

Transport Guidelines for Bringing Animals into Massachusetts from Out of State

Dear Transporters,

Welcome to the Off the Rocks Rescue family! We would not be able to bring animals up from the Virgin Islands (and other areas) without your help. Although we will have spoken to you prior to transport, here are some basic guidelines that will serve as a reference when travelling with a cat or dog and will answer some questions you may have.

We have some basic protocols in place as a precaution in the event that a cat or dog has a contagious, infectious process underway that has gone undetected. And, we want to make certain that an animal does not escape from their carrier.

Please keep animals in their carriers at all times. If you opened the carrier for any reason, double check to make sure all the zippers and latches are closed.

The only time that the animal should be out of their carrier is when you are ordered to do so by TSA on the way through the security check point at the airport. Remember that you can ask for a “private screening” at TSA, which means that they will go the security check in a room instead of at the luggage belt.

Please keep the health certificate and veterinary medical record with you and the animal at all times and make sure to give the paperwork to Off the Rocks (we usually have a pocket in the carrier, or taped to the carrier, where you can keep the paperwork).

Cats can go without food and water for at least a 4-8 hour travel window. You will be provided food for your animal but use your judgement as to when and where it is safe to open the carrier and provide food. You can put some water in a cup but remove the cup after a few minutes so it doesn't spill and create a wet bed.

When landing in the northeast in winter, please minimize the animal's exposure to the cold. This means to tell the pick-up driver the number of the airport door you are coming out of, drape your coat over the carrier and move quickly to the vehicle.

Animals who are picked up at the airport need to be brought right into the designated entrance to Off the Rocks. The isolation room is the first door on the left. Bring carrier and animal in and place in the marked isolation cage. Leave the carrier in the isolation room and make sure that you have left the paperwork on the table in isolation. Wash your hands, close the isolation room door.

In the event of an emergency, use your judgement. If possible, try to call Kelsey or Dawn, or our veterinarian. If you need to get a cat to a hospital, look up the nearest emergency veterinary clinic.

Again, we are deeply grateful for your help, and we couldn't do this without you. Thanks for being part of this animal's rescue journey.

Here is the relevant contact info:

Kelsey Wyrick: 340-643-4044 (call or text)

Dawn Balcazar: 508-740-5175 (call or text)