



RescuedPets

MOVEMENT

Providing love, transport, and second chances.

Rescued Pets Movement (RPM) is a 501(c)(3) animal rescue organization dedicated to helping thousands of Houston's homeless and abandoned animals find new homes in areas with a high demand for adoptable pets. Founded in 2013, RPM rescues homeless animals from the city pound, BARC, and other area shelters, or directly from the streets of Houston where they are in imminent danger. RPM provides medical care, a temporary foster home or boarding at our facility, and then transports the animals to our pre-approved animal welfare rescue partners across the country where these formerly homeless cats and dogs can be adopted into loving, forever homes.

To date, Rescued Pets Movement has saved the lives of almost 60,000 companion animals—including over 50,000 from BARC alone—by providing rescue, health and foster care, and transport to our rescue partner groups. In 2020, RPM transported 14,075 formerly homeless animals, with an average of almost 1,200 animals a month and completed over 453 transports during the year -- over 100,000 miles across 12 States in the US. And the number of rescued pets grows every week!

Here is a peek into how RPM's process works:

1. **Lifesaving Rescue:** RPM carefully reviews pleas from BARC (or another shelter) and also searches their respective website for dogs and cats in need of rescue. RPM then networks these homeless animals to our animal welfare rescue partners in other states. Once a rescue partner has committed to take a shelter pet in need, RPM places the animal "on hold" for RPM, saving them from the risk of euthanasia.
2. **Foster Home/Boarding:** Once an animal is on hold, RPM's foster teams identify a pre-approved foster home or space at RPM's boarding facility for the pet to temporarily stay until their transport date. Usually, animals are transported within 1-2 weeks from when they are pulled from BARC or another shelter.
3. **Veterinary Care:** Each animal rescued by RPM has an intake appointment at RPM's veterinary clinic where it receives an exam and any necessary medical care by a licensed veterinarian. RPM also has a 24-Hour Emergency Hotline for foster parents to call in case of emergency. Most animals have several vet appointments prior to their transport date to ensure each animal is in good health and has their proper vaccinations and other needed medical care.
4. **Transport Day:** Tuesdays are "Dog Transport Day." Every Tuesday, RPM's rescued dogs board our Sprinter vans for the trip to Colorado. Every other Tuesday, dogs are also transported to our rescue partners in Virginia and Washington, DC. Thursdays are "Cat Transport Day." Every Thursday, RPM transports rescued cats to our rescue partners in Colorado. (We expect to add a Virginia route in the near future.)

On transport day, each animal is carefully examined by RPM's veterinarian and medical team for any signs of illness or other conditions and confirms that required vaccinations have been administered, such as a rabies vaccine for all animals three months and over. If cleared, the animal is issued a Health Certificate, which states that the animal is healthy, free from contagious diseases or illnesses, and has a rabies vaccine if old enough. Every animal that transports with RPM must have a valid Health Certificate. Animals transporting also receive any last-minute needed medical care, such as booster shots, flea control or scheduled worming treatments.

5. **Transport Process:** Each Sprinter van is staffed by two drivers and each van stops every six hours to walk and feed the adult dogs and clean the litter boxes for the cats; puppies and kittens are fed every four hours and animals have access to fresh water at all times. Each van is well-insulated and specifically outfitted for RPM's needs, including dual air conditioning and heating that provide adequate ventilation and comfortable conditions for the animals while traveling. By law, RPM must make sure that the internal temperature of each van is always between 60 degrees and 85 degrees. All enclosures (kennels) used to transport animals are secured to the interior of the van, water resistant, well-constructed of cleanable material, and designed to protect the health and ensure the safety of the animals. The size of the enclosures must also be large enough so that each animal has space to turn around, stand, and lie down. The kennels are loaded and onboarded to ensure that there is an unobstructed walkway for the drivers to easily access each kennel. All cats/kittens are provided a litter box within their kennels, which allows them adequate space to stand up, turn around, and lay down without touching the litter box. RPM requires that one driver remain in the van at all times and the animals are never left alone during transport.

Drivers maintain a logbook during each transport, documenting times when dogs are walked and fed and when cats are fed, and litterboxes cleaned. The logbooks are turned into the Transport Manager at the conclusion of each transport and are filed and kept for audit and review. Each dog is identified by a collar (except for nursing puppies) and all crates have a sticker identifying each animal in the crate and its ID, Name and Receiving Rescue Partner. A dated manifest is kept to document number, species, and breed of animals being transported. RPM is an accredited and licensed "Pet Transporter" in the State of Colorado, which means it (1) must pass annual inspections on all vehicles and (2) provide annual reports that reflect each animal imported into the State of Colorado, along with their age and the name of their receiving rescue partner. The Colorado regulatory regime for Pet Transporters is known as the most stringent in the US, which causes many transporters to bypass the state of Colorado as part of their rescue efforts in order to avoid its regulations.

6. **Transport Partners:** In 2020, RPM transported to 44 different Colorado rescue partners, one in Virginia, two in Chicago, one in Wisconsin, and three in California. Most of our Colorado rescue partners are located in the greater Denver Metropolitan area, including Castle Rock, Golden, Boulder, Dumont and Ft. Collins. Additionally, RPM has partners in Colorado Springs and the western slope in Eagle and Summit Counties, and in Steamboat Springs. Our California partners are located in San Diego and Los Angeles. Of this total, 33 are foster-based rescues, and the remaining 18 are rescue groups with physical shelters. In 2020, about 85% of the animals RPM transported travel to Colorado; the remaining 15% transported to our other destination states.

7. **Arrival and Adoption Process:**

Receiving Rescue Partners: Once RPM's animals arrive at their pre-assigned destination, the rescue pets are turned over to their identified rescue partner. Most medical records are

transmitted electronically in advance and any vaccination tags, medication or other paper records are also handed over at the drop zone. The receiving rescue partner then takes over future the medical care of the animal. Many times, this will include handling spay/neuter, needed training, and additional shots before the animal is adopted. The receiving rescue partner also pre-approves adopters in advance of releasing the animal. By law, no animal can be released by a rescue in the State of Colorado until is it is spayed/neutered. Once the receiving rescue partner deems the animal ready for adoption, they begin the process to find the rescued animal its forever home. Many times, the homeless animals RPM sends are “pre-adopted” and have forever homes waiting for them as soon as they arrive at the drop zone. The receiving rescue partner takes all future responsibility for the animal for the remainder of its life, including in the event the adoption does not work out and the animal is returned. RPM will always take any animal back for any reason at the request of the rescue partner and each partner agrees not to euthanize an animal from RPM without first discussing it with RPM, except in the event of an emergency, such as an animal suffering from a severe injury or illness.

Colorado: RPM has an extensive contract with each receiving rescue partner. All Colorado partners must be licensed and in good standing in the State of Colorado. Colorado heavily regulates rescues, which requires an annual physical inspection of their facilities and records, and all are subject to random inspections. RPM maintains a great working relationship with the regulatory agency (PACFA) in the State of Colorado.

Houston: Additionally, as part of its contract with the City of Houston, RPM is subject to random audits for each animal that it pulls from the BARC and must report the outcome of each animal at that specific moment in time. For example, is the animal that was transported two years ago currently adopted, in foster, in boarding, passed away, etc.

- 8. Synergies and Success!!** By partnering with 24 local shelters in the Houston area and our hundreds of rescue partners, including the 51+ rescue partners in other States we partnered with in 2020, **RPM is able to save tens of thousands more animals than if we operated alone.** By matching the simple concept of oversupply of homeless animals in the Houston area with the very high demand for adoptable homeless animals in other states, RPM is able to maximize the number of animals saved from the Houston area, many that would likely be euthanized if not for RPM.

***RPM is the largest transport and rehabilitation group in the country.
In 2020, RPM transported a total of 14,075 animals, saved 10,254 homeless dogs and cats from BARC and was instrumental in helping BARC achieve its “no-kill” status and a live release rate of 95.6% in 2020, up from 42.6% in 2012, the year before RPM was formed.***

For more information about Rescued Pets Movement,
please visit www.rescuedpetsmovement.org.