

MAGDRL Transport Checklist

Detailed transport guidelines are provided in Section 4 in the MAGDRL Volunteer Handbook here: http://www.magdrl.org/forms/magdrl_volunteer_handbook.pdf . This document provides a brief checklist of hints, tips, and reminders for MAGDRL transport volunteers.

General Reminders:

- ___ 1. For insurance reasons, only MAGDRL members whose membership is current may volunteer for a transport leg. A non-MAGDRL member may ride along to assist our volunteer, but individuals who are not affiliated with MAGDRL may not volunteer for a transport leg without prior approval by the Transport Coordinator.
- ___ 2. Children under the age of 18 YO may not participate in a MAGDRL Dane transport.
- ___ 3. When you map out your pickup/drop-off points, if possible choose safe and known meeting places. If the exchange area is unknown, use Google Maps or MapQuest to identify a business parking lot, shopping center parking lot, or well-lit community park.
- ___ 4. Transports are generally for single dogs, pairs turned in together, or puppies. Unless the transported Danes have previously lived together or unless each transport team member's vehicle has a way to separate dogs during transit, MAGDRL will not transport more than one Dane at a time. In cases where a multi-Dane transport is being set up, the Transport Coordinator will confirm the situation to ensure that the transport will proceed safely.

Pre-transport Checklist:

- ___ 1. Take your cell phone with you. If you don't have a cell, make sure the Transport Coordinator and team knows how to reach you before/after transport. Your personal contact information will not be disclosed to anyone outside the transport team.
- ___ 2. Ask your pick-up/drop off transport teammates for their tag number and description of the vehicle they plan to drive.
- ___ 3. If possible, ask your pick-up/drop-off transport teammates for their photo. That way, you won't mistakenly hand off an orphan to a stranger.
- ___ 4. Bring paper and pen. Print-off of directions to pick-up/drop-off points and contact information for the entire transport so you can contact those waiting at other connection points if delays occur. Print and take along the contact information for all MAGDRL Coordinators posted here: <http://www.magdrl.org/coordinators.htm>
- ___ 5. Make sure your vehicle is in good condition, has working climate control, and is capable of making the round-trip drive.
- ___ 6. Bring cash and coins for toll booths, phone calls, and gas. Don't forget to bring your driver's license and insurance card.
- ___ 7. Print off and bring the GDCA list of Emergency Veterinary Hospitals in case there is an emergency en route. This list is posted here: <http://www.gdca.org/emergvet.htm>
- ___ 8. Bring your GPS system if you have one. You'll be glad you did if you get lost or have to find an emergency vet.
- ___ 9. Bring a folded tarp or other waterproof sheet. These can either be placed on the floor of your vehicle with blankets or towels on top, or if they get sick they can be used to cover your vehicle's floor so the dog doesn't have to lie in it.
- ___ 10. For the safety of all, the best transport vehicle setup is to have a screen between the driver and the orphan. If that is not feasible, anchor (bungee, zip-ties, tie-downs, etc.) an x-pen or crate between the front passenger seat and the transport compartment.

- ___ 11. If you have a spare Dane-sized muzzle, it's a good idea to bring it along. Transports are a stressful time for orphans, so better to have it and not need it than vice versa.
- ___ 12. Bring spare Dane-size collars or choke chains. NOTE: They may be needed until the Dane reaches its destination. Put your name on them if you want them returned to you.
- ___ 13. Bring spare leashes including at least one sturdy 6 ft leash for tethering the orphan inside the vehicle.) Some transporters leave leashes securely tethered inside their vehicle to make it easy to just clip a leash to the orphan's collar hook. NOTE: They may be needed until the Dane reaches its destination. Put your name on them if you want them returned to you.
- ___ 14. Bring a water dish and fresh water
- ___ 15. Take an emergency first aid kit (like Ruff Life, or at least nail clippers, ace bandage, Qwik-Stop, VetWrap or roll bandage, alcohol swabs, antiseptic, antacid or PepcidAC, clean sock, etc.)
- ___ 16. If you have Direct Stop, Spray Shield, or other dog deterrent, bring it in case you are approached by an unfriendly dog during transport.
- ___ 17. If you have Rescue Remedy, it's a good idea to bring it to use with highly stressed dogs.
- ___ 18. Bring a medium sized crate if transporting puppies
- ___ 19. Take along towels or rags for cleanup. Bring plastic grocery bags to put soiled rags into if needed.
- ___ 20. Music soothes the savage beast! If you have a CD of classical or relaxation music, bring it with you. Radio stations will fade in/out during a transport, but you can set your CD to play softly which will help keep the transported dog calm during its journey.
- ___ 21. Bring treats (to get their attention! 😊)

Transport start to finish:

- ___ 1. If the orphan appears aggressive, growls or lunges at you, stop the transport. Contact the Transport Coordinator or the nearest Chapter Coordinator and ask for a decision on how to proceed. In all cases, the safety of our volunteers is more important than finishing the transport.
- ___ 2. Shot records must be provided, especially rabies if the transport will cross a state line. If the transported dog is over 4 MO and does not have a rabies certificate (or a written veterinary waiver), you **MUST** refuse to transport the dog. Make sure all paperwork is placed in a spill proof container – plastic grocery bag, Ziploc bag, etc.
- ___ 3. Make sure to get a few days worth of the dog's current food; if not available, write down the brand/formula and include it in the transport paperwork packet.
- ___ 4. Get any medications that the dog is on so they can be transported with the dog to its foster home.
- ___ 5. It's a good idea to bring something that smells like where the dog is coming from – rag, towel, toy, etc. to help them settle in their foster home on arrival.
- ___ 6. The transporter should make sure they have secure collar and leash on the dog(s) being handed off to them
- ___ 7. Make sure the transported dog has on a MAGDRL tag that will stay with the dog until it reaches its destination. If not available, get a couple of cheap (usu. \$1 each) tags with a MAGDRL Coordinator's name and contact info on it to put on the collar.
- ___ 8. Always tether the transported Dane's leash to a permanent fixture inside your vehicle – floor latch, seatbelt latch, etc. Give them enough slack to lie down but not enough for them to become tangled in the leash.

- ___ 9. If you arrive at your meet-up place to find that it is not well-lit, has heavy foot traffic or is in a bad area, wait for your transport teammate to arrive and ask them to follow you to a safer area before transferring the dog.
- ___ 10. Never open the door of the vehicle without first having the dog's leash in hand --- even if the dog was left tethered. It's not uncommon for them to chew the leash during transport.
- ___ 11. Each transporter must make sure to hand off paperwork, food, meds, etc. with the dog at the next exchange point.
- ___ 12. Make sure to give transported dogs water and a potty break every 2 -3 hours. The exception is puppies – better to let them poop in their crate than have them wriggle away from you!
- ___ 13. Never, ever turn your back on an unleashed Dane in your vehicle if a door is open. Have your hands on the leash at all times whenever a vehicle door is open. Do not grab the dog's collar since some dogs react badly to being held by the collar.
- ___ 14. If the dog is unwilling to exit the vehicle, do not force them. They are likely stressed, so try these suggestions:
 - Keep your voice light and friendly, and try luring them out with food or treats;
 - If you see them getting more stressed, go away for a few minutes, then come back and try again;
 - Try removing/putting on a hat or taking off/putting on a jacket;
 - Try moving the vehicle to a different location with more/less light, more green space, less foot traffic, etc;
 - If available, ask someone of the opposite gender to try coaxing them out;
 - If there are two people available, have one hold the leash tight and the other should gently slide the bedding out of the vehicle with the dog on it (stop if the dog gets upset!)
 - If there's another friendly dog available, bring it on-leash towards the vehicle and keep your voice light and positive. Make sure you have your hands firmly on the transported dog's leash in case the orphan isn't friendly to other dogs. If you have brought along dog deterrent spray, have it in hand if you use this approach.
- ___ 15. If a transported Dane has a medical emergency, contact the MAGDRL Coordinator closest to your physical location and keep calling until you get a call back. Use the contact information you printed off during pre-transport preparation.
- ___ 16. Above all, proceed with caution. Volunteer safety is our first priority, so never put yourself in harm's way. Contact the Transport Coordinator if the dog shows aggressive behavior with the transporter, if severe weather is encountered or there are safety concerns during the transport.

Transport end:

- ___ 1. As each transporter finishes their leg, they should call/email the Transport Coordinator so she can alert others on the transport team if necessary. This helps with timing, reporting traffic conditions, and identifying problems during their leg (coughing, diarrhea, unusual behavior, barking, etc.)
- ___ 2. When you get home, as a safety measure it's a good idea to disrobe and shower before you touch your own dogs.
- ___ 3. If there were symptoms of transmittable disease (runny nose, coughing, sneezing), use disinfectant to spray/wipe down the inside of the vehicle used in the transport.

And on behalf of MAGDRL and the orphans in our care, **THANKS for ALL YOU DO!**