



Animal Transportation Policies and Procedures

Central Vermont Humane Society (CVHS) will accept transported animals for their adoption program from other reputable, non-profit 501(c)(3) or municipal organizations with similar goals and philosophies relating to animal welfare.

As CVHS's ability to transport in animals from other facilities is based directly upon the resources available at any given time, each individual transport must be coordinated by a designated coordinator at the sending agency, directly with the designated coordinator at CVHS. Once an agreement to accept a transport has been made, the transport must occur within two weeks. CVHS will only accept the individual animals that have been agreed upon in the initial transport agreement.

Agencies wishing to transport animals to CVHS must provide the following information about each animal prior to receiving a transport agreement:

- a. Veterinary/Medical records, including valid rabies certificate.
- b. Behavior assessment with any concerning behaviors noted.
- c. History (origin, reason for coming to shelter, date of intake, health & behavior info from previous owner if available, etc.).

Agencies wishing to transport animals to CVHS must provide the following medical care:

- a. Initial dose of a general de-worming medication and regular de-worming while in care, as determined by product label and veterinary recommendations.
- b. Rabies vaccination administered by licensed veterinarian (if old enough per state law).
- c. Distemper combo vaccine and bordetella (dogs) vaccine (if old enough based on manufacturer's recommendations).
- d. Heartworm test, with negative results (dogs) within six months of transport and regular heartworm preventative while in care.
- e. FIV/FelV tested negative within three months of transport.
- f. Flea and tick treatment and preventatives current.
- g. Visual exam by qualified personnel to rule out existence of bite wounds, open sores/wounds, runny eyes or nose, kennel cough, URI, alopecia, diarrhea, dermatitis or lethargy.
 - i. Prior to recommending an animal for transportation
 - ii. Immediately prior to sending an animal to CVHS

The following animals will not be accepted for transport:

- a. Animals who have recently been spayed or neutered, had other surgery performed, or are recuperating from other medical treatment, without at least 48 hours recovery time prior to transport.
- b. Puppies and kittens under 8 weeks of age without a mother.
- c. Animals with known human bite history, history of aggression, or animals that demonstrate any level of aggression while in the care of the sending agency.
- d. Animals with wounds of unknown origin, or any wound requiring treatment.
- e. Animals that have tested positive for Lyme, heartworm, feline leukemia, or FIV.

- f. Animals with ringworm, a history of ringworm exposure, or unexplained patches of hair loss.
- g. Animals with a history of parvovirus or distemper virus.

Agencies wishing to transport animals to CVHS must provide the following behavioral care:

- a. Each animal included for transport must be behaviorally evaluated prior to transport and must be, to the best of the source agency's ability, determined to be behaviorally healthy and temperamentally sound with people of all ages, dogs (dogs), and cats.
- b. Any concerning behaviors must be made known to CVHS in writing prior to the finalization of the transport agreement.

Agencies providing transportation of animals to CVHS must observe the following conditions:

- a. **All animals must have a valid rabies certificate AND health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian.** The health certificate must accompany the animal on the transport, be valid for the date(s) of transport, and be kept in a waterproof sleeve.
- b. All animals must be identified with a tape collar or other tag at the source agency. This identification must also be included on the transport carrier for each animal.
- c. Transport vehicles must be cleaned and sanitized to industry standards prior to transport.
- d. Proper climate control must be maintained—the vehicle must be able to provide heat and or a/c to the animal housing areas and there must be sufficient air ventilation.
- e. Temperatures should not fall below 60° F or above 85° F. Thermometer must be placed in an area where kennels are located and be easily visible.
- f. Animals should be transported in separate enclosures (except in the case of litters) with solid, leak-proof bottoms and adequate bedding. Animals should be able to comfortably stand up, lie down and turn around.
- g. Ensure access to fresh water for every animal at breaks.
- h. At a minimum, stop every 4-6 hours in a safe area to perform a visual check and to clean transport kennels, feed, and water the animals.
- i. Puppies should be fed a small meal or snack every 4-6 hours.
- j. Adult dogs should be walked or exercised on trips longer than 8 hours.
- k. Maximum transport time to a kennel (intermediate or final destination) should be no more than 24 hours.
- l. All trips longer than 4 hours should be made with a minimum of (2) drivers and sufficient personnel to appropriately handle and care for all animals.
- m. Driver and staff safety is of utmost concern. Drivers should travel with cell phones, maps, preferably GPS and emergency equipment.
- n. The organizations should have an agreed upon contingency plan to address weather, mechanical or other unexpected situations that may go awry during the transport.

Exceptions to any of the above requirements will only be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of CVHS.

CVHS agrees to:

- a. Maintain adoptable status of all animals regardless of time or space constraints.
- b. Communicate with the sending agency's coordinate should any medical or behavioral concerns arise.

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