

Organizing a transport:

Notifying communities where pick ups will take place is the first step. This should include letting every home know by having someone go door to door. In the absence of being able to get to each home, make sure a flyer is posted in prominent places for at least a week before the clinic to notify people of the time and location of the pick up and what services will be offered.

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

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



If possible, have a local phone whereby people can schedule a space in the pick up. Knowing how many animals you will pick up will help the planning immensely.

Plan the transport early enough to be able to make adjustments as 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 that borrowed trailer.

For example,

- **If there are only five to ten animals, they may fit nicely on a full size bed pick up truck, but...**
- **If there are more than that you'll need a stock trailer, but if there are only 15 to 20 in a stock trailer that is able to hold 40 to 50 carriers...**
- **Consider planning to continue the trip and pick up animals in a community near the first one.**

You may be able to bunch two or three neighboring housing areas in one pick-up and delivery, bringing a large number of animals in one svelte swoop!

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 do not transport animals that folks want to send for vaccines only.** 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, over planning 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. We try to learn where pick-ups are requested and plan the load as wisely as possible.