



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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2009 FAST FACTS

- PetSmart Charities® launched its Rescue Waggin'® program in 2004 in the Midwest. The program is celebrating its 5th Anniversary in 2009.
- The Rescue Waggin' program has saved the lives of more than 25,000 dogs and puppies.
- The program began in February 2004; in February 2009, the 25,000th dog was transported.
- The Rescue Waggin' program operates nationally, transporting dogs from over-crowded shelters with higher euthanasia rates to shelters with available kennel space and successful adoption programs. In some locations, adopters are on waiting lists.
- The Rescue Waggin' program currently works with 53 shelters in 24 states and covers four regions of the United States: East Coast, Midwest, Great Plains and South Central.
- The Rescue Waggin' program is expected to save 8,000 to 10,000 dogs and puppies in 2009.

THE DOGS

- All adult dogs are given a behavior evaluation as a condition of selection for the Rescue Waggin' program. Only well-tempered dogs are transported to new shelters.
- All puppies and dogs are vaccinated prior to travel and are examined for illness prior to transport.
- No animals are ever displaced at destination shelters to make room for incoming dogs.
- Upon arrival at the destination shelters, animals are given 12-24 hours "down time" to de-stress before receiving a medical exam and spay/neuter surgery.
- Once on the adoption floor, dogs from the Rescue Waggin' program are generally adopted within three days.

THE VEHICLES

- Since 2004, vehicles used in the Rescue Waggin' program have logged more than 1,150,000 miles transporting dogs and puppies from shelters with high euthanasia to shelters with high adoption rates.
- Each of the vehicles used in the Rescue Waggin' program can transport as many as 50-60 puppies and dogs at one time.
- Temperature-controlled environments and piped-in lullabies provide comfort for the dogs during the trip to the destination shelter.
- Rescue Waggin' program guidelines have been reviewed by veterinarians and national humane organizations and are considered the gold standard for pet transport.

- More -

THE SHELTERS

- Currently, more than 53 shelters participate in the Rescue Waggin' program.
- The “source” shelters are those where dogs and puppies might be euthanized because of space limitations; the “destination” shelters are those to which the dogs and puppies are taken and placed up for adoption.
- All shelters in the Rescue Waggin' program must go through a screening and training process before they can be admitted.
- Shelter staff receives canine behavior-evaluation training to ensure only behaviorally adoptable dogs are chosen and transported through the program.
- On average, Rescue Waggin' program source shelters report significant reductions in euthanasia because of the program – in one case as much as 50 percent.
- The Rescue Waggin' program selects destination shelters based on their high adoption rates and available space for more dogs in need.
- Source shelters in the Rescue Waggin' program are eligible for grants from PetSmart Charities® so they can improve their shelter facilities and operations; increase spay/neuter and adoption programs for dogs and cats; and increase services to their communities.

STATES OF OPERATION 2009:



States denoted in green are program participants.