



# HOMELESS - HOUNDS

Help Us To Help Them - [www.homelesshounds.org.uk](http://www.homelesshounds.org.uk)

## TRANSPORT RISKS AND PRECAUTIONS

Stressed animal:	Assume all animals are suffering from stress of travel, meeting new people and animals. Give each animal a short walk and access to water at each transport spot. Handle gently. Turn on heat or air conditioning as needed. Do not take any children or pets on transport runs. Stressed animals may bite!
Sick animal:	If an animal becomes ill on-route contact the emergency telephone number provided on the transport sheet.
Transport run not properly communicated:	All transport runs to be covered by transport schedule. Schedule to be issued to first transporter and dogs signed over to HH. Transport schedule to travel with dogs and copy of schedule handed to receiving rescue. All transporters to be emailed contact details for all volunteers involved in transport run.
The relay schedule falls behind:	Plan your time carefully. Socializing during transfers is common, but try to focus on the task at hand. If the transport is running late, shorten your time if you can safely.
Vehicle breakdown, causing delay of transport:	Keep your vehicle in excellent repair. Contact the emergency contact telephone number provided and next transporters in chain if you experience a problem.
Getting lost on the way to and from the transport points causing delay of transport:	Use a GPS, programmed in advance. Recruit a friend to navigate. Use a map. Carry your mobile phone.
Escape of a stressed animal, who could potentially be run over in traffic:	Check collars to ensure a close fit. Before unloading, ensure leashes have not been chewed through, which leads to escape. Keep animals leashed, tethered or crated at all times. Put your hand through the leash loop and grasp the leash firmly. Don't leave uncrated, untethered, or tethered animals in vehicles with open windows or hatches. Remember a tethered animal next to an open window may jump out and hang to death!
Escaped animal is difficult to capture:	Most transport animals will not respond to their names or come on command. If an animal has escaped, IMMEDIATE action is required by all transport drivers to capture the animal. This is a very difficult situation. Study methods that professionals use to capture animals. Use treats to lure the animal, sit on the ground and coax playfully, run in the other direction playfully. Remember, chasing can be the worst choice of action.
Speeding ticket and delay of transport:	Arrive at pickup point 30 minutes in advance and leave on time. Homeless Hounds will not accept responsibility for any speeding or parking fines incurred.
Dogs escape during transportation:	Crate animals or use specially-designed seat belts and harnesses. Do not leave any dogs untethered.
Accident due to inattentive driving resulting in injury or death of some or all passengers:	Have phone numbers entered into your phone. Keep animals crated or tethered at all times. Get someone to ride with you to help monitor the animals and make calls. NOTE: your vehicle insurance may not cover injuries to animals riding in your vehicle under these circumstances. Check with your insurance company.

Interruption of climate control, causing discomfort or danger to passengers during extreme weather:	Keep your vehicle in excellent repair.
Car-sickness:	Don't feed treats to transport animals. Keep spray cleaner and towels handy. Pull to the side of the road to perform cleanups. Do not be a distracted driver!
Fighting between animals:	Use crates to keep animals secure and separated. Keep animals separated at all times unless you have been informed that they are ok to travel together. Listen to comments from previous transporters / collection point to learn of any issues between dogs.
Injury to a struggling dog or cat during handling (falls, etc):	Learn safe handling techniques and grip firmly. Always be observant, deliberate and mindful. Let the previous driver transfer the animal into your vehicle because the animal is likely to be more trusting of the known driver.
You get scratched or otherwise injured:	Be knowledgeable of animal behaviour and handling techniques. Be careful at all times. You don't know the animals and they don't know you. Most are very sweet but accidents can happen. The animals are stressed. Animals are often transported direct from the pound and have undergone little or no assessment. It is therefore imperative to keep animals separate and calm during transportation. If you do not have the experience or do not feel confident transporting un-assessed animals inform HH prior to volunteering.
Damage to your vehicle from chewing or use of claws:	Accept responsibility for the care of your vehicle. Assume the animals will be under stress from which chewing and pawing manifest occasionally. The rescue and transport coordinator can't assume repair costs from damage during your transport. The animals are not the responsible parties in this situation either. If you use crates and take all appropriate care, damage to your vehicle is unlikely.
Theft of animals:	NOTE: impromptu adoptions by transporters will be considered theft of animals. Don't leave your vehicle unattended. Fill your gas tank before meeting at the transport point. Don't use a Rest Stop unless you have a helper to stay with the vehicle.
Muscle strain of shoulders or back:	Know your physical limits and proper lift techniques. Assess size of dogs being transported prior to volunteering and know your limits.
Animals are delivered to substandard rescues or even hoarders:	Review information about the receiving rescue online, and speak with your coordinator if you have concerns.