

**Thank you so much for considering participating in our
Shelter Partners transport trips!**

Since you are considering driving on a transport, we have provided additional information regarding the actual trips.

The van we use is a 2008 Dodge Sprinter XL extra long, extra tall. There is a barrier between the front (driver/passenger seats) and the cargo area. We pack it full! We have found the best set up to include 27-28 crates of various sizes. No special licensing needed, it's a regular van just extra long so doesn't require a CDL or anything else. It takes about 20 minutes of driving to get used to dealing with the side mirrors and not having a particularly useful rearview and no side windows in the back.

In the beginning, many drivers made multiple stops to walk the dogs but quickly realized that the dogs don't really make use of these stops and instead the walks just get the dogs all worked up. Therefore most drivers now stick to one stop, and cut out the walk entirely except for those marked as housebroken.

The transport trips are typically "straight through" trips on the way up, meaning no overnight or significant stops since you have a vanload of dogs--but obviously if the drivers are tired, pulling over and napping is allowed if needed! Safety first! This is a really long trip for the dogs, so we try not to add extra time unless it is completely unavoidable.

We allow 2 additional nights to be added at driver expense. Many people who have considered driving mention wanting to take the time to visit friends/relatives close to the route or just site-see either in New Hampshire or some little side trip in the area or along the way. We do need to know ahead of time if you want to add days. Even without the 2 additional nights, it really is a 4 day trip (leave on day 1, return on day 4).

The shelter provides reimbursement for gas receipts (if you're adding days, we use the AAA gas estimate for the to/from portion to guide us--and our trips to each shelter have been pretty consistent). We also provide 2 nights hotel reimbursement and 4 days reasonable food reimbursement (we don't expect McDonalds every stop, but no \$25 filets on us please!)

Timing for trips goes something like this. Leave SHS shelter at about 9am, and arrive at the first receiving shelter at about 8:15 am the next morning, Then head on to a 2nd shelter(if applicable) about 35 minutes away. We partner with 3 different shelters (and a couple of rescues up there-- but they generally arrange to pick up at the shelters) -- Conway Area Humane Society in Conway, New Hampshire SPCA in Stratham and Humane Society of Greater Nashua in Nashua. We sometimes split loads; most of our trips go to Nashua and Stratham.

At this time, we're basically asking folks to commit to driving dates and we then try to line up a receiving facility in place (the only scheduling issue we have is making sure we

don't overlap the van use). Thus far, they've been pretty much waiting on us to get them there.

As far as logistics go, once we're able to get a trip date in place, we just need to get a few things in place paperwork wise. We have to have a volunteer application (on our site) for each driver, then closer to the trip our controller/accountant will get in touch with the drivers for copies of drivers licenses and whatever else the insurance company needs so we can add you as volunteer drivers on the vehicle. Of course, clean driving records are required or we can't add to the policy.

We do comply with all the transporting requirements (transport health certificates, compliances with New Hampshire's incoming animals requirements, guidelines for sending facilities etc). We've worked hard to get this in place, and honestly never thought drivers would be our issue!

Other questions? Happy to answer them, and thank you so much for considering! All this being said, please think carefully about whether you and your driving partner (friend, spouse, coworker usually) can really commit to the straight through 24-hour trip. Some people really aren't up for it, and its better not to volunteer if you are any less than 100% committed and comfortable with that.