



New Hampshire Federation of Humane Organizations
www.nhfho.org

NHFHO Relocation/Importation Procedural Guidelines
November 2015

The New Hampshire Federation of Humane Organizations (NHFHO) recognizes that some of our member organizations have initiated relocation or importation programs that bring healthy, adoptable animals destined for euthanasia, into New Hampshire from other states. The following guidelines are recommended when employing this practice:-

- No animal should be scheduled for relocation/importation unless a valid health certificate, signed by a licensed, USDA certified veterinarian, accompanies the animal. All information pertaining to the animal will be completed correctly by the accredited veterinarian, certifying that the animal is free from visual evidence of contagious and infectious disease and include the license. This includes but is not limited to: kennel cough, respiratory infections, and gastrointestinal infections, 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 acute or 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.
- All dogs and cats must be inoculated against common canine and feline viral diseases within accordance with veterinary guidelines for age. Vaccines must be current and administered no less than 7 days prior to transport. Dogs shall have appropriate DHPP/DHPP-L/DA2PPV and Bordetella vaccinations. Cats shall have appropriate FVRCP vaccination(s).
- Parasite treatment – all animals are to have a **negative fecal test** prior to transport. Once at the receiving facility and prior to adoption, all animals should be preventatively treated for internal parasites (roundworms, whipworms, hookworms) using a veterinarian approved protocol.
- All dogs must have a negative heartworm test.
- All dogs and cats should be surgically altered prior to adoption.
- All felines must have a negative FELV/FIV test.

GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORT

- Review all paperwork on animals prior to relocation/importation to ensure profile and medical accuracy.
- Know who you are dealing with – establish a working relationship with every agency from which animals are accepted.
- 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.
- NHFHO strongly urges participating organizations use every available resource to ensure that relocated/imported animals are spayed or neutered before placement.
- Only safe dogs that are temperamentally sound should be considered for transport.

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. All methods of transport must provide the following to ensure the safe and humane handling of each animal in transit.

- Regular accommodations must be made for food and water breaks. Opportunity for bathroom breaks necessary for land transports. Clean housing unit at all times regardless of method of transport.
- Animals must wear identification tags or collars fit to size.
- Concern for stress of confinement based on length of journey
- Correct climate control and proper ventilation within the vehicle or plane
- Animals arrive at receiving destination during usual operation hours *or* at an agreed upon time.
- If using wire crates, mindfulness of spacing for prevention of disease transmission and the ability for dogs to touch, sneeze on or bite each other while confined. A visual barrier between the crates to achieve this is highly recommended.
- Appropriate cleanliness is to be provided. The ability to clean in transit and before next use with proper disinfectants approved for animal shelters that sanitize and disinfect for transmissible disease such as parvo, distemper, calici virus is critical. Sanitizing and disinfecting solutions must be prepared in accordance with company standards and be used according to directions on label.
- NH shelters will work with transporting organizations to build a collaborative, long-term relationship to end euthanasia based on time or space.

POST TRANSPORT PROCEDURE

- All animals must be quarantined in accordance with NH state law.
- Quarantine space must be separate from other animals
- Prophylactic deworming performed at intake
- In-house medical evaluation conducted upon arrival with any follow up treatments started immediately
- Maintain tracking and statistical data for all incoming animal analysis on disposition factors, placement locale etc., reporting these numbers annually to the NHFHO and other agencies as required by law.
- Any transferred animal from out of state will receive a NH Health Certificate in accordance with state law and prior to adoption.

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