



NorCal Boxer Rescue Transport Guidelines

Rev 2.1

1/14/2016

We appreciate your assistance in transporting our boxers. It requires a number of dedicated transporters to get our dogs to foster care. We pull from shelters from Redding to Bakersfield (and occasionally further South), so getting our boxers from the shelter to the vet is often difficult. Further, our veterinarians and foster homes are spread throughout Northern California so that transport can also be extended. Without your assistance, we could not save these precious boxers – remember, we average pulling one boxer from a shelter every 2.5 days, so it keeps us all busy!

The following guidelines are undoubtedly not complete. They are the start of identifying policy that will help with transport decisions. If something comes up that is not covered in these guidelines, please let the Transport Coordinator know so we can update the document.

Generally:

- Vehicles should be enclosed and secure. Please do not transport in the back of an open truck. Never let a dog hang its head out of a moving vehicle.
- Never leave animals unattended in a parked vehicle.
- Please use crates whenever possible. Using crates helps calm nervous dogs and allows for a safer and less stressed transport for both the driver and the dogs.
- If more than one dog is being transported at the same time, at least one has to be crated or behind a barrier. The only exception is for puppies from the same litter, a nursing mom, or when known dogs with a history of living together are traveling together.
- We have no personal knowledge of the dogs we are transporting. In addition, they are under a great deal of stress caused by being in a shelter, followed by the transport process. **Bringing children with you could put the child and/or the dog at risk. If you must bring children with you, please do not allow them to handle the dogs, get close to them, or walk them on leashes.**
- NEVER bring your own dogs along on a transport! It is stressful for the rescued dog(s) being transported, and you increase the chance for spread of any possible germs/disease between animals.
- Stressed dogs can behave in ways they might not ordinarily behave. Never put your face down to a strange dog or suddenly grab it, especially near the neck or tail area. Avoid sudden moves, especially those involving raised arms and hands.
- 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.
- When delivering a dog from the shelter to an NCBR vet, please do not give your personal phone number as a contact. All NCBR vets have the contact information for our Medical Coordinator, who is the next point of contact after a dog has been delivered. If asked by desk staff for a contact number, please respond by telling them to put Karen Heald (Medical Director) as the contact.

- If you notice behaviors in the dog that you are transporting that cause you concern, please notify the transport coordinator regarding your observations. When communicating, describe the behavior but do not “label” the behavior. That is, identify what the dog did but do not add your conclusions about what that means.

Good Items to Have on Hand for Transport

This will all fit into a small bucket, bag or box in your car:

- Newspapers
- Antibacterial hand solution
- Plastic garbage bags for trash/cleanups
- Paper towels
- Cleaning wipes
- Gallon jug of fresh drinking water for dogs to prevent dehydration on long trips
- Disposable small paper bowls for water
- Bag of small dog treats
- 1 or 2 extra leash/collar sets or slip leads
- Extra tarp, blanket or towels.

Shelter & Vet Information

Shelters have high staff turnover and are subject to changing requirements, regulations, and fluctuations in population and schedules. We will try to provide all information necessary to facilitate pickup, but unexpected situations sometimes occur. Transporters are not authorized to pick up extra dogs at the shelter. If the shelter asks you to take an additional dog, please contact the Transport Coordinator and let him/her know about the request. If you are able, please take a picture of the additional dog and forward the photo to tricia@ncbr.org. Tell the shelter that Karen Heald or Deb Wood will be in contact with them about NCBR taking the additional dog.

Sometimes a transport cannot happen for unforeseen reasons. If you are unable to complete a transport, immediately contact the Transport Coordinator.

Veterinarian staff frequently changes. Often, the transporters are the only people who physically visit the vet. Please let the Transport Coordinator know if a situation occurs that makes you uncomfortable at the vet or the shelter.

Contact Information

When responding to a request for transport, please only respond to the person making the request and include your name and phone number with your response. Due to the number of requests for dogs in need and the urgency of those requests, we may not always be able to answer every response, but be assured that we appreciate every volunteer who offers to help.

Transport Coordinator

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Medical Coordinator

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