



Transporting A Foster Dog

BEFORE TRANSPORT

Prior to the transport, learn as much as you can about the dog you will be transporting.

- *Where are they coming from? Where are they going?*
- *What vaccines have they had? Can they be transported in same vehicle with other dogs?*
- *Have they walked on-leash before? Have they been in a vehicle before?*
- *Do they have a bite history or other behavioral concerns?*
- *Are they fearful or skittish? **Are they a flight risk?***
- *Are they recovering from surgery or illness?*
- *What supplies are being sent with the dog? Will they be wearing a collar?*
- *How many pounds is the dog? What size crate to they need?*
- *Do I need to collect or distribute any paperwork during the transport?*

If the dog is being pulled from a shelter, some of these questions won't have answers. Before transport day, please consider what supplies and setup you **might** need to ensure the safety of yourself and the dog. Things don't always go as planned so its good to have options. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator.

WHAT TO BRING

- ✓ **Crate** — The safest way to transport a dog is in a crate. If your vehicle won't allow for a crate, you can tether the dog's harness or collar to a head rest with a leash. Do not allow the new dog to be loose in your car while driving — this isn't safe. Prior to transport, find out whether or not the dog is being sent with a crate. If they aren't, find out what size crate they need.
- ✓ **Martingale collar** — A well-fitting martingale collar is the safest equipment for transport a dog — especially if they are a flight risk or reactive. Please ask the sender or a PNWCDR Supply Coordinator for a martingale collar in the dog's size. If the dog is nervous, please ask the sender or current handler to fit the martingale on the dog before loading them in your vehicle.
- ✓ **Leash** — A regular flat leash around 5-6' to clip on the dog's collar or harness. Please keep the leash on them during transport in case they try to bolt when a dog is open.

- ✓ **Slip lead** — This is good to have if the dog isn't comfortable with being handled for a collar or harness.
- ✓ **High-value treats** — The quickest way to a dog's heart is usually through their stomach. So be sure to bring treats along when picking up a new dog. If the dog is coming off of another transport, getting them to load up in yet another crate or vehicle might be a tough sell. If you can't lure them into the car with treats and they won't let you pick them up, sometimes a pop-top can of cat food will do the trick.
- ✓ **Water** — Especially in the summer months, bring a water bowl and a bottle of water.
- ✓ **Bathmat** — A rubber-backed bathmat is often the best bedding for crates during transport. If the dog has an accident or otherwise destroys it, it can easily be washed or replaced. Walmart usually has a good selection of rubber-backed bathmats. Large ones can be cut to fit crate.
- ✓ **Pee pads** — If you're transporting puppies or young dogs, pee pads are always a good idea. So are dog wipes, disposable gloves and small trash bags — especially during longer transports.
- ✓ **Balance/Roman harness** — If a martingale isn't available. DO NOT use a step-in or Easy Walker type harness; dogs can get out of these too easily.
- ✓ **Flat collar** — If a martingale or harness isn't available.
- ✓ **PNWCDR ID tags** — Ask the volunteer coordinator for PNWCDR ID tags for collars and harnesses.

WHAT TO (MAYBE) NOT BRING

- ✓ **Another dog** — If you're able to keep everyone individually crated and safe, it should be no problem to bring along other (fully vaccinated) dogs on the transport. If the other dog is loose in the vehicle this could be problematic for a stressed out foster dog.
- ✓ **Young kids** — We often don't know how foster dogs will respond to young kids particularly in the confines of a vehicle. Please ensure that you have adequate equipment and adult supervision to keep everybody safe during transport.

DON'T FORGET!

- ✓ Any dog coming from outside the Pacific Northwest will have a health certificate or CVI. Ask the transporter for any additional paperwork as well before they depart.
- ✓ If it's an owner surrender, please ask if the surrender contract has been signed before taking possession of the dog. Owner surrenders often come with gear plus donations (crate, kibble, toys, beds, etc). Talk to the sender and plan ahead.