



Policy: Transportation of dogs for Clancy's Dream

Date Accepted:

Justification:

This policy is written and approved to help ensure that all dogs under the care or supervision of Clancy's Dream are transported safely and securely which will decrease the risk of injury to the dog and people involved in the transportation process.

Scope:

This policy applies to any dog that is being transported for or on behalf of Clancy's Dream.

Best Practices:

These guidelines are not intended to be a comprehensive list of requirements, but rather a guide to best practices. It is acknowledged that not all situations are the same nor are the guidelines feasible in all cases. This policy is merely to encourage transporters to carefully think about and consider situations where humans and canines could be at risk and plan for and be prepared for situations. We encourage you to review the links and resources in the next section, and please check on all relevant laws and ordinances before the transport takes place.

- Keep in contact with the Clancy's Dream Transportation Director in order to facilitate updated schedules and information flowing to all involved with the relinquishment, transport and receipt of the dog.
- All animals should be health-checked by a veterinarian and approved for travel, when possible, this is especially important in cases where dogs are released with no previous information/background (shelter) and or have a known medical condition.
- All animals should wear a collar and tag with mobile contact information. If possible, animals should be microchipped. A flat buckle or martingale collar are the preferred choice. Collars should be tight enough that they won't slip off and loose enough for comfort, if you can slip 2 fingers between the collar and the dog's neck, the fit should be appropriate.
- Dogs should be transported in a secure carrier or dog crate to prevent the animal from moving freely around the vehicle which could be a distraction to the driver or even be dangerous for the driver. Additionally, a crated animal is far less likely to escape during routine stops or accidental window and door opening. Alternatives to a crate would include a secure seat belt harness that is approved for motor vehicles or a securely installed cargo barrier in an SUV.
- Each animal should be in a separate carrier except for young littermates, mothers with puppies younger than eight weeks or bonded pairs. Carriers should be secured within the vehicle.
- Vehicles should be enclosed and secure, and have effective climate control and ventilation.
- Monitor ambient temperatures carefully so the animals don't get too warm or cold. 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. See My Dog Is Cool for more information.

- Secure all animals on a leash or in a carrier before opening the door. Use a slip lead at all times while loading or unloading a dog into or out of a transport kennel. A two leash method is a good idea, one can be fastened to the flat or martingale collar plus a slip lead gives extra security that a dog won't get loose.
- Practice careful disease prevention protocols, such as not letting unfamiliar animals come in contact with each other, separating animals from different shelters and thoroughly disinfecting after each transport.
- Earn certification or be knowledgeable/experienced in pet first aid and CPR, and bring a well-stocked pet first aid kit.
- Clarify responsibilities and plan for possible difficult situations before you leave, such as the protocol if an animal shows signs of illness or if the vehicle breaks down.
- Bring plenty of cleaning supplies, clean bedding, newspapers and blankets. Also bring a change of clothing for yourself.
- When you arrive home after the transport, take precautions to not expose any transmissible disease to your own pets, such as removing shoes and clothing in the garage and laundering any clothing, blankets and towels used with bleach and hot water.

References:

<https://redrover.org/resource/safe-transporting-practices-for-animal-rescuers/>

- USDA Companion Animal guidelines and laws [\[link\]](#)
- Association of Shelter Veterinarians' Standards of Care guidelines, see page 45 [\[link to PDF\]](#)
- ASPCA Position Statement on Animal Transportation for Adoption [\[link\]](#)
- Louisiana State University Emergency Animal Shelter Disaster Response Manual, see page 62 [\[link to MS Word Doc\]](#)
- Operation Roger guidelines [\[link\]](#)
- On the Road Again (OTRA) Yahoo Group [\[link\]](#)
- Read about some of the issues involved in transporting animals in this Los Angeles Times article. [\[link\]](#)

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