



Transport Guidelines

Volunteers across the country frequently transport animals to other cities and/or states for rescue, foster care and adoption. While this practice saves the lives of countless animals, it also requires special attention to the safety and well-being of the animals. Below are some guidelines that FoCCAS asks you follow when transporting animals.

BASIC GUIDELINES

- An appointed FoCCAS Board member or representative must approve all animals for transport.
- Be sure you have all paperwork for the animal(s) you are transporting, including health certificates and/or vet records and/or shelter records. When you arrive at your destination, transfer **all items and paperwork first, then the dog(s)**.
- All animals must wear a collar and tag with contact information.
- All animal must be separated except for young littermates, mothers with puppies or bonded pairs (approved by FoCCAS).
- Each animal must be in a hard plastic crate, wire crate or secured with a leash fastened to a tether. Tethered animals need to be secure so they cannot come into contact with each other.
- **NO animals are to be transported in open truck beds.**
- Transport must stop at least once every four hours to check on all animals; feed, water and clean as necessary.
- NEVER leave animals unattended in a parked vehicle.
- Do not take the animal out of the crate or tether until the next transporter arrives. Secure all animals on a leash or in a carrier before opening the door. Use a slip lead (or double-leash) **at all times** while loading or unloading a dog into or out of a transport kennel.
- Since puppies may not have full immunity, it is crucial that they do not come in contact with any potentially contaminated areas (i.e. parking lots, grassy rest stops, etc.).
- Transporters should practice careful disease prevention protocols, such as not letting unfamiliar animals come in contact with each other and separating animals from different homes/the shelter.
- Crates must be thoroughly disinfected after each transport.
- FoCCAS recommends the transporter bring plenty of cleaning supplies (such as paper towels, Clorox wipes, trash bag, gloves, etc).
- Upon arrival back home after the transport, transporter should take precautions to not expose any transmissible disease to his/her own pets, including removing shoes and clothing in the garage and laundering any clothing, blankets and towels used with bleach and hot water. Disinfect crates before using with another animal.
- FoCCAS is not responsible for any dog that bites and/or runs away. Everything will be done to try and retrieve the animal. Again, this is why it is extremely important for the dog to have tag with contact info on the collar.

- Do not combine other transports with a FoCCAS transport without discussing with the Transport Coordinator and receiving permission.

TRANSPORT TIPS:

- If you are unfamiliar with double-leashing or ways to tether, watch the following video and ask your TC for suggestions and instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBxvF5Xctnc&feature=youtu.be>
- For our purposes, the TC (transport coordinator) is the individual who initiated the transport on behalf of FoCCAS or a rescue organization.
- Check collar(s) for effective tightness. The animal should not be able to slip out of collar, but it should not be too tight, a two finger rule is generally used.
- All dogs must be crated or tethered while inside the vehicle, at all times.
- Large dogs should be double-leashed. Remember to put the loop around your wrist with a firm hold on the leash. You should have one leash in each hand. At least one leash should go to a collar or harness. Always have a leash on, even if you are carrying the animal from one vehicle to the next.
- Tether (if applicable to animal being transported) or crate required while in car. Check that your tether is intact before exiting the vehicle and opening a door to transfer the animal.
- Drivers have the right to not deliver an animal into what they believe is a harmful situation. If you feel this to be the case, contact the TC immediately.

TRIP PREPARATIONS:

You may want to peruse this video for tips: The Well Packed Transporter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GU0XUjyMU9M&feature=youtu.be>

- Clean vehicle- Please make sure that if you have recently transported shelter dogs that your vehicle has been decontaminated.
- A tarp, sheet, blanket, or shower curtain- you can use this to lay down under the crates in your back. This will protect your vehicle from any mess and also make it easier for you to decontaminate for your next run. All of these can be reusable if you bleach and clean them between every run.
- Water/bowl- Fill up a cleaned milk jug full of water and bring a clean dog bowl to let the pups have some. Driving can be stressful for the babies, but being hydrated will help reduce any potential car sickness.
- Pee pads/news papers/towels- Anything absorbent is good to put in the crates.
- Baby wipes- The unscented types are gentlest. You can use these (or a damp paper towel) to help clean up any mess that the pups might get on themselves. No one likes a dirty baby.
- Paper towels- Useful for all messes
- Hand sanitizer- Helps reduce the spread of germs to unsuspecting places such as your door handles, steering wheel, gear shift, etc.