

Transport Guidelines

The following guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of all East Coast Paws Transport animals on transport. As a transport driver, you are expected to strictly follow each guideline.

Critical Puppy Transport Notes:

Non-Negotiables

These items are STRICTLY enforced!

1. Puppies 6 months & under MUST be crated. The coordinator will note any exceptions to this rule.
2. You MUST wear medical gloves when handling puppies & change those gloves when getting ready to handle pups from a different litter. (Also, do NOT pet an adult dog & then handle pups without the gloves.)
3. **Never** mix puppies from different litters in a crate. Only littermates may be crated together. They will be listed on the run sheet as a group.
4. Puppies can NOT be put on the ground. They must be transferred from crate to crate. Some people think that making puppies go in their crate is cruel, but this is to protect them from Parvo, a virus that is even crueler. It is permissible to put them in an x-pen with plastic covering the ground. Plastic must be changed between litters.
5. It is critical to make sure that every puppy gets proper nutrition on transport. From now on drivers will just need to refer to their leg on the final runsheet to see who gets Nutrical on their leg. **DO NOT FORGET.** Squeeze a bit on your **gloved** finger and if they will not lick it off, rub it on the roof of their mouth. Be sure to have changed gloves if you are handling different litters of puppies. The younger animals need to eat every couple of hours to survive. They can quickly become hypoglycemic and that can easily turn into an emergency. According to the recommended dosages from Nutrical:
 - Puppies up to 10 lbs: Nutrical every third leg
 - Puppies 10-20 lbs: Nutrical every other leg
 - Puppies over 20 lbs: Nutrical every leg.

HOW PARVO IS CONTRACTED:

- The Parvo virus can live on surfaces (including dirt) for 6 or more months.
- Parvo is a virus that will slowly destroy a puppy's intestines. It is very dangerous for the puppies & very expensive to treat.
- Survival rates are poor. (For more info, check out: <http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/parvovirus-in-dogs>.)

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF PARVO:

- Lethargy
- Runny poop with blood in it (though that could also be a result of treating for worms)
- Vomiting clear &/or foamy liquid.

If a pup shows ANY of these signs, CONTACT THE TRANSPORT MONITOR IMMEDIATELY! If you cannot reach her/him, contact the Transport Coordinator.

Preventing Diseases From Spreading:

If you are using a crate for the 1st time, it is best practice to sanitize it before using it.

1. After your leg, use a bleach solution (10% bleach to 90% water) to clean all crates. Please remember that this solution is only good for approximately 4 hours. After that, it decreases in its effectiveness. Do NOT use the pre-mixed bleach cleaners sold in stores. They are not as effective. You can also purchase veterinarian cleaning solutions such as Trifectant or Parvo-sol online or through your vet.

<p>6. Also make sure to note how they are acting. If they are lethargic at two consecutive stops, especially after getting Nutrical, it needs to be called in to the monitors immediately! Transporting is stressful on all animals but babies in particular.</p> <p>7. Overnighters of puppies and kittens need to make sure they are fed a small meal prior to heading off for transport in the morning to ensure their safety.</p> <p>**** Puppies are vaccinated for Parvo prior to transport. However, they don't instantly build up antibodies to things like Parvo. It usually takes about 5-21 days depending on the puppies size and other factors. So this means even though they have been vaccinated, they can still possibly contract a disease. ***</p>	<p>2. Any towels, blankets, etc. should be washed in hot water and a strong bleach solution.</p> <p>3. You can protect your clothes from getting any viruses on them by using a towel between you & the pup. Like with the medical gloves, you need to change towels between litters. A lot of people also like to change clothes when coming home and keeping them away from their personal pets.</p> <p>4. Create a barrier between your crates (especially wire crates) by putting a sheet over the crate or put pieces of cardboard between your crates. This prevents pups/dogs from sneezing on each other or getting bodily fluids on each other.</p> <p>5. Best Practice would also include covering your vehicle upholstery with a sheet, tarp or other protective covering whether transporting dogs in crates or tethered.</p>
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Puppy Guidelines For Transport:

- Plan on arriving at the meeting location **at the same time the connecting driver(s) is scheduled to arrive (10 minutes earlier is better)** in order to help with the transfer. If a driver is driving multiple legs, they may be early. This will be noted on the final runsheet. Please have your crates set up & ready to use. Have water ready to offer to the animal
- Puppies under the age of six months should never touch the ground to cut down on the spread of disease. (Their immune systems are very vulnerable and most transfer locations are common areas where many, many dogs have been.) If you must put the puppies down to potty, etc., lay down a large area of newspaper or plastic covering inside an x-pen or playpen and then throw away the ground covering afterwards. If you cannot lay down a ground cover to protect them from infection, transfer them to the next crate and let them do their business there. (This sounds harsh, but remember these pups have been in crates at the shelter).
- When transferring puppies, always use disposable latex/nitrile (not rubber) gloves or a 10% bleach/water solution to thoroughly wash your hands before and after handling each litter. (Hand sanitizer can be deadly if ingested and does not kill parvo so please be safe and use the bleach solution). NEVER mix litters of puppies unless they were together at the shelter.
- DO NOT provide food to puppies on transport!! This could cause them to become carsick and very messy! This is why Nutrical is used to keep the puppies calories and hydration up.
- The Nutrical administration will be noted at the bottom of the legs it needs to be administered. The puppies to receive Nutrical will be listed as well. If you have questions please reach out to the monitor or TC.

- Puppies are to be given water EVERY leg. If a puppy does not take water, you can try using a turkey baster or a needleless syringe. You can get the syringes at your local pharmacy or with your prescriptions for free.
- Unfortunately, puppies can be filled with worms and parasites; although they have already been wormed at the shelter, it takes multiple rounds of worming to remove all parasites. Puppies fade fast, so be sure they stay hydrated and if they become lethargic notify the Transport Monitor ASAP.
- Make sure to cover the crates with a thin blanket or sheet. It would be good to use cardboard or a plastic rubbermaid bin lid to provide a barrier between the crates.
- If there are any concerns with the passengers, i.e., coughing, loose stool or runny nose, make sure to report it to the monitor and watch your passengers. Please communicate this to the driver you are handing off to as well. The more information about passengers is better.

Adult Guidelines For Transport:

- Dogs under 25 lbs must be crated. Small breed dogs are more skittish & are at a greater risk of running away.
- Crating is always preferred. Any dog not crated MUST be tethered. (Tethering means tying the leash to something immovable in the car such as the drop down handles over the window, headrest, etc.)
- No more than 2 tethered dogs should be in a vehicle for safety reasons and they should be separated.
- Be VERY careful when transferring dogs to insure they don't get away from you or try to run out the car door before you have a good grip on them. Any dog not crated must be tethered (tied) to something in the vehicle (such as the headrest or drop down handle), then when you open the door, the dog cannot run away.
- Please do not leave leashes or slip leads on the dogs when they are crated. The leash or lead can get tangled around a limb and hurt and possibly strangle them. When opening the crate to get the dog out, be sure to block the crate doorway with your body as you put the leash &/or slip lead on the dog. DO THIS BEFORE getting him/her out.
- When possible, please use a clip on leash on the dog's collar AND a slip lead to lessen the chance of the dog getting away from you. ALWAYS put the loop-handle of the leash &/or slip lead over your hand & on your wrist & grip the stem of the leash/lead with your hand. This secures the leash on your wrist so it is harder for the dog to pull away or keeps the leash in your hand if you fall or lose your balance.
- Only one dog should be taken out of a vehicle at a time (unless there are multiple people to help) while the others remain safely contained in the vehicle. Dogs MUST be on a leash or slip leash during transfer and must NEVER be taken out of the vehicle off leash.
- Do not leave tethered dogs in a vehicle with a door, window, or sunroof open. (Scared dogs can get through the tiniest of openings!) If they pull their leash loose, they can run away. If it is summer, please keep the AC going in the car during the transfer to reduce the chance of the dogs & pups overheating.
- Please have poop bags available and clean up after the dogs – also try to keep them away from other dog's feces.
- Try to keep the dogs away from each other during transfer (unless they have been together at the shelter) to lower the chance of spreading disease and/or fighting – transport is stressful for an animal so never let your guard down. The Transport Coordinator will let you know who can be crated &/or tethered together.

- Bring your patience! Sometimes dogs get nervous and don't want to walk well on leash. They are relying on you to show them love and patience.
- Never allow a dog to ride on your lap when driving – most would love to ride there but safety first! (Think “deployed airbag!” They can kill small critters!)
- NEVER transport a dog in the back of a pickup truck without a cap and it must have heat and ac.!
- Drivers with convertibles must transport animals with the hardtop or soft top in place - tethered dogs could attempt to jump out and strangle. In the event of an accident dogs and cats would be thrown out of a convertible, even if they are crated.
- Please do not allow tethered dogs to ride with their faces and bodies out the car windows! This is very dangerous. If windows are open for ventilation they should not be open wide enough for a dog to fit their face or body through!

Cat/Kitten Guidelines For Transport:

- If transporting cats, a cat/kitten will **always** come with his/her own crate. The Transport Coordinator will provide the crate measurements for appropriate planning.
- Do NOT take the cat out of the crate unless the crate needs cleaning. If the cat & crate needs some cleaning, do so INSIDE the vehicle with the vehicle doors & windows shut. NEVER take the cat out of the crate outside or even open the cat crate door outside of a closed vehicle.
- Please make sure the cats/kittens have water at all times
- Please DO NOT feed the cats/kittens on transport. They can become carsick like dogs can.
- Please make sure to administer kitty Nutrical on the designated legs. This should be administered through the carrier.

Mom and Pup Guidelines For Transport:

- Moms with nursing puppies should be coming in a crate together.
- When the mother gets out to walk, please wipe her feet off with a baby or disinfecting wipe before allowing her back in with her pups.
- Dimensions of the crate will be provided by the Transport Coordinator.
- Moms with puppies that have been weaned or are close to weaning NEED TO BE CRATED SEPARATELY! Moms can get “tired” of the babies constantly hanging on her. The stress from the transport can cause the mom to take it out on the babies.

Overnighting Guidelines:

- If an overnighter is coming to pick up their litter and they haven't touched any other puppies or dogs then no gloves are needed. No gloves are needed at home. In the am when the overnighter is bringing the puppies back to transport, no gloves are needed. The receiving party MUST wear gloves. Gloves need to be changed also when handling multiple litters.
- It is best practice NOT to have the dog(s)/pup(s) who are staying with you overnight intermingle with your pets. Any animal coming from any shelter could be harboring viruses, fleas, ticks or parasites. If you do allow them to intermingle, please introduce them slowly. Remember that transport animals may be stressed from the constant changes they have been through.
- Do NOT just let a transport dog out in a fenced yard. You must be there to supervise the whole time. Flight risk dogs should be on leash even in a fenced yard.
- PUPPIES should NOT be put on the ground even in your back yard. They may carry parvo but not be show any signs of being sick. This could contaminate your yard.
- Puppies should be kept in a room with a tile or concrete floor that can be bleached before & after their stay. Do not keep them even briefly in a room with carpeting, wood flooring, or any porous surface that cannot be sanitized.
- Please provide your overnight guest with dinner when you get them home & a light breakfast in the morning. (Please do not give a lot in the morning. Overfed animals get carsick which leads to dehydration.) Most the animals have been given whatever food has been donated to the shelter. Please do not give them high-end store bought foods. It can be too rich for their stomachs & cause vomiting or diarrhea. Please provide a mid-level brand of food (such as Pedigree). To help entice a stressed dog to eat & to help with hydration, consider mixing dry & wet food. Of course, any dog would be very likely to LOVE a homemade meal of boiled chicken and white rice. (That is a good option given it is what we often feed dogs with digestive issues).
- The Transport Coordinator will try to let you know in advance if your guest needs medication.
- Overnights should arrive 20 minutes BEFORE the leg is scheduled to leave on Sunday morning. Give yourself time to load everyone up for the first leg.

Preparations Before You Start Driving:

- Protect your pets. Make sure your personal pets are up-to-date on shots & on flea & tick preventative. All animals on transport are up-to-date on shots, but please remember they are coming from a shelter. Not all have been treated for fleas & ticks (due to costs) & any animal coming from a shelter environment may be harboring a virus.
- To also protect your pets, do NOT bring them with you when driving. This will protect them from potential viruses, fleas & ticks. In addition, your focus needs to be on the shelter dogs who, due to stress on the transport, may be flight risk or more prone to snap at other dogs. Please do not take animals from other shelters at the same time either and try and do two runs at once.
- You must have a cell phone; even if you don't need to call another driver, they may need to call you. They may be late or having car problems. You may need to relay information quickly to other drivers or the Monitor. If you get into an accident you may need help quickly for your passengers and yourself.
- Make sure your cell phone is charged & on the entire day of the run in case of early/late arrivals or questions.

- Check e-mails frequently the day of the run – there could be last-minute changes or information from the monitor, other drivers, or overnighiter. (Make sure the Transport Coordinator has the email where you can be reached on the weekends).
- Familiarize yourself with the run sheet and passengers. The intro will have important passenger specific directions. Print it out and take it with you on the run – pictures (if available) of all passengers and detailed information will be included with the run sheet. Don't want to print the whole run sheet? Then cut and paste the leg before yours, your leg, and the one after yours. Make sure you also have the Monitor's phone number.
- Before the run, the Transport Coordinator will contact you & the other drivers on your leg to assign passengers based on crate & car capacity. The assignments can also be a double check to make sure you haven't driven off and forgotten someone! Please bring the crates you told the Coordinator you will be using and make sure you give her an accurate description of the weight capacity of the crate so that dogs &/or pups should fit properly.
- **MAKE SURE YOUR CRATES ARE CLEAN & SANITIZED BEFORE EACH TRANSPORT!** If you do back to back transports with other organizations please make sure you have time in between runs to properly clean crates, seal up any bowel or blankets, etc.
- If you have extra crates you can bring, please do so. You may need to separate a pup or the dogs/pups may not fit. (Sometimes dogs/pups are bigger than listed on the run sheet because pups grow & dogs can fill out).
- If you do not have crates, please contact other drivers to see if you can borrow some – other drivers are usually happy to let you borrow crates if they are returned in a timely fashion and have been bleached after the transport. Any driver unable to obtain crates will only be able to carry 1-2 tethered dogs.
- NEVER, forward or crosspost a final run sheet. Also please do not “borrow” drivers' email addresses and start copying them on urgent animal situations without their permission. Many drivers are not necessarily rescuers & therefore are not an appropriate target audience. Please be kind and protect everyone's personal space.

General Rules Of Transport:

- Paperwork **MUST** be handed off to the driver that has the animal. It is important the paperwork stay with the animal in case he/she needs go to the emergency vet or the police ask for it. (Health Certificate and rabies certificates, if age appropriate, are required to cross state lines.)
- Plan on arriving at the meeting location at the same time the connecting driver(s) is scheduled to arrive (10 minutes earlier is better) in order to help with the transfer. If a driver is driving multiple legs, they may be early. This will be noted on the final runsheet. Please have your crates set up & ready to use. Have water ready to offer to the animals
- After your handoff, one driver must call (not email) the Monitor to update her/him on the timing. If there are any concerns regarding any of the dogs, it is important to let the Monitor know!
- **BE ON TIME** and if you do happen to run late, always call the Monitor & next driver to let them know; that driver will then call the next driver, and so on. If there are several drivers for each leg, please be courteous & help with calling the other drivers on the leg.
- If your child comes along with you on the transport, they should not walk the dogs or handle pups. Please understand that the dogs are stressed & could easily slip out of young, eager, well-intended hands. Children are welcome to come along & experience the joy of rescue but should be **WELL SUPERVISED!** Do not allow small children to hold puppies during the drive. We know they love each other but puppies are wiggly and accidents can happen.

- Always double check the pup against the picture on the paperwork and the name on the collar!
- Remember that the paper collars are NOT to have leashes attached to them – the can and will break, which can result in a dog on the run!
- Always contact the monitor for the day if there are any issues, as the transport coordinators are NOT available.
- In hot weather, keep pup's feet off the hot ground as much as possible, offer lots of water, and keep the air conditioner running! NEVER leave a dog in a hot car.
- Make sure your crates, car, blankets, and any other items in contact with pups/kitties are thoroughly cleaned before and after transport! Laundering blankets and towel in warm/hot water is great! And a bleach solution wipe down of all porous surfaces will eliminate communicable germs!
- Arrive early to your pickup location and be sure to check your emails on transport day for any important updates!
- Please be sure to help your fellow transporters, especially those who are new or less experienced! Welcome them to ECPT and offer to share supplies and/or help as needed!
- Animals on transport may NOT be adopted directly off the transport; dogs must continue on the transport to their receiving rescue.
- If you are interested in possibly adopting, allow the dog to continue on the transport and contact the Coordinator, Monitor, or the receiving rescue and they will advise you of the next steps.
- If bystanders are interested in more details of transporting or adopting a dog, please have them contact the Coordinator; again, dogs are NEVER to be adopted directly off a transport.
- There is no mixing of transports. This means if there is another non-ECPT run using the same legs and close on time, you are NOT to add the passengers to an ECPT transport. We abide by this rule because some passengers have been out of the shelter for 2 weeks or more and others are directly from the shelter. There could be a disease that is being carried from the shelter and could be contagious to other passengers. If you have questions on this, please contact your coordinator to discuss.

Supplies For Transport

- Paper towels
- Baby wipes
- Disposable latex/nitrile (not rubber) gloves
- 10% bleach solution in a spray bottle
- Nutrical – puppy & kitty
- Extra collars, leashes/slip leads
- Plastic bags for poop duty

- Water & disposable dishes for drinking (if you are leaving a water dish in their crate please do not use something they can destroy and eat.)
- Newspaper, pee pads, and old towels or blankets
- Extra crate (if possible) for quick transfer from a soiled crate (good for puppies!) or an unexpected health or behavioral issue that requires further separation
- Pop top canned cheap, smelly dog or cat food to lure runaway dogs. Vienna sausages are also great for attracting run-away dogs.

My Passenger Got Loose!!!

- If a dog gets away from someone during transport, **DO NOT CHASE THE DOG!!!! It is VITAL to remain calm!**
- Realize that calling the dog by name MAY not help as names are often assigned for identification with rescues and transport. Many dogs haven't learned it.
- If the dog is timid, your best bet is to use food to lure the dog back. (Vienna sausages work wonders!)
- Even if you catch the dog quickly, please ALWAYS let the Monitor know of the incident so she/he can warn other drivers further up the line.
- If the dog is definitely on the run (not transport run), notify the Monitor & local Animal Control ASAP. If someone can stay in the area to try to keep the dog in sight, that is best practice. The Monitor will notify others in the area to come help with the search & capture of the dog.

Safe Travels, thank you for volunteering and enjoy the fur!!!