

# TRANSPORT GUIDELINES



## BEFORE TRANSPORT DAY

- Ensure that you have all of the supplies that you need (or that the SAYv team has ordered supplies that you don't have). The list of needed supplies should be included in your foster or foster-to-adopt approval email. If it isn't, please confirm in your chat (Facebook or text message) so you're ready day of transport.
- Select which room you will use as your isolation area (read more about isolation below).
- Mentally prepare yourself. Transport is often very stressful :( not to mention, some of these animals come from very stressful situations or could have been stuck in a shelter, which has significant negative effects on their behavior, mental state, and trust in humans.
- Confirm the exact date and time of pickup and ensure that you can be there. If you cannot, please notify the SAYv team ASAP and try to find a friend or family member that can help. We do not have a facility, so transport usually arrives at a volunteer's home, or you'll be picking up directly off the transport van.
- If you're fostering or picking up a dog - bonus points if you can bring a slip lead leash! (not required).

## WHAT IS ISOLATION?

7-10 DAYS

Animals coming off of transport (or from the shelter) need to be isolated from resident pets. Meaning, completely separated without any form of contact with your resident pets. Why? Because illnesses can be carried without showing immediate symptoms. Some of these illnesses are easy to treat, like a common cold, while others can be deadly. Please research "parvovirus" if you want to learn more about one of these potential illnesses. Isolation means NO contact. For example, a gate where your foster animal and your resident pets can touch noses is not acceptable. Don't worry, a SIGNIFICANT majority of any illness that a foster pet could have is NOT contagious to humans.

- Any area that your resident pet is staying during isolation should be cleaned as frequently as possible. Ideally you want an area that is not carpeted because some illnesses can linger. Cleaning should be done with a bleach-based solution, or Rescue cleaner (it can be ordered off Amazon). Ensure the area is dry before allowing the animals to touch the area.
- Wash your hands before and after entering the isolation space. Remove socks and/or shoes when. If any bodily fluids got onto your clothing, ensure to remove your clothing.
- You can choose to disregard the isolation period, but please be aware that we are not responsible for any illnesses that your resident pets may contract (with or without isolation SAYv is not liable - check your foster or foster-to-adopt disclosure agreement signed when you submitted your application for more details).

## DAY OF TRANSPORT

- Please be patient while we arrange pick up times and locations. Coordinating transport is SO MUCH work, and no matter how well we think the schedule is laid out... surprises happen. The time of arrival the day of can vary within roughly a 2-3 hour time frame. We understand this isn't convenient, but please understand that we are volunteers trying our best to coordinate a very complex situation.

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## DAY OF (CONTINUED)

- Be sure to check your group chat with the SAYv team (text or Facebook) to stay on top of any applicable updates related to transportation.
- If you're picking up off a transport van in a public area, keep your eyes peeled for the drop off van or vehicle - ask the SAYv team if you're unsure who is transporting or what vehicle you're looking for. Once the van pulls up tell the transporters the name of the animal that you're picking up and say that you're there on behalf of SAYv Animal Organization (pronounced "save").
- Check your foster pet for fleas right when you get home. There are many resources online regarding how to identify and search for fleas. We require flea prevention for transport, but unfortunately some of these animals come from poor conditions (small puppies and kittens can't receive flea meds).
- Give your foster pet a bath when you get back to your house. The only time we are usually able to bathe animals off transport is when we are offloading transport at a volunteers home, and even then, baths are not always possible. You can confirm with the SAYv team via your chat if you're unsure about whether you have to bathe your foster pet. Please use baby soap and go very slow - you don't know how your foster animal(s) will react to being bathed or handled.

## CAT-SPECIFIC

- If you are picking up cats or kittens please bring a carrier. Do NOT try to move a cat from one carrier to another outside of a transport vehicle. Bring the carrier you have into the transport van and close the doors while you move the cat, or bring the carrier off transport and into your vehicle and close the car door before trying to move the cat(s) from one carrier to another.
- Handle carefully at all times and don't be surprised if you hear hissing or see swatting. They are stressed - this behavior is not always indicative of how the cat(s) will be once they've decompressed.
- Ensure that once you're back home that your foster cats have a fresh litter box, food and water right away.

## DOG-SPECIFIC

- If you are picking up dogs or puppies, please bring a leash, harness, and if possible, a crate in your vehicle (sometimes the SAYv team might require that you bring a crate depending on the dog, but either way it might be best while you're driving home). NOTE: SAYv does not allow retractable leashes, prong collars or electric collars.
- Do not have any dogs off leash, or without multiple leashes, collars, harnesses, etc. Do not open any car doors without the leash in your hand. ALL of these dogs should be expected to be a "flight risk" - assume they all want to run away as quickly as possible.
- **If you are fostering a puppy DO NOT allow them to be on the ground in public areas** even if that's where the transport pickup is located (like a public park, parking lot, store, walking around your neighborhood when you're home, etc.). They cannot be in public areas until 2 weeks after their third and final vaccine. Check with the SAYv team for more details if this is unclear.
- Handle carefully and research dog behavior prior to receiving your foster dog. This will help you understand the signals that dogs send - for example, if a dog has its ears back and its tail between its legs, it is very fearful and could potentially react negatively due to fear.
- Once you're back at home make sure your foster doggie or pup gets plenty of water, food and rest. Give them space and time to relax in their isolation area (after the flea check and bath).

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## ADDITIONAL TIPS AND INSIGHT

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- We can't say it enough - animals need TIME and SPACE to decompress. Some of them were dumped by their families, brought to a shelter and sometimes stay there for a long time, then put onto a transport van with 20+ other animals that are barking, hissing and crying for 5-25 hours, then FINALLY they make it off transport. Give them space, give them time. Sometimes the decompression period can take a couple of months.
- Move slow and try to figure out what they like and don't like - don't put your face by their face, don't put your hands in front of their food.
- ALMOST ALL animals have parasitic worms. If age appropriate, most of them with a dewormer prior to transport, but worms and parasites grow in cycles, meaning, just because some are killed with a deworming treatment, others can be developing. Do not worry, if you (and other family members and/or children) do not eat the feces of your foster pet, you won't have to worry about contracting parasites. Wash your hands after cleaning up potty breaks.
- Limit introductions to new people and definitely to children. It's very important to the SAYv team that children are taught to properly handle animals and can do so without hurting, pulling, jumping, riding, etc. Animals are not toys. This is especially critical during the decompression period. Once you do start introducing to new people, do so very slowly and if you have a foster dog, please have a harness and leash on.
- Please take as many photos as possible (clear and well lit during the day!) and keep us posted in your respective chat regarding any and all behavior.

**THANK YOU FOR SAYVING A LIFE!**

**WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT  
YOUR SUPPORT AND COMPASSION.**

