

Transporting to a M*A*S*H Clinic

If the M*A*S*H clinic will serve a large area, plan how pets will get from the surrounding area to the clinic. If a driver from an outlying community can pick up multiple pets, that's great! If not, a mass transit will likely be needed.

Transport must be part of the planning and must be considered in the budget.

Transport will not be successful without good outreach beforehand.

Make sure residents know the transport is coming! **The local host is responsible for outreach including newspaper, radio, Facebook.**

Transport supplies

- Clam shell style carriers, (not folding wire cages)
- Tape, duct or masking
- Permanent markers, red and black
- **Check-in forms**
- Pens
- Leashes
- Spray bottles of cleaner
- Water, paper bowls and emergency supplies for the animals in case of vehicle problems
- Paper towels
- Plastic ties in case an owners' carrier is missing bolts.

If using volunteer transporters, make sure the vehicles are a safe choice. Air-conditioned or heated vans, large SUVs or other large vehicles are the safest.

If stock trailers are used, early morning and evening may be the only safe times to transport in hot weather. Open vehicles such as stock trailers are not appropriate in very cold weather.

If possible, pick up pets in the evening, bring them to the clinic site and provide an evening meal and water. Surgery will be the following morning (separate fasting instructions for pets under 16 weeks).

Pets go home after recovering from surgery. If an open vehicle is being used, the time of the return trip will be based on the weather. Animals are returned home with commercial pet food, aftercare instructions, their rabies certificate and health care tips.



Making the “run”...

Make sure there are a sufficient number of carriers. Cages in use in the clinic may house two different animals in one day, however carriers used for transport will be tied up for one animal for 24 hours.

Label each transport cage using permanent markers on duct or heavy duty masking tape. Write the same number on the carrier and the paperwork.

The paperwork for each animal will be filled out and signed by the owner, and all paperwork will be placed in a large envelope (with the driver) until arrival at the clinic. Taping the paperwork to the carrier in transport usually results in a mess and confusion.

Numbering each form and carrier ensures the correct paperwork is reunited with the correct animal.

Keep a list of every animal on the transport so no one is left off the return run (something that causes an extra trip to be made).

Each carrier should have the owners’ last name, the animals’ name and the name or initials of the community the animal will be returned to and a large letter “T” (for transport) **in color** so that those at the clinic know that this carrier contains an animal that is in a transport group.

If you are picking up animals from multiple communities in one run, write a designation on the tape noting which community the animal came from.

And have a great transport!

