

Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter

“Yooper Second Chances”

Transfer Program- Guidelines

Overview:

The Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter (UPAWS) has identified animal transfer programs as one of the key strategies for achieving a home for every healthy and treatable animal nationwide. Animal transfer at its most basic level is a supply and demand equation. We believe however, that there is much more to consider when establishing a successful transfer program that benefits communities, adopters, over-crowded source shelters, destination shelters, and most importantly, companion animals. Transfer animals will be accepted only when time, space, and financial resources are available to humanely house and care for additional animals in our shelter.

There are several key components that drive our decisions relating to transfers into our organization. These are:

- ❖ Public health and safety is the primary concern.
- ❖ All accepted transfers must be registered 501(c)3 agencies or municipal agencies.
- ❖ All participants must be committed to abiding by all local, state, and federal regulations.
- ❖ Humane standards of care must be afforded to every animal being transported.

General requirements for forming relationships:

- ❖ There must be a designated coordinator at both ends of the transport. The role of the coordinator at both the source shelter and UPAWS is to:
 - Organize timing, number, and types of companion animals accepted on the transfer.
 - Evaluate any health or behavior considerations of all animals prior to transfer.
 - Maintain good communication between both agencies.
- ❖ Prior to transport, the coordinators must develop a transport census:
 - Source shelter should share lists (with photographs when possible) of animals being considered for transport.
 - When final transport list is generated, the description and history of the animals should include: physical description, intake data, reason for surrender, health/behavior status, and any other available information.
 - Transport coordinators should develop a mutually acceptable protocol and timeframe for approving the animals who will be transported. Including discussions of all medical or behavioral exceptions (to be made by UPAWS shelter manager).
 - All animals scheduled for interstate transport must travel with valid health certificate and be transported in accordance with state laws.
 - Sick animals are not eligible for transport.

- Each animal will be treated with dignity and respect throughout the process.

Guidelines for ground/vehicle transport:

- ❖ Transport vehicles must be cleaned and sanitized to industry standards prior to transport.
 - ❖ Proper climate control must be maintained- the vehicle must be able to provide heat or air conditioning to animal housing areas and there must be sufficient air ventilation.
 - ❖ Temperatures should not fall below 60 degrees Fahrenheit or above 85 degrees Fahrenheit. A thermometer should be used and placed in an area where kennels are located and be easily visible.
 - ❖ All animals should be transported in separate enclosures, (with the exception of litters) with solid, leak-proof bottoms and adequate bedding. Animals should be able to comfortably stand up, lie down, and turn around.
 - ❖ Ensure access to fresh water for every animal at breaks.
 - ❖ At minimum stop every 4-6 hours in a safe area to perform a visual check and clean transport kennels, feed, and water the animals.
 - ❖ Puppies should be fed a snack every 4-6 hours.
 - ❖ Adult dogs should be exercised on trips longer than 8 hours.
 - ❖ Maximum transport time, to an intermediate or final destination shelter, should be no longer than 12 hours.
 - ❖ All trips should be made with sufficient personnel to handle and care for all animals.
 - ❖ Driver and staff safety is of utmost concern. Drivers should travel with charged cell phones, maps, preferably GPS, and emergency equipment.
 - ❖ The organizations should have an agreed upon contingency plan to address weather, mechanical, or other unexpected situations that may go awry during the transport.
 - ❖ There must be appropriate identification on each animal and its carrier during transport.
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Medical requirements/considerations for all animals on transport:

Medical/Behavioral Requirements for Dogs:

- All dogs should have initial vaccinations prior to transport.
 - DHPP (minimum: 1st)
 - Rabies (administered by a licensed veterinary for all animals 16 weeks or older)
 - Bordatella vaccine (injectable or intra-nasal)
- Basic health exams should be conducted prior to the animals joining transport:
 - Check for fleas and apply treatment/preventative prior to transport.
 - Rule out the existence of bite wounds or open sores/wounds.
 - Rule out runny eyes or runny nose & Kennel Cough
 - Rule out diarrhea, dermatitis, or lethargy.
 - **Preform a Heartworm test and disclose results- We can only accept HW(-) dogs at this time.**

- If an animal has been recently spayed or neutered, or undergone another surgery or recuperating from another medical treatment, that animal should have a (preferred) 48-hour recovery time before transport.
- Puppies should be at least 8 weeks old at the time of transport, unless they are being sent with mother or source shelter does not have the resources to offer necessary care.
 - Each animal must pass minimum behavior requirements. No animal should exhibit aggression.
 - Dogs must be good with most other dogs.
 - Preferred that dogs are good with children (6+)
 - Must be heartworm negative and free from any other major medical concern.
 - No significant resource guarding.

Medical/ Behavioral requirements for CATS:

- All cats should have initial vaccinations prior to transport.
 - FVRCP (minimum: 1st)
 - Rabies (administered by a licensed veterinary for all animals 16 weeks or older)
- Basic health exams should be conducted prior to the animals joining transport:
 - Check for fleas and apply treatment/preventative prior to transport.
 - Rule out the existence of bite wounds or open sores/wounds.
 - Rule out runny eyes or runny nose & URI
 - Rule out diarrhea, dermatitis, or lethargy.
 - **Preform a FIV/FelV test and disclose results- *We can only accept FIV/FelV(-) cats at this time.***
 - If an animal has been recently spayed or neutered, or undergone another surgery or recuperating from another medical treatment, that animal should have a (preferred) 48-hour recovery time before transport.
- Kittens should be at least 8 weeks old at the time of transport, unless they are being sent with mother or source shelter does not have the resources to offer necessary care.
- Each animal must pass minimum behavior requirements. No animal should exhibit aggression.
 - Cats are preferred to be good with other cats (to live in communal cat room)
 - Preferred that cats are family friendly (good with children 6+)
 - Must be FIV/FelV negative or free from any other major medical concern.

- ❖ **Records must be shipped with animals. These records should be kept in individual plastic or waterproof sleeves prior to transport and include:**
 - Health Certificate
 - Intake form including vaccinations and medical records
 - Behavioral evaluation form (when available).
 - Additional information regarding the animal's history, photos' etc.

- ❖ **All animals MUST BE STERILIZED by source shelter if possible, or by UPAWS prior to adoption.**

Both the source and destination shelter (UPAWS) must agree to the terms and conditions of transportation guidelines prior to arranging transport.