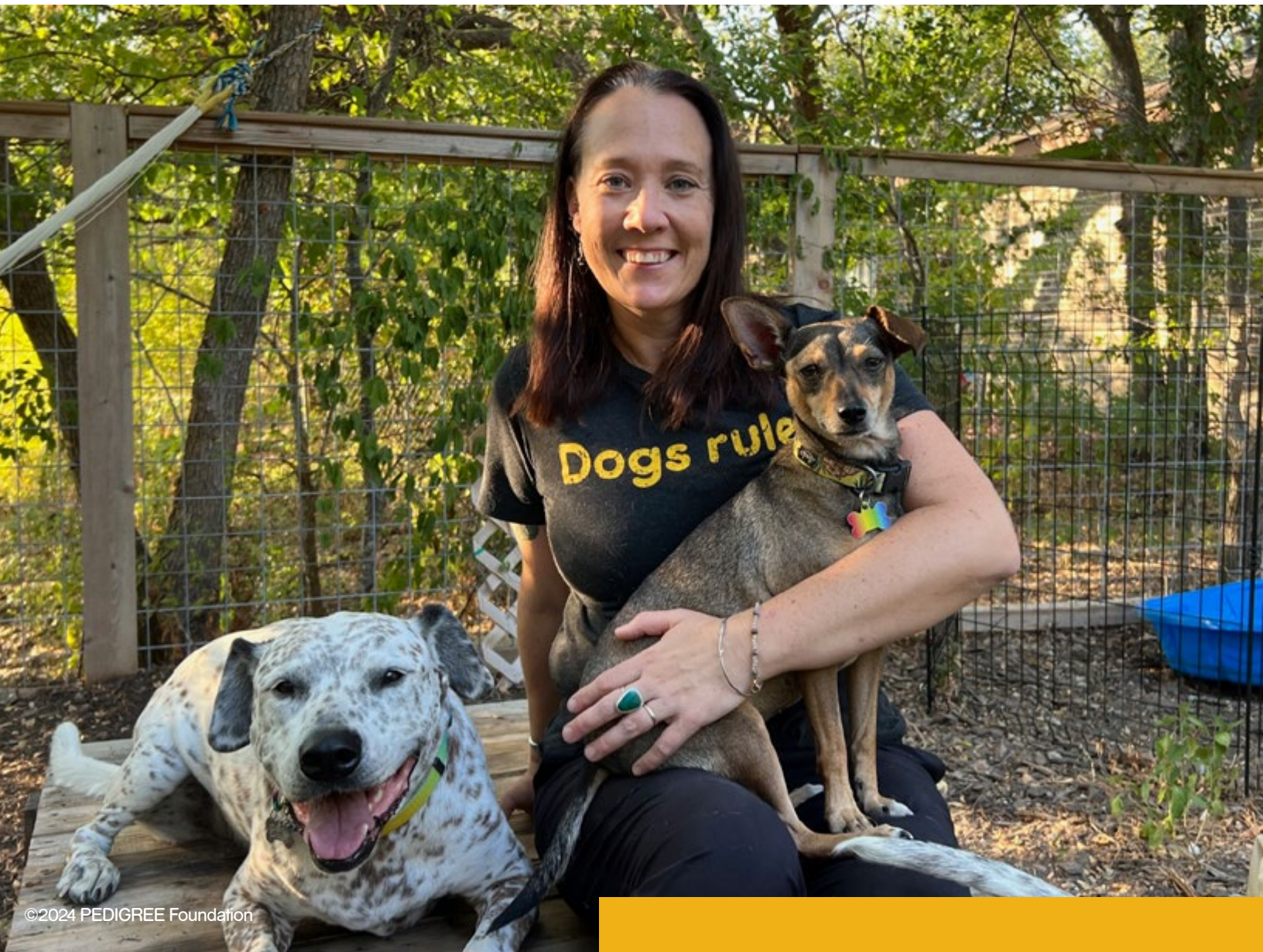


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# PART 1: Introduction

## Who is this guide for?

This guide is for animal welfare professionals and anyone else who wants to learn the basics of dog transport. It is intended to serve as a starting point in considering how **you** can play a role in improving positive outcomes for pets. There are many ways to support transport efforts including fostering, connecting with existing transport networks, and even volunteering your time to drive dogs to their safe destinations. This guide will highlight real situations, practical solutions, and recommended resources as you get started.

“Transport is a golden opportunity to save lives, unite our field and drive progress. It builds the bridge for collaboration on all levels and achieves core mission goals. Causes do not stop at county or state lines. If we could design a system today to solve any of our human-animal crises—space euthanasia, access to veterinary care, staff burnout, resource disparities, preserving animal bonds in crisis - you name it, we wouldn’t create 5,000 separate, non-coordinating entities to do it. We need to work together and that means real relationships that build community in our efforts. Transport is a gateway to those relationships and that impact. It keeps the helpers connected while meeting core lifesaving goals. If we want to be stronger—and we do—then we need to transport animals and use that obvious opportunity to build trusting, productive relationships that share resources to best advance the well-being of animals and communities.” – Heather Cammisa

## A story from Kristen Hassen: How a single litter of puppies made me a believer

A couple of months ago, I heard about an accidental litter of cattle dog mixed-breed puppies whose owner was being evicted. When he brought them to surrender to the local shelter, they told him the puppies would most likely be euthanized because the shelter was full and understaffed. He left the shelter with those puppies and spent about three weeks trying to find them homes. After two weeks of asking friends and co-workers and even posting them on a local rehoming social media platform, he found himself in a desperate situation and asked for help. I offered to take the litter of nine and foster them until I could find them a home or get them into a shelter where they could be adopted. I thought, **“This will be easy. These are the fluffiest, cutest puppies and people will be fighting over them as soon as they’re ready for adoption.”**

My partner and I set up a special puppy foster area in our laundry room and armed ourselves with pee pads, puppy food, toys, and treats. From the moment they arrived, I began sharing pictures and videos, alerting my large social media network that these puppies were looking for homes and could even go to out-of-state adopters. Much to my surprise, I received few inquiries over the weeks they were in our care and I only managed to find homes for two of the nine. I live in Austin, Texas, where the new pet market is saturated and there is a wide availability of puppies and dogs of all sizes, ages, and breeds. But still, I was surprised, and then worried, about the lack of interest in adopting them.



I connected with colleagues at the Humane Society of Utah, where I knew there is often a shortage of young puppies awaiting adoption. The director graciously offered to take them and adopt them out, but first I had to get them there. I called in a big favor to Austin Pets Alive!, an organization that routinely transports animals from overcrowded shelters in the South to receiving shelters in the North and they agreed to send the puppies on an upcoming flight heading north. They communicated clearly with me about the health and vaccine requirements and when I forgot to respond to a question, the staff even reached out to check in via text, something that helped keep me on track to get them to safety.

On the day I dropped them off, I was filled with anxiety. I knew they'd spend a night in a kennel and then be paired up and loaded into crates for their flight. By this time, I had grown attached to them, and I worried. What if they put the biggest puppy with the littlest and she got picked on? What if they didn't understand just how much these particular puppies pooped and didn't give them a potty break before the flight? What if the plane got too hot and one of them overheated? And my worst fear—what if all the notes I'd written about each puppy's particular personality, likes, and dislikes didn't make it to the destination shelter? As we said goodbye, my partner shed a tear and whispered to me, **"I hope they'll be okay..."**

A few hours later, I received a text message from the assistant director at Utah Humane. **"Puppies in the house! Got some delicious dewormer and food and snuggled in for the night. Surgery tomorrow. We promise to take good care of them and will love them like you do!"**



Then the next morning: **"They are so well fed and sweet—everyone is commending on the lack of fighting over food and the perfect poops—because they had such good care in their foster home."**

Then two days later: **"The puppies are all adopted!"**

It's hard to adequately express what those three texts meant to me or how proud and simultaneously comforted I felt by her compliments and knowing my pups were safe and loved. I was struck by how quickly this non-profit animal shelter could get them adoption-ready and into loving homes. And perhaps most importantly, I knew transport was what had made this all possible.

Though I've been directly involved in both sending and receiving transported animals for more than a decade, this personal experience catalyzed my commitment to transport—making it accessible, effective, and safe.

**After all, transport is the best chance we have at saving puppies just like my fosters and hundreds of thousands of other loving, family pets counting on us to be their lifeline.**

## The Pandemic Effect: The decline in dog transports

Transporting dogs from overcrowded shelters and communities to places where demand for new dogs exceeds the available supply has been a key strategy for increasing lifesaving nationwide. However, the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted the national dog transport network. Since 2019, there has been a **14% decrease in dog transfers, which means about 133,000 fewer dogs have been moved between agencies**. In addition, of the ten largest transport receiving agencies, all but two have seen a decrease in transfers, with some taking in 50% to 70% fewer animals compared to 2019. Of the ten largest organizations that transport animals out of their shelters, every single one is sending fewer animals to safety compared to pre-pandemic numbers.

The astonishing news about how the pandemic impacted shelters is not that we have seen a major spike in owner surrenders or even stray animals entering shelters, as many have come to believe. Nor is it a massive decrease in dog adoptions. In fact, dog adoptions as a percentage of total intake have remained fairly constant. The most significant factors contributing to overcrowding in shelters are the slowing of dog transport and an increase in dog length of stay in shelters overall, creating less space for receiving shelters to accept transported pets. Tragically, this has led to an increase in dog euthanasia, with about **50,000 more dogs losing their lives in shelters in 2023** compared to the prior year.

At the time of writing this guide, the situation for dogs in animal shelters seems nearly unsolvable, and many animal welfare professionals are asking, **“Where do we go from here?”** The answer the data points us to is transport. Rather than giving up on dog transport, we believe it’s time to double down on transport efforts and build better partnerships between sending and receiving shelters to address some of the current operational challenges associated with transporting dogs. We hope to inspire you to see what we see—that increased investment in and attention to dog transport is a proven path to solving our current population crisis in shelters.





## Clare Callison and Austin Pets Alive!

Clare Callison is the Senior Director of Operations at Austin Pets Alive! (APA!) and leads one of the largest transport programs in the nation. With 15 years of experience, Clare has organized and led the transports of tens of thousands of dogs and cats who were at risk of euthanasia in overburdened and under-resourced Texas shelters. She has been leading APA!'s groundbreaking transport program since 2021, designed to connect under-resourced Texas shelters with lifesaving rescue organizations across the country and beyond.

Many Texas shelters face significant barriers to participating in traditional transfer programs, which often require multiple vaccinations, veterinary exams, and extensive paperwork for each animal. These requirements, combined with limited staff time and resources, can make it challenging for shelters to access the lifesaving support they need.

APA!'s innovative transport program is designed to meet Texas shelter partners where they are, providing the critical resources needed to overcome these obstacles. By offering veterinary services, health certificates, vaccinations, and transport coordination, APA! enables over 80 Texas shelter partners to tap into a larger network of rescue support, ultimately saving countless lives.

**This guide was inspired and informed by Clare's tireless work to save lives through transport.**



# PART 2: Build Your Foundation

Whether you are starting a transport program or aiming to improve your existing program, we encourage you to work carefully through these first steps, which focus on the program's purpose, goals, objectives, and values. In our work with both sending and receiving shelters, we find many organizations have not tended to these critical components of their program and therefore are unable to reach their full transport potential.

## STEP 1: What is your why?

Before starting or changing a transport program, respond to the following questions:

- 🐾 What problem are we trying to solve with the transport program?
- 🐾 What is our goal and what are our objectives?
- 🐾 How many dogs do we need or want to transport (weekly, monthly, or annually)?
- 🐾 What are our values around transport?
- 🐾 Do we have inefficiencies or barriers in our system to address before changing or starting a transport program?
- 🐾 What does our organization offer to potential transport partners?
- 🐾 How does our data support the need for transport partnerships?
- 🐾 Who will be responsible for our transport partnerships?
- 🐾 What do we need to make transport successful?
- 🐾 What obstacles might get in our way and how can we address them?

**The goal of this step is to better understand the who, what, where, when, and why of your new or improved transport program.** These questions may be answered as a group or individually. If team members have reflected on and answered these questions individually, bring all responses to a team meeting and discuss until a group consensus is made on the most impactful answers to each question. After you complete this step, use the answers to write a brief description of your organization's main focus and mission when it comes to dog transport.

## STEP 2: Consider urgency










As you begin to form a vision for your transport program, you'll want to assess where your organization falls on the spectrum of resources and staffing. The transport support organization [Pilots and Paws](#) describes three distinct groups:

- 🐾 **Group A** are shelters that have resources, adequate budget, access to vet care, and robust programs.
- 🐾 **Group B** are shelters that have a moderate budget, access to basic vet care, and foundational adoption and volunteer programs in place.
- 🐾 **Group C** are shelters with few or no resources, an insufficient budget, a low live release rate, high intake rate, and a lack of foundational lifesaving programs.

While all organizations can benefit from establishing transport programs, if your organization falls into Group C, transporting animals out is likely more urgent than if you are in Group A and a transport program should be prioritized.

### STEP 3: Get specific

What animals do you most want to focus on when it comes to transport? Whether you are a sending or receiving partner, you will need to create guardrails around which pets you consider for transporting out or receiving. **Some examples of focus areas may include:**

-  Playgroup-ready and/or dog-friendly medium and large dogs
-  Senior and geriatric dogs
-  Dogs that are highly adoptable and facing euthanasia due to space or resource constraints
-  Dogs from rural shelters
-  Dogs from a particular region or area
-  Moms and puppies
-  Dogs with medical needs
-  Dogs that have survived cruelty, neglect, or hoarding
-  Dogs that are specific breeds and/or types

This may seem fairly straightforward, but it's important to carefully consider because the number of dogs involved in your transport program will be impacted by your areas of focus. **Keep in mind when completing this step, it's crucial to have your data in front of you.** Without data, you might miss important information about the dogs and puppies that need the most help and the ways your organization could have the most significant impact.

**Consider the following data trend scenarios that may impact your transport decisions:**

Scenario	Transport Solution
Senior dogs (regardless of size) tend to remain in care for twice the average length of stay.	Transport senior pets to a receiving partner with a dedicated senior pet foster program.
Small dogs are adopted within 72 hours on average and we regularly struggle to have small dogs available for adoption.	Act as a receiving partner to an organization that has a difficult time adopting out small dogs.
Dogs with medical needs are at risk of euthanasia due to a lack of available resources to treat/care for these issues.	Transport dogs with medical needs to a receiving partner that has an established medical treatment process and success securing fosters/adopters.
Dogs that are dog-friendly and/or have a history of living with other dogs get adopted quickly regardless of size.	Act as a receiving shelter for an organization that has a large number of medium and large dog-friendly dogs or dogs that do well in many playgroups.



## STEP 4: The programs that support transport

Transport success depends on the range of programs and services at both the receiving and sending organizations. For the following questions, answer yes, no, not applicable (N/A), or sometimes/somewhat as they describe your organization.

- 🐾 We focus heavily on getting lost pets home quickly, scanning microchips, returning dogs in the field, and allowing lost pet finders to foster or hold found dogs.
- 🐾 We make adoption simple and quick, sending most adopted dogs home on the same day they're adopted.
- 🐾 We offer adoption and foster placements directly from incoming transports.
- 🐾 When appropriate, we help dog owners rehome their pets in lieu of surrendering them to the shelter.
- 🐾 We encourage the public to foster dogs, including puppies, and we have a variety of different foster options from short-term to long-term foster placements.
- 🐾 We work closely with local and regional partners to maximize our impact.
- 🐾 We provide support and guidance to struggling dog owners to keep families together.
- 🐾 We focus daily on reducing our length of stay and take active steps to keep every animal moving through our system.

**Why do these things matter to transport? It's simple!** Shelters and rescues that already act with a sense of purpose and urgency and build programs to get animals back home or into new homes quickly are most likely to be successful transport partners. As you begin to seek out partners, learn more about your prospective partner's programs and services. You can do this by reading their website, social media platforms, and even online reviews. None of the information you learn needs to be a dealbreaker, but just like any partnership, it's beneficial to build your relationship by learning more about the other.



## STEP 5: Find transport partners

In a recent webinar about the future of pet transports, Brandywine Valley SPCA CEO and national transport expert Adam Lamb said, **“In the shifting landscape of animal welfare, many shelters have moved away from transport programs in the last couple of years. There’s a significant opportunity here to re-engage, even on a small scale. If we could motivate shelters to reserve just five kennels for transport, we’re not only preventing the unnecessary euthanasia of local animals but also extending our reach to save others. This isn’t about overhauling your entire operation; it’s about recognizing the profound impact that even a modest commitment can have. Let’s not overlook the power of small actions to create big changes.”**

Think about it. With the exception of the most overcrowded, under-resourced shelters, the vast majority of shelters and rescues could reserve five kennels for transport, and keep the animals in those kennels moving quickly to adoption so they could routinely refill them. As many of the largest receiving transport destination shelters find themselves unable to accept as many animals as before, we need to find innovative ways to make up this gap.

To establish a new transport relationship that works for both the sending and receiving shelter, start small. Unfortunately, many transport relationships begin when an overwhelmed shelter reaches out and begs for help from a national organization or from other shelters. When this happens, the sending partner often asks too much, too soon, of one or two big potential partners. When the answer to their plea is no or more often, **“Not right now,”** the overcrowded shelter leadership finds themselves hopeless and demoralized, which makes it less likely they’ll ask for help in the future.

To avoid these pitfalls when seeking new partners, consider making small, doable requests from multiple organizations. By giving more organizations the opportunity to say yes, sending shelters can quickly create a diverse portfolio of receiving shelters that can help with different populations at different times. When forming a new partnership, the ‘just five kennels’ request is not too small, even if it feels like it.

**Think of every yes as a win that helps tip the scales and get more people, in more places, caring about the animals at both the sending and receiving shelters.**

“For the past 15 years, Lucky Dog Animal Rescue’s adoption program in Northern Virginia has transported pets from across the rural south, including from source shelters in South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, Florida, Mississippi, and Georgia, as well as from island communities like Puerto Rico and Hawaii. Our driving principle has been to help shelters and rescue groups that do not have other support and to bring dogs and cats from areas where local adoptions cannot meet the need presented by the area’s homeless pets. As a foster-based organization, all our transports place animals either directly into foster homes or into adoptive homes. This model has allowed us to save more than 29,000 animals in 15 years. The success of our program depends on developing reliable partnerships with source shelters that can provide accurate information to ensure successful foster and adopter matches as well as a symbiotic relationship where Lucky Dog, as a receiving partner, always gives back to the sending partner.” – Mirah Horowitz, Lucky Dog Animal Rescue



## Here are some additional ways to identify new, potential partners:

- Find receiving shelters:** Share a compelling story about one animal, a small group of animals, or a particular crisis in your shelter. Post the story, photos, and videos in local, regional, and national animal welfare social media groups and ask for transport help. By getting potential partners interested in helping once, or with one particular situation, you can give them an ask that has a start and an end. For many receiving partners, this lessens the feeling of being overwhelmed as a new receiving partner.
- Meet your heroes:** Reach out to organizations you admire. If you follow particular shelters or rescues and you're a fan of their work, reach out to them and invite them to connect about how you can work together. Chances are, they'll be flattered that you know something about them and they'll want to connect.
- Reach out nationally:** Reach out to national animal welfare organizations and let them know about the kind of transport relationships you're seeking. For example, if you're a potential receiving partner looking for highly adoptable puppies with a low chance of having a shelter-borne illness, national organization representatives can likely point you in the right direction. They may even introduce you to potential partners in their network.
- Pursue continued education:** Immerse yourself in learning about what transport initiatives are out there and what resources and education you can tap into. For instance, on [the ASPCA Pro website](#), you can find a plethora of resources, stories, best practices, and sample documents about transport. You can also look at organizations that are successfully transporting animals across the country. For example, Austin Pets Alive! has [a webpage](#) dedicated to transport where you can learn more about how they generate community support and explain their program.





## STEP 6: Build relationships with prospective partners

As you embark on the journey to find and form relationships with transport partners, it's important to remember the language we use when discussing our partners can significantly impact the relationship. Avoiding negative talk about partner shelters and using language that promotes mutual respect is key. Establishing and communicating clear values and a mission statement across your organization helps set the tone, including transport partnership values. Onboarding all staff and volunteers with these values in mind ensures a respectful culture and promotes positive social media interactions.

**Here is an example of how Austin Pets Alive! describes their values around transport partnerships:**

- 🐾 We understand our work is directly connected to lifesaving in Texas. We will put our entire effort into this program and work with urgency, with a focus on efficiency and saving as many lives as possible. No idle hands.
- 🐾 Resources, location, and demographics do not determine a person or organization's worth or value.
- 🐾 We believe and will advocate for equitable partnerships, and understand the importance of our role in advocating for under-resourced and underrepresented communities.
- 🐾 We will always work with our source partners with humility and respect, and meet our partners where they are.
- 🐾 We will work courteously with all partners, and strive to always learn from each other.





## Tips to establish and maintain partnerships:

As you make contact with new potential partners, remember you're forming the foundation of what will hopefully become a long-term relationship. From the first contact with a new prospective partner to hashing out the details to dealing with the inevitable bumps in the road, **here are some tips on how to establish and maintain equitable, effective partnerships that last.**

**Stay organized.** Part of strong communication is being organized and having established methods to provide partner organizations with relevant animal information, transport details, and more. Create a roster or manifest in spreadsheets or online software to make this process easier!

**Learn about your potential and existing partners.** Rather than lengthy applications and screening questions completed on an impersonal form, start each relationship with a 'get to know you' call or virtual meeting or meet face-to-face. This helps build the relationship by putting a face to the person behind the emails and takes a step back from transactional partnerships. Reference what you've learned about their organization previously when you meet to show you've done your homework.

**Talk upfront about what each of you needs from the relationship,** knowing that the answer today won't necessarily be true forever. For instance, at the beginning of a transport partnership, it's common for receiving partners to say something like, "We can only take small dogs." Instead of shutting down the potential partnership by saying you need partners for big dogs, say something like, "We really want to work with you and can likely get you mostly small dogs for this first transport so we can try out working together."

**Ask questions about the expectations of the other partner.** Who will be responsible for spay and neuter? Who will pay the cost of transport? What assets do each of you bring to the table? If you have a 'new partner application,' consider using that in a conversational setting where you can ask clarifying questions and get context.

**Find examples.** When first talking to a prospective transport partner, the sending partner can share examples of animals seeking placement and show the receiving partner a sample of the types of dogs and puppies that need placement. For both parties, painting an accurate, transparent picture of each group's organization, strengths, and limitations, as well as discussing challenges, can build trust early on. Highlight that transparency is a top priority for you and any new transport partners and that any behavior, medical, or other relevant information will be conveyed frequently, promptly, and openly.



**🐾 Share your organization's medical capabilities**, including vaccination protocols, disinfecting practices, isolation, and any other methods used to minimize the risk of transporting illness.

**🐾 Personalize your communications.** Rather than simply adding organizations to a mass plea list, sending shelters can ask the potential receiving organization how they prefer to receive information about animals needing placement. Small and medium receiving organizations may prefer personalized communication.

**🐾 Keep it fun.** Transport should be invigorating and inspiring for everyone involved. In your early conversations, throw in some questions that allow the other person to meaningfully engage with you. Examples may include, "What made transport important to you personally?," or "If there is one breed or type of dog you would always or never take, what is it?," or "Do you have a favorite or funny story about previous transport efforts?"

**🐾 Connect with potential partners** at conferences and networking events.

**🐾 Use the available technologies** that can help you connect with potential partners, including the [Best Friends Animal Society Transport Connection Map](#).



## Sample Destination Partner Conversation Guide Questions

The following guide questions should be used as a starting point. Remember, this is a conversational approach! These questions may be asked as part of a larger conversation about how a new partnership might be established.

1. Tell us about your shelter and organization.
2. How long have you been working with source shelters for transport?
3. What is your average length of stay for dogs and cats?
4. What are your criteria when choosing dogs and cats to bring in?
5. Would you focus on choosing animals based on sociability vs. appearance?
6. How many animals do you take on a typical transport, and how frequently?
7. How do you make euthanasia decisions?
8. Which contagious illnesses do you treat if they arise in the shelter?
9. If any of the animals we send are considered for euthanasia, will you contact us?
10. Do you work with any transporters that you prefer? (Flight or ground)
11. Are you able to contribute to the costs of transport?
12. What vetting do you require for incoming transports?
13. Would you be open to us curating a transport list for your final approval?
14. How do you wish to receive the list of animals that are candidates for transport?
15. What standard information do you need for each animal?
16. Are you flexible to receive transport after normal business hours due to weather or unforeseen issues?
17. Who is the best point of contact for travel updates and drop-off information?



## STEP 7: Create equitable partnerships

Ensure that all new partnerships have basic agreements in place up front:

- 🐾 Create a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the established partnership outlining each organization's transport requirements, financial and resource obligations, communication preferences, and what to do in case of an emergency.
- 🐾 Discuss cost-sharing and financial expectations. This can include one partner covering the costs of vet care while the other covers the cost of transport. It can also include meeting at a halfway point, supply-sharing, and one partner covering some medical (eg. receiving partner required testing that goes above and beyond what sending shelter can provide), and negotiating any fees on either end of the transport ('pull fees').
- 🐾 Create a system for sharing and responding to positive and critical feedback.
- 🐾 Have source shelters highlight what they can offer to receiving partners.




When you're forming new partnerships and managing existing relationships, here are some best practices to help you move from transactional to engaged:

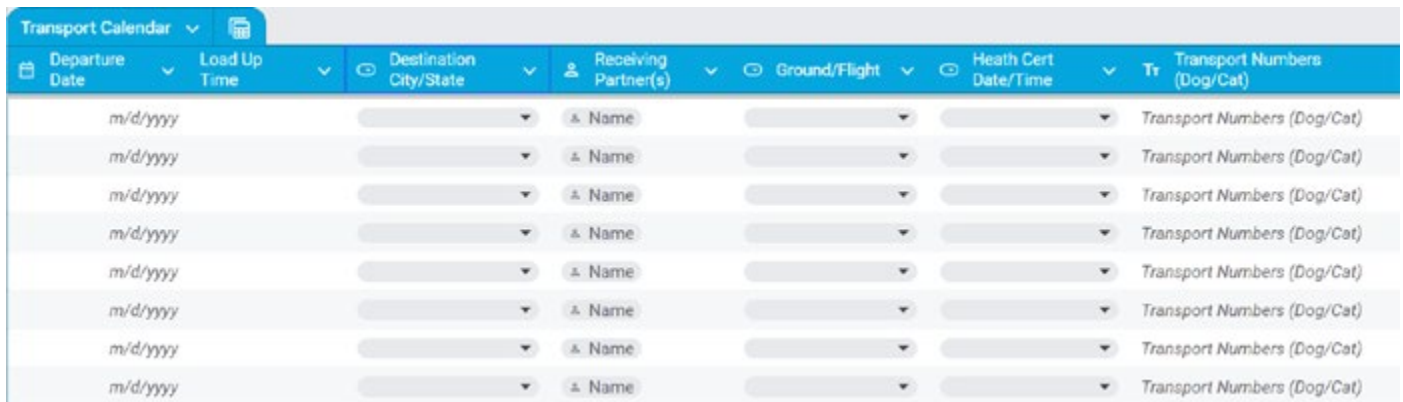
- 🐾 Listen first and put yourself in their shoes.
- 🐾 Schedule regular check-ins.
- 🐾 Give each other 'tours' of each others' facilities virtually or, when possible, in person.
- 🐾 Read [10 Tips for Source Shelters](#) and [10 Tips for Destination Shelters](#).
- 🐾 Be flexible and give your partner the benefit of the doubt.
- 🐾 Involve your communities! Sharing information about the transport program, your partners, and why it's beneficial for their community. Get people excited about the lifesaving power of transport by showing supporters how the intake process works, introducing the pets being transported, and asking for donations to support transport.




## STEP 8: You have a new transport partner! Now what?


Once both groups have learned about each others' requirements, needs, and preferences, you'll want to follow some basic best practices to increase efficiency and make the process as simple and positive as possible.

-  **Develop contingency plans** for transportation delays including unexpected weather, mechanical, or other events. Include preferred contact information for notifications.
-  **Develop safety protocols** for any transport teams your organization directly manages. Include safe driving practices, regular maintenance requirements, animal handling protocols, and emergency response plans. Provide check-in training on a regular basis.
-  **Create a transport calendar** that outlines the departure or arrival details, destination or sending city/state, loading time, ground or flight transportation information, health certification details, number of transported animals by species, and any other relevant details for your transport process.



Departure Date	Load Up Time	Destination City/State	Receiving Partner(s)	Ground/Flight	Health Cert Date/Time	Transport Numbers (Dog/Cat)
m/d/yyyy			△ Name			Transport Numbers (Dog/Cat)
m/d/yyyy			△ Name			Transport Numbers (Dog/Cat)
m/d/yyyy			△ Name			Transport Numbers (Dog/Cat)
m/d/yyyy			△ Name			Transport Numbers (Dog/Cat)
m/d/yyyy			△ Name			Transport Numbers (Dog/Cat)
m/d/yyyy			△ Name			Transport Numbers (Dog/Cat)
m/d/yyyy			△ Name			Transport Numbers (Dog/Cat)
m/d/yyyy			△ Name			Transport Numbers (Dog/Cat)

-  **Share your protocols!** [Here is an example from American Pets Alive!](#) You can use it as a starting point. Here is another [sample transport protocol from the ASPCA](#).

-  **Market your pets effectively.** This includes not only their name, size, sex, or presumed breed, but also a clear photo of the pet and basic medical and behavior considerations including vaccination, spay/neuter (S/N) status, and behavior observations. Include positive personality notes, such as "Very friendly with new people; Has lived with dogs in the past; Relaxed behavior on intake" to increase placement opportunities. Highlight the great photos, videos, and personality information of pets you have playgroup, sociability, or other staff and volunteer notes from.

**Pro tip from Clare Callison:** Many new partners start with a small transport as their first one, to make sure that both partners get used to working together. Make sure to communicate frequently during this process and schedule a follow-up call post transport for a debrief. Highlight what worked well and what could be improved, if anything. If your first transport is a success- work to schedule out transports for the next few months, or ideally for the year- so both partners can plan on it each month. This helps so you're not scrambling each month to schedule transports- and it allows you to count on a steady flow of animals leaving or arriving.



- 🐾 **Create a list of pets available for transport to share with transport partners.** Notate in the list which pets are most urgent and include their name, basic pet details, and vaccination information (which they have, when they received them, if they are S/N). Integrate this process with your existing shelter software when possible to auto-fill basic pet details and notes. Create a column for your transport partners to “tag” a pet by writing their organization’s name next to a pet they’d like to include in their next transport.
- 🐾 **Integrate volunteers!** Volunteers can fulfill a variety of roles including keeping information up to date, intake, behavior and medical evaluations, partner communications, organizing on-site housing pre and post-transport, marketing pets, and even acting as transporters themselves.

“Lucky Dog’s Off Transport Adoption Program is extraordinarily successful with a very low return rate. Adopters are incentivized to sign up to adopt directly off transport because they have two weeks to decide if it’s a good fit or they get their adoption fee back. They also know that each off transport adoption saves three lives: the life of the pet being adopted, the life of the pet going into foster home that has been “opened” by the adoption, and the life of the pet that can enter the open kennel once the animal leaves on transport. Adopters love the ‘win-win-win.’” – **Mirah Horowitz, Lucky Dog Animal Rescue**

## **BONUS: Off-Transport Adoptions**













If you are acting as a receiving shelter, consider posting pets you have tagged for transport on your available adoption and foster pages in advance to secure placement before the pet arrives at the shelter. This allows you to retain more on-site space for transports and streamline the intake-to-placement process.



# PART 3: Supporting Resources

## Transport resource hub

These links include sample checklists, supply protocols, webinars, and other toolkits to help start or reform a transport program.

-  [Maddie's University on-demand online class: Transport - Forming Equitable Partnerships](#)
-  [ASPCA transport supply checklist](#)
-  [Human Animal Support Services Transport Toolkit](#)
-  [National Federation of Humane Societies transport best practices](#)
-  [Transporting to the Future: Connecting places of opportunity with places of need from Humane Pro](#)
-  [Cultivating Lasting Transport Partnerships webcast](#)
-  [How to Find and Cultivate Transport Partnerships: webinar by American Pets Alive!](#)
-  [The Best Friends Animal Society Transport Connection Map](#) is an online tool to help connect sending and receiving shelters
-  [The ASPCA Pro Relocation and Transport page](#) provides practical information and resources for sending and receiving shelters
-  [American Pets Alive! Transport Protocol](#)
-  [ASPCA Setup and Loading Dogs for Transport protocol](#)
-  [Saving Lives Through Transport webinar](#) from Maddie's Fund

## Get inspired by others

Here are some great examples of organizations with established transport programs.

-  [Brandywine Valley SPCA](#)
-  [Three Little Pitties](#)
-  [Lucky Dog Rescue](#)
-  [Humane Society of Tulsa](#)

## Get help with flight transports

Here are some great examples of organizations with established flight transport programs.

-  [Wings of Rescue](#)
-  [Pilots and Paws](#)
-  [Good Flights Greater Good](#)

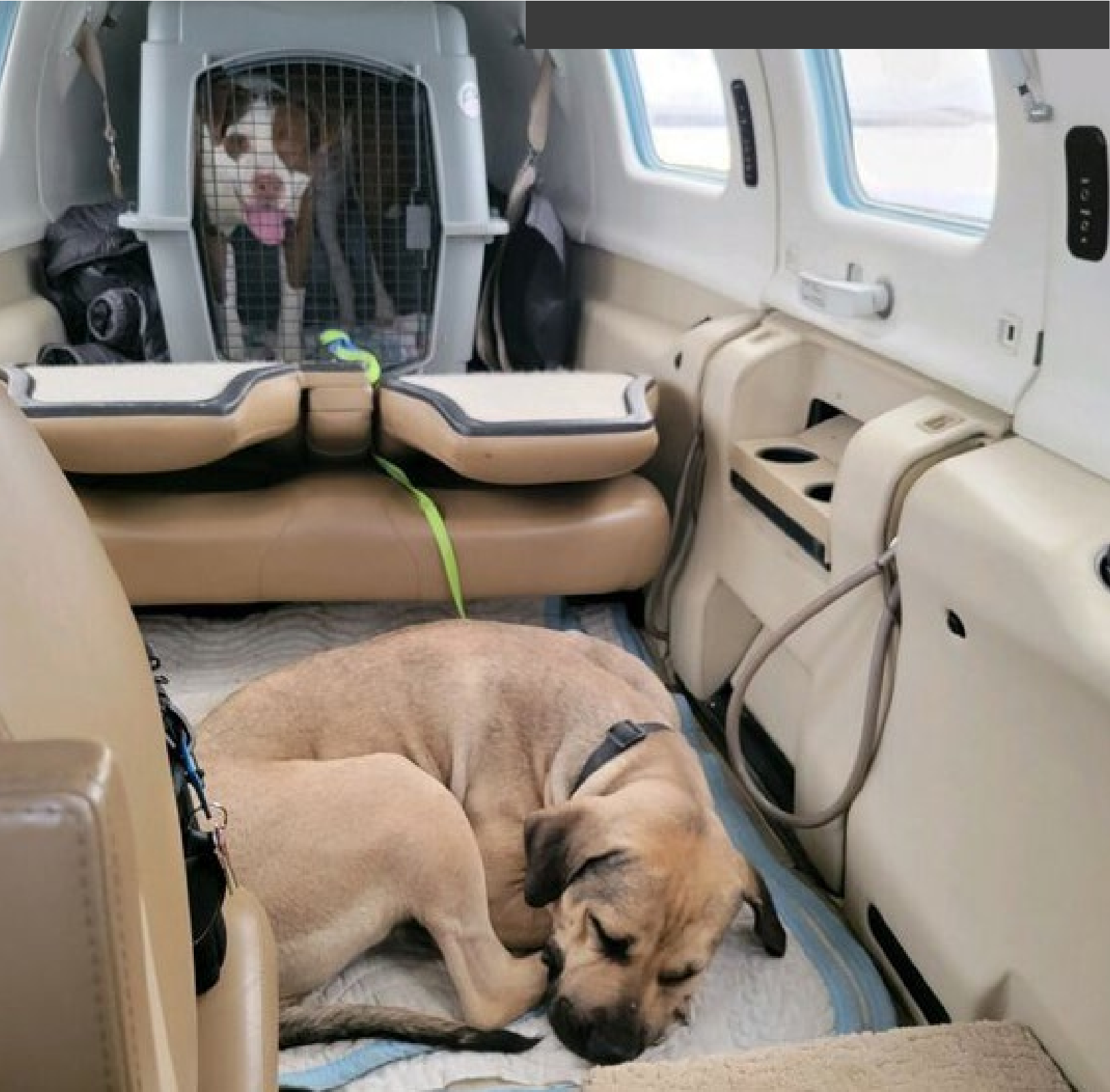


## Austin Pets Alive! transport program sample resources

Here are some great examples of organizations with [established transport programs](#).

- [🐾 Partner MOU](#)
- [🐾 Transport Program Mission & Values](#)
- [🐾 Transport Coordinator Job Description](#)
- [🐾 Contract Transport Drive Job Description](#)
- [🐾 Sample Transport Manifest/Roster](#)
- [🐾 New Partner Onboarding Questions](#)
- [🐾 Sample Vehicle Checklist](#)
- [🐾 Transport Prep Checklist](#)
- [🐾 Transport Marketing Template](#)





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