

## **Mountain West Transport Driver Volunteer Description**

***\*\*Must be at least 21 years of age to volunteer with this opportunity\*\****

**Reports to: Mountain West Regional Strategist**

### **Organizational Impact:**

Volunteer transport drivers move us closer to our goal of a no-kill country by helping move animals from overpopulated states and shelters to find their forever homes in areas within the Mountain West Region that are experiencing an increase in potential adopters. This enables the animals that are transported to quickly find their forever homes, as well as ensures that shelters in the overpopulated regions have more resources to devote to the animals that need help in their area.

### **Position Function/Goals/Deadlines:**

- Either one driver or a team of two transport drivers will pick up healthy, adoptable dogs or cats from a predetermined shelter location and transport them to a receiving partner organization, either within the same state or located in another nearby state, for adoption.
- Volunteers might be asked to drive the transport vehicle back to originating location at the end of the transport trip.

### **Time Commitment and Location of Work:**

- Transports will depart from various shelter locations across the region year-round. Originating and destination states will be Idaho, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado.
- Time commitment will depend on the departure location and destination. With added travel time to the originating shelter location, transports could require 1-3 day commitments.
- Each transport will be planned to consider drive time, adequate rest time, overnight stays, and walking breaks for the dogs, if needed.

### **Core responsibilities:**

- Safely and successfully drive the transport van (alternating every few hours with other driver onboard – if applicable) or personal vehicle from the departure location to the receiving partner organizations.
- Assist with unloading of all dogs or cats and appropriate paperwork from the vehicle upon arrival at receiving partner location.



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- Cleaning crates during transport. This could include changing soiled bedding and paper and/or walking dogs at a stop.
  - If transports require an overnight stay, lodging and meal per diem will be provided.
  - Drive the empty van back to the predetermined location.
  - Smaller transports may be done with volunteer's personal vehicle (cost of gas will be reimbursed).
  - Track and input hours worked into the Best Friends volunteer database.

**Qualifications/Requirements:**

- Successful completion of transport volunteer safety training
- Completed motor vehicle record check
- Must be at least 21 years of age with satisfactory driving record to drive a Best Friends vehicle under Best Friends insurance policy
- Proof of valid/current driver's license & insurance
- Must be able to safely drive and work in all weather conditions
- Must be able to bend, stoop, walk, kneel, and lift
- Must be able to lift at least 30 pounds at a time
- Dog handling experience is a plus
- Willingness to drive personal vehicle for smaller transports with a few animals

***Please email [nationalvolunteers@bestfriends.org](mailto:nationalvolunteers@bestfriends.org) if interested in volunteering for this lifesaving opportunity!***