

# TRANSPORT

## Frequently Asked Questions

*If during or after any transport you have concerns or questions about the dog contact the Foster Home Coordinator, Debbie Lipcsey at 804 690-9157 (cell), 804 457-3445 (home) or email [springerfarm@aol.com](mailto:springerfarm@aol.com).*

### **WHAT IS A TRANSPORT?**

A transport is the process of moving a dog either from a shelter to a foster home or from a foster home to his/her new adoptive home. We set up transports when the distance is too great for one person to drive. The Transport Coordinator breaks down the trip into "legs" of approximately 1 hour each. The breakdown and request for help is then posted to the appropriate email lists. If you are able to complete one of the legs, you should respond directly to the transport coordinator.

### **HOW DOES A TRANSPORT WORK?**

A volunteer picks up the dog at the starting point. They drive the first leg of the transport. They meet another volunteer who will drive the second leg. This process continues until the dog reaches the destination.

### **WHAT DO I NEED IF I AM COMPLETING A LEG OF THE TRANSPORT?**

First, you should bring several things with you. You need a car, a map, some water, a bowl, an adjustable collar (a slip collar is best), a leash and some poop bags. (You can make friends with your new passenger a lot quicker if you have a few treats along). Not all of our dogs ride well in a car, so it would help if you had a crate, a human helper, or some other way to keep the dog out of the driver's way.

*MAESSR strongly advocates the use of crates or doggie seat belts as the safest way to transport your canine charge.*

You may want to throw an old sheet over the seat in your car to keep it clean. Not all dogs travel well. Carry some paper towels, plastic bags and other clean up items in case your canine charge gets sick in your car. Air fresheners help too!

If you are a volunteer who is initiating a transport from a shelter or surrendering home, please bring a folder or envelope with you and collect all of the information that exists about the Springer being pulled. You should arrive at your assigned starting point at least 15 minutes prior to the time the transport is supposed to arrive. (Things happen – you may want to bring a magazine with you.) When the dog arrives, you will take him/her from the previous volunteer and continue on your way. Make sure that you get all of the dog's paperwork from the person doing the previous leg. When you get to the end of your leg, you will turn the dog and all of the dog's paperwork over to the next transporter, foster home or adoptive family.

### **AM I REQUIRED TO HAVE A CELL PHONE?**

No, a cell phone is not a requirement. However, they are very helpful so you can be contacted if the transport is running late or ahead of schedule.

### **WHO CAN HELP ME IF I RUN INTO PROBLEMS WHILE TRANSPORTING?**

There will be a contact person listed on the email confirming the final transport schedule. Make a note of that person's name and telephone number. Some people find it helpful to print out the confirming email that has all of the necessary information and take it with them. If you cannot reach them or there is no contact listed, you can call **Lisa Monaco (215-285-3140)**. Make sure you have the phone numbers before starting your trip.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM PICKING THE DOG UP FROM THE SHELTER?**

Prior to picking up a dog from a shelter, make sure that you understand whether you need to bring cash or a check to pay an adoption fee, and that you know what paperwork, if any, you will need to complete, as well as the name of the shelter contact if we have one. The shelter coordinator and/or the person coordinating the transport should get to the first person in the transport all necessary information concerning the need to pay an adoption fee or to provide identification or other information to the shelter. Please remember that you are responsible for making sure that we get as much information from

the shelter about the dog's vaccinations and medical history as possible. This is a very important first step for our dogs. While at the shelter, you will need to fill out any of the required paperwork. We generally have everything set up so there is not much to do. If any fees are required, pay them, then send a receipt to:

MAESSR

P.O. Box 807

Goochland, VA 23063

You will be reimbursed for the fees. Please be sure to transfer any paperwork that comes from the shelter with the dog. It is vital that we have as much information as we can get and that the information travels with the dog for the benefit of the new foster home. Finally, please remember that you are a representative of MAESSR and all rescues. If people infuriate you at the shelter, keep your cool. You can vent to us about it later. If you think that you shouldn't say something, then don't.

### **IF I AM THE LAST LEG THAT IS PRESENTING THE DOG TO THE ADOPTING FAMILY, WHAT SHOULD I MAKE SURE THAT I DO?**

1. Turn the dog over to the adopting family with any paperwork that goes with it.
2. Make sure that the adopting family has a collar, leash, and tag with their address or phone number on it. If the family does not have these items, and they seem like responsible people, release the dog to them and immediately notify Debbie Lipcsey, her contact information is at top of page, to explain to her what has happened. If the family does not have these items, and they do not seem responsible, if the dog can stay at your house that would be great. If not, find a local kennel or veterinarian's office and place the dog there. MAESSR will reimburse you for the kennel fees. You will need to immediately contact Debbie Lipcsey for directions on how to proceed. MAESSR will make arrangements to get the dog back to his/her foster home
3. Have the adopting family fill out, initial and sign TWO copies of the contract. We would suggest carrying a couple of extra copies of the contract...just in case. You can get extra copies from the website at <http://www.maessr.org> under Volunteer and Foster Doc. bottom of menu.
4. Collect the check for the adoption fee. The amount of the adoption fee should be written on the contract.

If not, the schedule is:

All dogs 8 years old and under adoption fee is \$350.00

Dogs 9 years old and older adoption fee is \$150.00

SENIORS for SENIORS –Adopters older than 64 adopting a senior dog (age 9 or older) the adoption fee will be \$75.00

5. Give the MAESSR dog a big hug for all of us.

6. When you get home, mail the two copies of the contract and the adoption fee to:

MAESSR

P.O. Box 807

Goochland, VA 23063

7. Go home and feel very good about yourself for helping another Springer get to its forever home.

### **WHAT IF I AM THE PERSON WHO IS PRESENTING THE DOG TO THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY AND THEY REFUSE THE DOG?**

You will need to make arrangements for the dog for the night. If the dog can stay at your house, that would be great. If not, find a local kennel or veterinarian's office and place the dog there. MAESSR will reimburse you for the kennel fees, no questions asked. You will need to immediately contact Debbie Lipcsey at 804 690-9157 or 804 457-3445 for directions on how to proceed. MAESSR will make arrangements to get the dog back to his/her foster home.

### **WHAT IF I AM THE PERSON WHO IS PRESENTING THE DOG TO THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY AND ADOPTING FAMILY STRIKES ME AS UNSUITABLE FOR THE DOG?**

This is admittedly a sticky situation. Please come up with some reason why you cannot transfer the dog. Perhaps it has had diarrhea the entire trip or has been running a fever? Whatever it takes to ensure that dog's safety. If you feel pressured to complete the transfer, do so. In these cases it is especially important

that you get a signed contract from the family. It preserves MAESSR's rights to reclaim the dog.

Immediately contact Debbie Lipcsey at 804 690-9157 or 804 457-3445 and share your concerns with her.

Remember that our ultimate goal is the safety of our dogs.

### **WHAT IF I AM GETTING THE DOG FROM THE SURRENDERING FAMILY?**

Prior to picking up a dog, make sure that you have a copy of the Owner Relinquishment Form. The form can be downloaded from the website under Volunteer and Foster Doc at bottom of menu. Have the surrendering owner complete and sign the relinquishment form. Place it in the dog's pouch so that it will travel with the dog. Please, send the form along with the dog. The foster family is responsible for sending that form to MAESSR at the above address.