

## I NEED HELP WITH A CAT/DOG

Thank you for reaching out to us. Please read through the following information regarding rehoming (or finding a home for) an animal via START's Transport Program.

### **START Rescue saves animals' lives through transport and spay & neuter.**

START Rescue's Transport Program (for the most part) involves transporting animals from overcrowded Southern California shelters to our highly vetted and contracted receiving rescue partners in Oregon and Washington States, who have both the capacity and the demand for rescue pets. *\*Please note that we do not transport privately for pay to any non-partner rescue groups or outside of this regional route.*

The way our transports work is that we send a "plea" to our receiving rescue partners up North introducing them to each animal we are trying to save. The majority of the animals we send are from the California overflowing, high-kill shelters. Our receiving rescue partners then select animals (most suited) they can take in at that time. Once those animals arrive there, the receiving rescue partners work diligently to find each one a great and most suitable home.

### **IF YOU NEED HELP WITH AN ANIMAL IN NEED:**

If you have a dog or cat that needs rescue (whether you are, or are not affiliated with a shelter) we may be able to help you to re-home that animal (or animals) via our TRANSPORT PROGRAM, but it will depend on:

- 1) Whether one of our receiving rescue partners has availability to take in your animal(s).
- 2) You being able to commit to the necessary steps to use our Transport Program in order to get your animal(s) selected and prepared, and to the load-up for transport.

We understand this is NOT easy. It requires a lot of work to rescue even a single animal and it truly takes a village!

## HOW TO GET YOUR ANIMALS NETWORKED TO RESCUE GROUPS & GET THEM PREPARED FOR TRANSPORT IF THEY ARE ACCEPTED/ SELECTED

### IN SUMMARY...

- 1) **The dog must be both dog- and people-friendly.** (We WILL need to see video as proof.) **If the animal is a cat, it must not be feral.**
- 2) You will need to provide a bio for the animal for us to share with our partner rescue groups and be ready to provide numbers 3 and 4 below **very quickly** if your animal is accepted.
- 3) If the dog is not already in your possession, you will be responsible for immediately getting the dog out of the shelter or situation and kept safe until the transport.
- 4) You will be responsible for vetting the animal. There are legal paperwork requirements that **MUST** be met. These include:
  - A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) that includes a rabies shot, vaccines, and a heartworm negative test along with the CVI.
- 5) You will need to be able to bring the animal to one of the load-up locations at the required time and place in California on the day of transport. *\*Note: Our transports occur once a month on the second Wednesday of that month.* You will need to have copies of the animal's paperwork from number 4 above, in hand.

We know it's a lot of work (trust us, we know!), but saving lives REALLY does take a village, and there are hundreds of animals in need right now. If you believe you are able to do the above (**you rock!**), **open the attached doc** for DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS of the above summary.

## **TRANSPORT PROGRAM – DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS**

**\*\*Please note that we only transport dogs that are good with other dogs AND people!! If the animal is not, we will bring it back to you.**

**\*\*Please note that if you are sending a BIO/PLEA for a dog, the assumption is that you will have the dog safe and sound somewhere until transport, and that you will be able to follow the instructions below to provide a bio/plea and the vetting, and bring the animal to the Transport load-up.**

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING!***

**1. CREATE A BIO/PLEA INSTRUCTIONS** (Please ALSO see the BIO/PLEA SAMPLE on the next page).

**Here are the instructions for creating the Bio/Plea (sample on next page).**

In **ONE** e-mail please provide the following information (EVERYTHING must be included in the body of your e-mail; otherwise, we will resend this instruction form back to you without forwarding your plea to our receiving groups. It's just too confusing for us to get 100+ bios piecemeal!)

### **WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR ANIMAL'S BIO/PLEA -**

- A. A statement that YOU can get the animal to one of our load-up locations on Transport day with proof of vaccinations and a health certificate. If so, please state in your plea ***"I will make all arrangements to get the dog pulled and to the load-up with all necessary vaccinations and health certificate at my expense."***
  
- B. Video Proof that the dog is good with people and dogs. If the dog doesn't have a verified history with other dogs, please arrange for the dog to be temp tested properly (dog-to-dog interaction by someone with experience), and please film a video so we can send it to our Transport partners. A video uploaded to YouTube is also preferable (no Facebook links, please), particularly with the dog interacting with other dogs. (Remember we need to send this information to our receiving rescue partners to see if one of them is interested in the dog.) **If the animal is a cat**, evidence that the cat is not feral. For example a photo of the cat being held or being pet.
  
- C. Tell the animal's story AND provide pictures. Be sure to include...
  - Breed
  - Gender
  - Approx Age
  - Size/Weight

- Spay/Neutered?
  - Health of the animal. Describe any health issues.
- D. Mention who is responsible for the animal. \*\*\*If this dog is misrepresented and gets returned by our receiving rescue partner, this person would be responsible for the animal and finding new placement.

### **SAMPLE BIO/PLEA**

**Please follow THIS general format/concept:**

*I will make all arrangements to get the dog pulled and to the load-up with all necessary vaccinations and health certificate at my time and expense. If this dog ends up being aggressive and the group can't keep, then he/she can come back to me and I will get him/her training and find a good, loving, responsible home.*

*He/she has been around lots of other dogs and is good with everyone--all dogs and people. We don't know about cats. He/she is healthy other than needing a dental, and is already neutered/spayed.*

*I have included pictures, and a YouTube link of him/her with other dogs.*

#### **MEET CHUCK!**

*My name is CHUCK and I am a neutered, male, spaniel mix. I was living with a loving family but they have lost their home during the pandemic and can no longer care for me. I love all the other dogs I meet and I love people. I am a big kisser and have a lot of fun energy. I am about 5 years old but feel like a puppy. My teeth are a bit dirty, but that doesn't keep me from smiling. I am in great health and am thankful for that!*

#### **PHOTOS**

#### **VIDEOS**

*\*\*If you would like to offer a donation to the receiving group, please say how much in the plea. This will sometimes help persuade a group to say yes since it helps with the care of the animal you are sending and expenses associated with rescuing animals.*

## **MY ANIMAL WAS SELECTED. WHAT'S NEXT?**

Once we receive the information, it will be forwarded to our rescue partners. If the dog is accepted into one of the rescues, we will require the following from you:

### **1. A RESERVATION (immediately please)**

To reserve a crate for transport, we need information from you in THIS FORMAT:

**Group Going To:** WOOF WOOF

**Dog and breed or markings:** DELILAH - PIT BULL

**Shelter or situation from:** E. VALLEY SHELTER

**Person bringing dog to load-up** (please include email and phone number): WENDY  
xxx-xxx-xxxx

**Crate size:** Use the crate names from the **CRATE LIST** below.

**Sharing a crate with anyone?** Sibling SAM

**Weight:** 100 LBS

**Age:** 2 years old

**ID#** (or list name again): A1383973

**Load up location:** GORMAN

If this animal does not work out at the rescue I am sending him/her to, I will take him/her back on your next transport. He/she will not go back to the shelter and I will be responsible for finding him/her a good suitable home.

### **CRATE LIST NAMES (based on sizes):**

Please let us know what crate is best for your animal based on the animal's size. The animal should be able to stand up and turn around in the crate. Please indicate the crate name in the reservation.

#### **WxLxH**

16x22x16 - Crate Name: "terrier" - up to 10ish lbs

18x28x20 Crate Name: "cocker"

20x29x22 Crate Name: "cocker/pit"

21x34.5x23 Crate Name: "pit"

25x36x27 Crate Name: "small shepherd"

23.9x40x29 Crate Name: "shepherd" not more than 80 lbs

32x48x35 Crate Name: "Dane"

**(Please DO NOT say small, medium, large when reserving a crate. We have given you specific crate names for our crate sizes.)**

## **2. VETTING and PAPERWORK:**

If your animal is selected for transport, you will need to get the dog vetted. This means a health certificate from a vet (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) (litters of puppies and puppies with their mamas can all be on one health cert, but they have to be listed individually). The certificate must verify the animal(s) are up date on shots (rabies and vaccines) as age appropriate. If your dog is selected by a group in Washington State, the vet also will need to provide a clean heartworm test result.

**All paperwork must be emailed to our Transport Coordinator prior to the transport.** An additional copy of the paperwork must accompany the dog on the day of transport. All paperwork must be in a large Ziploc bag with the name of the dog and where he/she is going written on the front in sharpie.

## **3. TRANSPORT LOAD-UP**

You or your designated person must bring the dog AND HIS/HER PAPERWORK to the load-up site on the date of transport. (You will receive a detailed email with transport information.) You will also receive a crate number.

If the dog gets adopted, becomes sick, or is exposed to distemper or parvo prior to the transport, **YOU MUST LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY. Spots on our transports are precious.** If a dog does not make it on transport and we are not notified ahead of time, you will lose your privilege to get another dog on transport. We must be able to fill all crates. **A wasted spot costs another dog his/her life.**

**\*\*START IS A MEANS OF TRANSPORT, NOT A RESCUE.** If the dog you put on transport is returned because of aggression or misrepresentation, then you agree to take responsibility for the dog and he/she will be **RETURNED TO YOU.**

*S.T.A.R.T. wants to help as many animals as possible journey to new lives. We can only do that with your cooperation. S.T.A.R.T. transported over 1600 dogs this past year and as long as protocols are followed, we will continue to do this important work for the animals in shelters!*

*Thank You!*