Animal Transport – A True Life-Saving Option

Thanks to our generous donors, DAWG is in the process of beefing up our resources and building what we hope will be a robust transport program to out-of-state destination shelters up north. Why transport? The reality is owner surrenders are out of control and stray animals continue to be community problems. The Denison City Pound is small and stays full, the DAWG House is nearly always at capacity, and our foster homes are limited and stay full.

In order to save as many lives as possible, DAWG volunteers work with several rescue partners and destination shelters. Our Transport Coordinator spends numerous hours seven days a week juggling requests, dog histories, records and permits and we’re just getting started!

Do we send only DAWG dogs? No. DAWG is very fortunate to partner with area rescue groups such as Red River SPCA, Durant Animal Rescue Alliance, and volunteers who work diligently to assist dogs in small community pounds like Bonham. Many of our transported dogs come from them. Why do we do this? DAWG dogs often get adopted prior to their scheduled transport or they don’t fit the criteria for a specific transport.

Each destination shelter has its own requirements – many cannot take pit bulls, pit bull mixes or anything that looks like a pit bull. Many can only accept dogs that test negative for heartworms. Several can only take dogs of a certain size. Most cannot take dogs with behavioral or medical difficulties. Some require that dogs be out of a city pound for at least two weeks prior to their transport date.

Our community support has no boundaries and every dog we save from our area, including from other groups, allows those groups to reciprocate and assist DAWG with foster help, with drivers and vehicles, and in many other ways. Every space opened up in a local pound or foster home by a transport means another dog gets a chance to be saved. It’s a lot of work but is also a labor of love for everyone involved.

Important for all our supporters to know is DAWG only transports to bona-fide Humane Society or SPCA locations that have more adopters than available dogs. How can they have more adopters than dogs? Probably the number one reason is the areas accepting our dogs have stringent spay/neuter laws. We do not transport to individuals or any questionable group. DAWG is an accepted source shelter for the ASPCA and has begun participating in regularly scheduled transports.

How can you help? Many of you already have through your generous donations, your time, and your willingness to foster -- we appreciate you! Everyone is invited to join our efforts. If you have the ability to temporarily foster a dog waiting for adoption or transport, we'd love to hear from you.