

## **Guidelines for Transporting Rescue Dogs**

To make the trip safer and easier for both you and the dog(s):

1. Make sure you have contact information for the Transport Coordinator, the driver delivering the dog to you and the driver to whom you will deliver the dog. The Transporter Coordinator, as well as the driver before and after you should have your cell number; an emergency contact number; and the color, make and license plate information for your car.
2. Leave your dog safely at home.
3. Fill your gas tank and check your oil and tire pressure. Make sure you have a spare tire and a map in the car.
4. Charge your cell phone and take the automobile charger with you.
5. Depending on the distance of your transport leg, pack drinks or snacks to minimize the need to stop along the route.
6. Pack water, a bowl, a towel and poop disposal bags for each dog you transport.
7. Cover your car floor or seat with a plastic tarp under a blanket, if you anticipate “accidents” from stress or lack of housebreaking.
8. Ask the Transport Coordinator if the dog will be traveling in a crate. If so, ensure that the crate will fit into your car before you accept the assignment. If caught unprepared and faced with a dog in a crate that does not fit – call the Transport Coordinator before you decide to dismantle the crate and allow the dog to roam freely. This may be fine. Or not. Please call.
9. As soon as the transfer is complete and you are on your way with the dog in your car, please tell the Transport Coordinator who will keep the chain of subsequent drivers informed of any changes in the timeline.
10. While transporting a rescue dog, please exercise the utmost care and take no unnecessary chances at rest stops. Do not walk the dog more often or longer than needed. Do not allow strangers to reach into the car, or approach and pet the dog when on leash. Do not encourage the dog to interact or play with other dogs at rest areas. Socialization can wait. Your goal is to get the dog safely transported to the beginning of a new life. Don't risk an escape, a lawsuit or an injury on your way to this dog's future.

11. If you encounter any problem – the dog seems unwell... you are at the meeting point but no one else is there... you are desperate to know where the closest Starbucks is located - call your Transport Coordinator. Whatever the challenge, you've got full support.

Thank you and safe travels.