Toronto Humane Society
Adventures in Transport

Beam me up Scotty!

Image courtesy of Google
Transport: Destination Shelter

In 2017 the THS transferred in 1,977 animals:
- Dogs, cats, rabbits, rats, guinea pigs and assorted special species
- From Ontario (shelters, municipal agencies, First Nations communities)

Quebec and the US.
CVMA Position Statement on Animal Transport

**Position**
The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) strongly recommends that if dogs and cats are to be transported, the manner of conveyance should ensure the safety, security, health and welfare of the animal, and the public safety.

Mist, Redwood and Sitka - Northern dogs

Canine Importation Working Group Recommendations, and Rio 2016 Adoptions

BY SCOTT WEESE ON JUNE 20, 2016 POSTED IN CATS, DOGS

Last year, a Working Group was established to review the issue of importation of dogs into Canada and to come up with options and recommendations to:

Mitigate the risks to animal health (domestic and wildlife) and public health posed by the current system through which dogs are imported from abroad.

Mitigate the same risks posed by unmonitored movement of animals within Canada (particularly from remote northern regions)

Address animal welfare issues with regard to transportation of companion animals exhibiting clinical signs of illness within and at Canadian borders.
Role of transport (SAWA)

- Address market demand
- Highlights collective responsibility for animals
- Drives placement of more animals
- Focuses on local, then regional, then national/international needs
Goals of the Transport Best Practices (SAWA)

• Foster open relationships between source and destination agencies
• Minimize animal stress and disease transmission
• Meet or exceed local, state/provincial and federal regulations
• Promote transfer best practices
• Collect data on transports
Models for Transport (SAWA)

- Agency to Agency
- Shelter Aggregator
- Third party Aggregator
- Volunteer transport
Key Elements (SAWA)

- Public health and safety
- All transfer agencies must be a registered charity or municipal agency
- All participants must abide by all local, state and federal regulations
- Humane standards of care

Marla
Is Transport Right for me?

• Does you have a community imbalance with high demand and too few animals?
• Does high adoption demand give you the capacity to help animals from other agencies or regions?
• Is transport consistent with your specific mission?
• Can I be in compliance with Transport Best Practice?
• What will be the impact on my agency?
• What will be the impact on my community?
• What outcomes can be provided for the animals?
• What is my partnership capacity between source and/or destination shelters?
Is my agency right for transport?

- Capacity for medical care?
- Appropriate animal housing?
- Staffing capacity?
- Will transport divert resources away from addressing local needs?
- Are there source agencies you can work with in your community?
- Community capacity to place your transfer animals?
- Are you willing to partner and support source agencies beyond taking their dogs and cats?
General Requirements for Transfer Programs (SAWA)

1. Partners should establish solid working relationships
   • MOU
2. Registered charity or municipal agency
3. Short and Long Term Positive Impact on the community and the animals
General Requirements for Transfer Programs (SAWA)

4. Destination shelters must have:
   a. Community Need
      • Community demand for dogs, puppies, cats or kittens
   b. Capacity and Space
      • Capacity and space available
      • Will not euthanize for lack of these items
   c. Strong Infrastructure
      • To support transported animals
   d. Legal compliance
      • Comply with all state/provincial and local laws
5. A designated coordinator at both agencies is essential

Coordinator will:

- Organize timing, number and types of animals
- Evaluate health or behavioural considerations
- Maintain good communication between agencies
General Requirements for Transfer Programs (SAWA)

6. Develop a transport census:
   - Source should share lists of animals available for transport
   - Final transport list should include all available info about each animal
   - Mutually acceptable protocol and timeframe for selection and approval
General Requirements for Transfer Programs (SAWA)

7. Valid health certificates are required for interstate transport

8. Destinations should be flexible, sources should select animals that can be easily adopted

9. Each animal should be treated with dignity and respect

Linna, from Puerto Rico
Land Transport (SAWA)

1. Transport vehicles and equipment must be cleaned and sanitized to industry standards
2. Proper climate control (heat, AC, ventilation)
3. Appropriate housing used for all animals
4. Fresh water provided at breaks
5. Litter boxes for cats if transport > 2 hrs.
6. Hiding space for cats in kennel
7. Stop q. 4-6 hrs. for visual checks, provide water and spot clean as necessary
8. Walk dogs if moving to new vehicle or overnight stay
9. Meet regulatory guidelines for driver safety
10. Sufficient personnel to care for the animals
11. Drivers should carry cell phones, maps, GPS & emergency equipment
12. Contingency plans for weather, mechanical or unexpected situations
13. Appropriate ID on each animal & kennel

Bee Bee
Transport Preparation and Receipt (SAWA)

1. Core vaccinations prior to or at intake at source shelter
2. Rabies for animals > 16 weeks
3. Health certificate if crossing state lines
4. PE within 24 hrs. of transport
Transport Preparation and Receipt (SAWA)

5. Animals with infectious disease ineligible for transport (some exceptions)
6. Weaned puppies and kittens should be at least 8 weeks old (some exceptions)
7. Treat for diagnosed internal & external parasites (min. deworm for rounds and hooks)
8. Dogs – behaviour assessment
9. All - sterilize before adoption
10. Accompanying individual records
11. ID with collar & tag, tape collar or other means of ID that ties back to animal’s record
12. Adhere to all federal & state/provincial animal transport regulations

Wynette
Above and Beyond (SAWA)

13. Additional vaccinations (beyond core)
14. Flea & tick preventative prior to transport
15. Parvo titre test
16. HWT animals > 6 mos.

Left – HW & lyme positive
Centre – HW, lyme & anaplasma positive
Above and Beyond (SAWA)

17. Microchip  
18. FeLV/FIV test  
19. Photo (BSL)  
20. Email records prior to transport
Funding Transport (SAWA)

Destination shelter:
• Pay transport costs
• Contribution to source to fund community S/N
• Consider additional ways to support source
• THS model “Pay it Forward” adoption fee

Source shelter:
• Responsible for part or all of cost of preparation

Jeepers on the beach in Dublin
Expect the unexpected (THS)

- Pneumonia
- Dental issues
- Orthopedic problems
- Ringworm (Cats and dogs)
- Parvo
- Behaviour concerns
- Strep zooepidemicus otitis media
- Rectal polyps
- Pregnancy
- Transmissible venereal tumour
Expect the unexpected (THS)

Everest

Dolomite
Expect the unexpected (THS)

- Parasites (external and internal)
  - Baylisascaris procyonis (raccoon roundworm)
  - Giant kidney worm
  - Diphyllobothrium latum (fish tapeworm)
  - Dermacentor
  - Rhipicephalus sanguineous
  - Ehrlichia
  - Anaplasma
More parasites

• Dog tested HW negative at sending shelter, tested HW positive at THS

• Since 2016 THS has adopted out 72 treated HW dogs

• Currently we have 13 HW dogs under treatment

• All HW dogs were transfer ins

Houston
Expect the unexpected (other organizations)

- Canine distemper
- Leishmaniasis
- Rabies
- Lepto
- Lyme
- H3N2

Ixodes scapularis
THS Pearls

• Good communication is essential
• Contacts (infectious disease experts, parasitologists, shelter medicine experts etc.) are invaluable
THS Pearls

• Imperative to maintain strict cohort quarantine & minimize stress and movement

  – Animals are made available from their quarantine and can also be viewed for open selection
THS Pearls

• Currently exploring ways to decrease feline transport stress
  – DS/CC
  – Feliway
  – Same bedding
  – Driver music selection
  – Gabapentin
THS Pearls

- Consider the pathway for each pet before they arrive - ex. If a dog is known to be nervous, or you are taking in an immature/pregnant animal it will prove useful to have a foster parent lined up ahead of time.
How we find partner shelters

- Word of mouth - through other partner shelters, colleagues or conferences
- Petpoint Transfer Network Map
- ASPCA Webinar Chats
- News - especially helpful during times where more urgent transfers are needed ex. Natural disasters
- HSUS EPP page
Things that are useful

- Transfer protocol (used by THS instead of MOU’s).
- Shared immediately with the potential partner.
- Discussion prior to agreeing to partnership.
- Familiarity with CBSA + CFIA commercial animal import laws.
  - Advance Ruling Letter.
  - ‘Authority to Act as an Agent’ law - staff or custom agents are only allowed to import animals - no volunteers.
  - Puppies? Rarely allowed under 8 months of age.
# Intake Transfer Checklist

## Sending Shelter
- Medically assessed
- Behaviourally assessed (if needed)
- Vaccinated at intake
- Treated for external parasites and dewormed
- Tick treatment and tick check 24-48 hrs. before transport
- All animals identified with collar, tag or chip
- Cats FeLV/FIV tested if communally housed

## Communication
- Contact person identified
- Postpone transfer if infectious disease outbreak
- Medical records received 48 hrs. in advance of transport
- Medical records entered into PetPoint by VA prior to arrival
- Transfer Board updated
- Transfers with potential ringworm lesions must be approved
- Medical or behavioural case approval obtained if relevant

## THS
- Intake time and staff scheduled to allow immediate examination
- Quarantine housing prepared
- Maximum of one transfer per 48 hour period
- Be familiar with infectious diseases that may be introduced and ensure provision for their treatment and diagnosis
- Contact medical and management staff at source shelter if unusual or unusually severe or prevalent infectious disease in cohort
Toronto Humane Society Post Transfer Report

Completed by: Larisa
Date Report Submitted: Jan 16/18

Transfer Description: North Bay Humane Society
Date of Transport: January 4/18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># Animals Transported:</th>
<th>9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Animals with Issues:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Animals with Issues:</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Animals Adopted:</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North Bay Humane Society
January 4/18

![Bar chart showing the number of animals transported, with issues, and adopted.

Name of Animal | List all NON-APPROVED diseases, health issues, behavior issues, etc. | Causes | Notes
--- | --- | --- | ---
Mokey, Margaret, Noel, Puddy, Joy have all been adopted
Houdini, King and Cindy Crawford are all available for adoption

UPDATES
DO YOU NEED A DOG IMPORT PERMIT?

Know the difference between commercial and personal imports.

WHAT IS A PERSONAL IMPORT?
The import of a dog (regardless of age) that is personally owned by a Canadian resident as a pet or as a service dog that is accompanied by the person to whom the dog is assigned.

WHAT IS A COMMERCIAL IMPORT?
The import of a dog for sale, adoption, breeding, show, exhibition, scientific research, or animal welfare organizations.

Is this a personal or commercial import?

COMMERCIAL
Is your dog younger than 8 months?

YES
A permit is required.*

NO
No permit is required for dogs 8 months or older.

PERSONAL
No permit is required.

 HOW TO REQUEST A PERMIT
1. Start the process at least 30 days before the dog is imported.
2. Download the import permit application: CFIA/ACIA 5083.
3. Send your completed application to the CFIA’s Centre of Administration for Permissions.

If you have any questions regarding this process, contact the CFIA Animal Health District Office in your province or the province where you will be importing the dog.

Dogs brought into Canada on behalf of an animal welfare organization are classified as commercial. Rescue dogs destined for adoption are also considered commercial for import purposes.

Dogs are not allowed to enter Canada if they look sick or have a disease that can spread to others.

DYK:
Import permits cannot be issued after dogs have arrived in the country.

Additional dog import requirements may apply (e.g., inspection fees, taxes, duties, rabies vaccination data, advance notice, rabies documentation, vaccinations etc.).

If you are importing or travelling with a dog, review the complete list of import requirements on the CFIA’s website or the Automated Import Enrolment System before travelling.

Learn more:
inspection.gc.ca/pets
Things we’ve learned

• When to ‘let go’ vs ‘when to continue’ partnerships.

• Issues and benefits of using an intermediary

• Resource-intensive. Can cost money and time to have a successful transport. Unexpected issues are likely.
Bee Bee

Pick up in Buffalo

Arrival at THS

Settling into THS

Adoption!
Hey {user->first_name},

Wowwee! You have successfully created your Checkout 51 account and are 100% ready to start earning Cash Back.

Get Started

If you did not make a request to join Checkout 51, you can ignore this email.

Please do not reply to this automated email.
Paz and Jordan
Resources

• Society of Animal Welfare Administrators Companion Animal Transport Best Practice
  • [http://www.sawanetwork.org/page/Bestpractice](http://www.sawanetwork.org/page/Bestpractice)

• ASPCApro Relocation and Transport
  • [https://www.aspcapro.org/adoption-placement/relocation-transport](https://www.aspcapro.org/adoption-placement/relocation-transport)

• ASV Guidelines for Standard of Care in Animal Shelters

• Canine Importation Working Group Recommendations

• Keeping Animals in Transfer Programs Healthy
  Scarlett, J DVM PhD, May/June 2007, Animal Sheltering