

## NH Fed Transport Guidelines updates 2020

The New Hampshire Federation of Humane Organizations (NHFHO) recognizes that many of our member organizations participate in relocation or importation programs that bring animals destined for euthanasia into New Hampshire from other states. The following guidelines are supported by the AVMA's Relocation Best Practices document (<https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/AWF-TransportAdoptionBestPractices.pdf>) and provide specific guidance relative to NH Fed practices.

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Know who you are dealing with. Establish a working relationship with every agency from which animals are accepted and have an established MOU with each agency.
- The NHFHO is not opposed to providing assistance to agencies, however, cautions member organizations to avoid shifting a problem from one part of the country to another.
- NH shelters should work with transporting organizations to build a collaborative, long-term relationship to end euthanasia based on time or space.
- The NHFHO recognizes that the risk of infectious disease differs by geographic location and by local resources. Member organizations should consider local conditions including infectious and zoonotic diseases, when establishing relationships with transfer partners. This may include an awareness of local endemic diseases and a discussion with transfer partners for how to mitigate risks of transporting infected animals.

### GENERAL AND MEDICAL PRE-TRANSPORT GUIDELINES:

- No animal should be scheduled for relocation/importation unless a valid health certificate accompanies the animal in accordance with NH state law. All information pertaining to the animal will be completed correctly by the veterinarian, certifying that the animal is free from visual evidence of contagious and infectious disease.
  - This includes but is not limited to: respiratory infections, and gastrointestinal infections, and internal and external parasites.
- No animal shall be transported under the age of eight weeks of age.
- No animal shall be transported if they are currently receiving any medications for infectious conditions or communicable disease.
- Dogs and cats aged 12 weeks or older must be vaccinated for Rabies in accordance with New Hampshire State law 437:10 and have an accompanying Rabies certificate.
- Dogs and cats must be inoculated against other common viral diseases in accordance with veterinary guidelines for age including DHPP/DHPP-L/DA2PP and Bordetella +/- Parainfluenza for dogs, and FVRCP for cats.
  - Initial Vaccines must be current and administered no less than 7 days prior to transport.
  - See vaccination guidelines for dogs and cats at <https://www.aaha.org/aaha-guidelines/vaccination-canine-configuration/vaccination-recommendations--shelter-housed-dogs/> and at <https://catvets.com/guidelines/practice-guidelines/feline-vaccination> respectively.
- All animals must have a negative fecal test within 10 days prior to transport.

- All dogs must have a negative heartworm test. Each dog's medical paperwork should document the type of heartworm test used (antigen, direct smear, Knott's, etc.) The American Heartworm Society recommends both microfilaria and antigen testing as the routine heartworm screening test. <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/veterinary-resources/american-heartworm-society-guidelines>
- All cats should have a negative FELV/FIV test.
- Animals may be screened for contagious skin conditions before transport. This may include negative skin scrapes on any animal with suspicious lesions.
- Cats should be screened as carriers or active cases of ringworm before transport. A negative Wood's lamp examination (before transport or at local intake) and the absence of clinical signs are recommended prior to transport.
- Only safe dogs that are temperamentally sound should be considered for transport.
- The NH organization must review paperwork on animals prior to relocation/importation to ensure profile and medical accuracy.

#### ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES:

Animal safety and humane treatment for the entire journey must be guaranteed. The ability to house animals comfortably, sequestered in appropriate kennels – separately – unless paired from litters is imperative. Furthermore, minimizing travel stress on animals is critical. The NHFHO expects members to ensure that all transporters comply with all USDA applicable regulations regarding animal comfort, safety, handling, and disease control including but not limited to:

- Regular accommodations must be made for food and water breaks for all animals.
- Animals must be individually identified in a reliable and safe manner during transport.
- Correct climate control and proper ventilation must be maintained within the vehicle or plane.
- Animals must arrive at the receiving destination during usual operating hours or at a time agreed upon by the recipient and transporter.
- If using wire crates, a visual barrier between the crates is recommended to prevent airborne pathogen transmission, animal touching/injury, and stress.
- Appropriate cleanliness of animals and housing must be maintained. The ability to clean in transit and before next use with proper disinfectants to prevent transmission of diseases including parvo, distemper, and calicivirus is critical. Sanitizing and disinfecting solutions must be prepared in accordance with company standards and be used according to directions on labels.

#### POST-TRANSPORT GUIDELINES

- All animals must be quarantined in accordance with NH state law upon arrival.
  - Quarantine space must be separate from other animals.
- Once at the receiving facility and prior to adoption, all animals should be preventatively treated and/or tested for intestinal parasites using a veterinarian approved protocol.
- Animals must receive an in-house evaluation upon arrival to screen for infectious disease and other immediate medical needs. Any necessary follow-up treatments and examinations must occur within a reasonable timeframe.

- All dogs and cats should be surgically altered prior to adoption.
- Member organizations must maintain statistical data for all incoming animals including disposition factors, placement locale etc., reporting these numbers annually to the NHFHO and other agencies as required.
- Any transferred animal from out of state must receive a NH Health Certificate in accordance with state law and prior to adoption.
- Organizations should provide information to adopters about unique infectious disease risks in transported animals, in addition to any general adoption information provided.