

Organizing a transport:

Community residents should be notified at least a week before where/when pickups will take place.

Let every home know by having someone go door to door. In the absence of being able to get to each home, make sure fliers are posted in prominent places for at least a week before the clinic to notify people of the time and location of the pickup and what services will be offered.

Have a local phone whereby people can schedule a space in the transport. Knowing how many animals are being transported will help the planning immensely.

If on a reservation, a health worker who gets into outlying communities may be able to help get notices to homes.

In small communities, handouts can be sent home with every fourth grader in the local schools.

If pulling a trailer behind a pick-up truck with a camper shell on the back, put cats in the shell and dogs in the trailer.

Plan the transport early so as to be able to make adjustments. For example, a small load of animals may be able to be picked up in a station wagon while a much larger group requires more planning and possibly a borrowed trailer.

For example:

- **If there are only five to ten animals, the carriers may fit nicely in a small cargo or mini-van, but**
- **If there are more than that you'll need a large van stock trailer, but**
- **If there are only 15 to 20 carriers in a stock trailer that is able to hold 40 to 50 carriers...**
- **Include a neighboring community as well. Make the most of the labor and resources!**

Notes from our experiences...

Transport is labor intensive and requires taking responsibility for animals under challenging conditions. Additionally, our goal is halting pet overpopulation solely. **We transport only for spay or neutering and not for vaccines only.** If need be, planning a local vaccine clinic later on in the community is safer and more convenient.

Like all else in planning a M*A*S*H program, underused services will waste gas money, but making lots of trips with a smaller vehicle, or leaving some animals out because there is no room for them, is counter to your goals and budget.

Knowing ahead of time where pick-ups are requested enables organizers to plan the load as wisely as possible.