



BRATS

**Badger Rescue Animal
Transport Services, Inc.**

TRANSPORT GUIDELINES

BRATS depends on the generosity of volunteers to transport various types of animals to various locations in WI. The safety of both the animals and the volunteers are top priority during any transport. Please think, SAFETY, SAFETY, and SAFETY!

In case of emergency, call 414-322-1085

If you encounter anything other than what is described in the transport run sheet, do not do anything before calling the person monitoring your transport that day. If you are unable to reach them call the number above.

To help with transport you will need the following equipment:

- Crates (small, medium & large). If you don't have an appropriate size crate, one can usually be provided by BRATS, the sending shelter, or possibly ask your local shelter to borrow one.
- Some kind of pad/towel inside of crate.
- Zip ties and/or bungee cords in case of crate malfunction.
- If need be, dog car safety harness or leash/safety belt (optional).
- Leashes. Slip leads only if instructed on their proper use. No clasped leashes looped around necks. Make sure you wrap the loop end of the leash around your hand so you have a solid grip on the dog if he/she decides to bolt.
- Collars. Collars should be provided by sending shelter.
- BRATS ID bands to be placed on animal at the sending shelter.
- Heavy gloves (optional).
- Water and bowl/food (optional). We don't recommend stopping for potty breaks or feeding while in transport. These items would be used in case of an emergency and/or you are stopped for a prolonged period of time.
- Plastic bags for cleanup detail.
- Paper towels.
- Hand sanitizer or baby wipes.
- Cell phone. Be sure to have it on at all times, including one hour before and one hour after your scheduled transport.
- Digital camera (or phone) for taking pictures of transports (see Logmein for more information).

Emergency Contact Sheet. Keep in your vehicle and place in the dashboard window during transport to be visible in the event in an emergency.

Proper Attire

- Closed toe shoes are a must.
- No dangling jewelry or anything hanging off of your neck (as you are bending down to attend to the dog this can spook them, get in the way of leashes, collars, etc.)
- **Sunglasses and hats can sometimes spook dogs, so please keep this in mind.**



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Once you agree to do a transport, you will be emailed a "Run Sheet" (Appendix ____) that provides all necessary information.

Picking Animal Up From Shelter

Every shelter has different procedures for picking up/dropping off animals (Appendix ____). The following lists basic information.

- Bring crate(s) inside the building for cats and smaller animals and shelter staff will load the animals. For larger dogs, ask shelter staff to bring animal to you and assist in putting collar on and putting in crate in your vehicle. Let them know this is our procedure. If animal is too large for a crate, the shelter staff must load the animal into the car for you and help you secure them in. Please don't be afraid to insist on this, as not all shelter staff may be aware of our procedures.
- Be aware of your surroundings, two sets of eyes are better than one.
- **Be sure to get any paperwork/medication accompanying each animal.**
- All dogs must wear a neck band with BRATS identification (you or the shelter will be provided with ID tags) before entering the crate and leaving the shelter/building. ALWAYS check the dog collar for an appropriate fit by placing two fingers under the collar to ensure that it is not too tight. Then try to pull the collar forward over the dog's head to ensure that it cannot back out of the collar when on lead. Martingale collars are preferred if available. We are hoping to have more donated to us. Choke chain type collars should not be used, aside from being a poor collar choice in general, they too easily loosen up and dog can slip out. Slip leads can be used, but please be sure you are instructed on their proper use, double leash if you feel safer doing so. **Looping a leash around the neck and through the handle is not allowed. Carrying or walking smaller animals to the car is not advised.**

All animals are to be transported in crates. Do not allow them free movement within the vehicle. If a dog is completely uncomfortable in a crate and the dog needs to be transported loose in the car, take a lead and tie the dog to a seat belt or use a dog car safety harness. Be aware of opened windows or other escape routes. Remember, these animals are in a stressful situation and may try to escape so be very mindful of this.

When Transferring Animal to Another Vehicle.

Please leave animals in their crates in your vehicle until the next transporter arrives at your meeting place. There is no need to walk or potty animals during a transport. We only have them for a few hours during a transport. This greatly reduces the risk of an animal escaping during a transport. It is much better to clean a crate than to have an animal get away from you.

The preferred procedure to transport animals is that the animal stays in the same crate the entire transport. The only animals that may be transferred between crates are dogs. All other animals will stay in the original crate to their final destination. Most shelters will provide crates for these animals. If you are not informed on the run sheet if a shelter is providing crates, please ask. We make every effort to return crates to shelters on a future trip. For multi-driver transports, crates of similar sizes will be swapped with drivers.



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If you have to transfer the animal to another crate during transport, please be aware that some of these dogs are frightened and may try to bolt out of the crate if given the chance. To better insure the safety of the dog, transfer the dog inside a closed vehicle when possible. Do not open door of crate all the way, but just enough to reach your hand in and attach lead. Animals are not to be taken out of the crate/car without a secure collar and leash. Have next crate available. ALWAYS give animals outside of a crate your undivided attention!

Once the dog is placed in the next crate (again, better to do this inside the car with doors closed when possible), remove the lead. Dogs can be strangled or chew through the lead while in transit.

Please make sure all paperwork/medical records are transferred with each leg of the transport.

Hot temperatures, vehicles, and animals do not mix – please make sure while animal is in crate that windows are open or air conditioning is on when you are waiting and that dogs are not left in closed vehicles at any time when weather is hot. Look for shady areas to park and wait.

Please take a few pictures (in crate is fine) of the animal(s) being transported.

Final Destination:

When you arrive at the shelter/rescue, before you move the animals let the staff know you have arrived. Take animal in crate into facility, make sure someone is there to take the animal, then either ask for assistance or take the animal out and pass off to final destination staff. If animal needs to be walked in, wait for someone to either assist you or let you know exactly what entrance to use and where to go with the animal.

When you get home post transport.

When you get home after your trip, wash your hands and please remove all clothing and wash immediately. It is best if you do not touch your own pets until you have cleaned up. Clean your crates and wash the bedding with bleach and detergent with hot water. If the bedding is in rough shape, just throw it out.

Log-in E-mail

Once you return home, please send an e-mail to the BRATS Yahoo Group (bratstransporters@yahoogroups.com) with the following information:

- Each animal transported (with pick-up & destination info if you know it)
- Total miles traveled
- Amount of time spent volunteering
- Photos of the animals
- Any other information you want the group to know



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BRATS RULES

BRATS will only transport for reputable rescues/shelters. Members of AWARE and WI Dog Rescue Yahoo groups are pre-screened just by their ability to belong to those organizations.

For liability reasons, we cannot transport aggressive animals.

BRATS is an all volunteer organization. We receive no funding. Everything is paid for out of our own pockets. This is why we like to combine transports whenever we can. Please be cognizant that our volunteers work 9 to 5 jobs and e-mails may come at all hours of the day. We do what we can during the week, but the majority of our transports are completed on weekends. Donations for gas money is always appreciated and if a shelter gives you a gas card, thank them for their contribution.

While we encourage fostering a humane mentality in the next generation, BRATS considers transporting animals to be an adult volunteer activity. If you must bring children along with you on a transport, we ask that they remain seated in your vehicle during loading/unloading and transfer of animals. We are usually meeting in parking lots and we need to focus our attention on the animals that we are transferring. Children will not be permitted to handle animals i.e. sit in their lap, hang on to a leash, stick fingers in crates, etc. This is for the safety of all involved. Keep in mind that we do not know the temperament of these animals and cannot guarantee their behavior under these stressful circumstances.

Do not bring your own pets on a transport.

Do not allow animals to interact with each other while transferring between crates. If you must have more than one animal out of a crate at a time be sure to keep them far enough away from each other.

Cover cat crates to reduce stress.

In the case of icy/snowy conditions, we will not transport. Safety is number one for BRATS. During the winter months we will watch the weather forecasts very carefully.

Extra Tips

- Keep track of your mileage for your personal tax purposes.
- Put a tarp down underneath the animal crates. This will help keep your car clean in case of any potty accidents.



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Impound Facilities In Wisconsin

There are hundreds of animal impound facilities in Wisconsin. These range from a kennel behind the local sheriff's office, to a vet clinic, all the way up to large, recognized humane societies. All impound facilities are not created equal. The options these places have are:

- Find the owner
- Adopt the animal out
- Sell to a class B dealer
- Euthanize

Some hold the animals for 7 days before euthanizing while others aggressively try to find places for them to go. We are trying to locate all of these places and get them to call us when they have an animal that has not been claimed or been adopted out.

When we transport animals out of impound facilities, please be aware that in all likelihood they have had nothing done to them. Here is what we have found:

- Some vaccinate and/or de-worm the animals while many do not.
- Rabies vaccinations are not required to transfer dogs in-state. Assume they do not have a rabies vaccination.
- Some do not have a scanner which makes finding a microchip impossible.
- These places do get a decent read on the animal's personality. They can generally tell us if they get along with other animals, are scared, or have possible medical issues.
- Leashes and collars are usually not sent along with the animal so we need to bring them with us
- Tend to feed the cheaper brands of food leading to intestinal problems
- The animals may not have been bathed for a long time so could have a matted coat and/or strong odor.
- We try to weed out any problems BEFORE they enter any vehicle. If, for whatever reason, you are not comfortable transporting an animal, you are free to refuse to do so. Please call the BRATS hotline at 414-322-1085 and explain the problem. We cannot put any of our drivers in a bad situation. Safety first!

What does this mean to us as transporters? Use common sense and caution as you would with any unknown animal. A few things we can do to make the transport safe:

- Make sure you are starting out with a clean crate and bedding.
- Put a tarp under the crates. It makes clean up easier in the end.
- If the animal is scared and won't come out of the crate, give it time. If it still won't come out, pick up the crate and bring it into an enclosed place and open the door. They will come out on their own eventually. Most shelters will have a dolly available to put the crate on to bring it into the facility. Some shelters have outside kennels which makes this very easy.
- Carry welders gloves or heavy leather gardening gloves with you. Also advisable is to have some rubber gloves available in case the dog has relieved themselves or regurgitated in their crate.
- A pet first aid kit on board is a great idea.
- If you have room, please bring along some extra bedding. A sheet thrown over a crate is usually enough to keep scared animals comforted during the trip. This can also help keep stress levels down for all the animals in close quarters in your vehicle.

If an animal is in distress at any time during the trip please pull over and try to figure out what is wrong. It may be as simple as being scared or they may have a paw stuck in a door. If an emergency situation arises, please call the BRATS hotline immediately at 414-322-1085. We will get help to you right away.

If an animal bites you, please call the BRATS hotline immediately at 414-322-1085. If you are following proper safety procedures the likelihood is small that it will happen. These are, however, rescued animals and it could happen. **It's a good idea to have your tetanus vaccination up to date.**



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Winter Driving

Our policy at BRATS is we do not drive if the forecast indicates bad driving conditions. It's a real trick during winter to figure out from one end of the state to the other if we are going to encounter problems. We watch weather forecasts all over the state before deciding if we will transport. Generally we will know by Friday if we can proceed with the weekend transports.

If the temperatures are going to be dangerously cold we will also cancel a transport. We cannot risk vehicle breakdowns. A vehicle without heat is a bad thing for the driver and the animals involved.

Our shelter/rescue partners will be advised that a transport can be cancelled due to poor road conditions or extreme cold. Everyone understands. We've had to cancel numerous transports during the winter and we just moved them to the next good driving day.

This is for the safety of our drivers and the animals we are transporting. Hopefully mother nature will be kind to us!

The Wisconsin DOT has a web site with a map of current road conditions across the state. Here's the link: <http://www.511wi.gov/web/map.aspx>

You can also call 511 and get weather info when on the road.

These are good places to check when you're planning your drive. We will do as much as we can on our end but depend on all the "eyes" of BRATS to let us know what's going on in their areas.



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Crate Cleaning Guidelines

The picture just about tells it all! Cleaning solutions, a good brush and elbow grease are a good combination to get your crates ready for the next transport!



Crate cleaning is one of the things that makes your transport complete. We have talked with numerous shelters and a vet about the best way to clean our transport crates to keep the spread of disease to a minimum. Any of the animals we transport may be carrying diseases that can spread to other animals that use your crate.

Here is what we recommend everyone do after their transport.

- ✦ When you get home, strip the bedding out of the crates and put directly into your washing machine. Use a good detergent and bleach. You can either dry in your dryer or hang on the clothesline for an extra dose of mother natures bleach!
- ✦ The clothing you wear on the transport should be treated the same way.
- ✦ Crate cleaning is a 3 step process. The first step is to remove the crate from your vehicle. You are going to need a water source. During the summer months you can use your hose. During the winter months it's not quite that convenient for most of us. A bathtub, a utility sink or a shower will work.
- ✦ Clean the crate with a good degreaser. A good product is Jungle Jake which you can buy at Menards or Fleet Farm. You mix it up in a spray bottle per the instructions. This is a great product. Spray the crate and let it sit for a minute or two. Take your scrub brush and scrub away! Rinse with clear water.
- ✦ When you are done rinsing, apply a product of 20% bleach solution. What I do is use Clorox Clean up. I empty half the bottle into another container and add full strength bleach and water to the bottle. Spray the solution on and let it sit for 10 minutes. It will get a chalky appearance to it. Rinse with water and let dry.
- ✦ We have found that breaking down the plastic crates prior to cleaning works better than trying to clean it as one big unit. Put the hardware in a baggie. It's easy to clean the door while you have the crate dismantled. The beauty of doing it this way is you can store the crates easily this way. It will be a reminder to you which crates you have cleaned and which crates need a little work.
- ✦ Wire crates are a little tougher as they are so large. In the summer months a kiddie pool filled with water works well. In the winter a bathtub, utility sink or shower works ok. The same principles apply as stated above.
- ✦ In the summer months leaving a clean crate exposed to the sunlight will give it an extra dose of Mother Nature's bleach!
- ✦ In the winter months a portable UV light can be used as the last step. This is not necessary, but it gives an extra reassurance that the crate is clean. These units cost around \$50. You can use them to wand the inside of your vehicle. They supposedly kill 99% of germs and bacteria. It can't hurt!

IF ANY ANIMAL YOU ARE TRANSPORTING HAS SIGNS OF PARVO OR RINGWORM ADDITIONAL CLEANING PROTOCOLS MUST BE USED. If we hear of this from the receiving rescue or shelter, we will contact you with further instructions.

A clean crate is something that is part of transporting. If you do them after every transport it's an easy task.