



CANINE REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSPORT

Comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures
for Animals Transferring to
Middleburg Humane Foundation

CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
VIRGINIA-MARYLAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

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INTRODUCTION

What is “preconditioning”?

Pre-: before

Conditioning: preparing

Preconditioning is preparing an animal for stress and disease before they are exposed to stress and disease. For the purposes of this document on canine preconditioning, it means giving dogs the best pre-transport preventive care that can be achieved with the combined resources available to Middleburg Humane Foundation and their partners. This often includes medical support such as vaccinations, lab testing, and parasite treatment or prevention; preventive measures that are most likely to reduce the risk of severe or chronic disease as animals move from one shelter environment to another.

For many animals, animal transport is a life saving measure. Not only can transport programs save shelter animals from the possible fate of euthanasia, but it can also provide them with resources previously out of reach, like extensive medical care and widespread adoption opportunities. Middleburg Humane Foundation is one such organization that can provide financial support and medical assistance to at-risk animal populations. This allows Middleburg to take in animals with needs outside of what is typically treatable in other shelters, like dogs who are heartworm positive and/or who require in-house veterinary care.

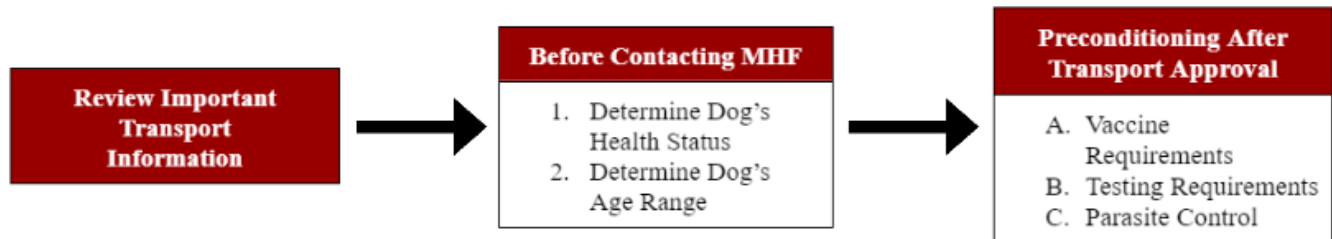
Despite the many benefits of animal transport there are also multiple risks involved. Animal transport programs have the potential to spread infectious diseases because the stress of transport may affect the immune system of traveling animals, making it difficult for them to fight off illness. In addition to affecting the wellbeing of animals being transported, transportation programs may also impact the health of other animals at both the source and destination shelters. Therefore, due to the inherent risk of disease transmission and outbreak, the overall risks and benefits for all animals involved in a transport program must be carefully considered. With reasonable care and preconditioning protocols in place to help minimize risks, well planned transport programs can be successful.

In recent years, Middleburg Humane Foundation has continued to expand and improve our animal transport program by partnering with both local and out-of-state rescue groups. In 2020, our intake reach extended to helping overcrowded shelters in the state of Georgia. Then, seeing that disease outbreaks had increased when Georgia dogs started coming in, Virginia Tech Master of Public Health Candidates helped us to develop stronger biosecurity protocols to keep our shelter residents safe and healthy. In 2021 alone, Middleburg Humane Foundation succeeded in rescuing 107 dogs through the Georgia transport program, and 95 of those dogs were saved from euthanasia.

Using this Document

Purpose/ Outcomes	<p>This comprehensive standard operating procedures document was created for shelters who are partnering with Middleburg Humane Foundation’s animal transport program.</p> <p><u>The purpose is to:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide shelter staff with relevant information which has helped to guide MHF’s preconditioning decisions. 2. Provide staff and volunteers with simple charts to help identify the vaccines, tests, and parasite prevention that should be administered before animal transport. <p>By completing the requirements outlined in this manual, our partnering shelters are helping to continue our mission towards ensuring the health and wellness of all animals brought to our facility. It is our hope that, by working together to take action and prevent disease before it occurs, we can more quickly focus on helping these animals find their forever homes.</p>
Scope	<p><u>This document covers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MHF intake request process, considerations, and expectations ● Required forms for transportation of animals ● Relevant Virginia animal transportation laws ● Pre-transport timeline recommendations ● Canine preconditioning requirements ● Additional comprehensive information
References/ Required Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Approximate Ages of Young Canines Using Teeth” SOP chart ● “Approximate Ages of Adult Canines Using Physical Characteristics” SOP chart ● “Core Preconditioning Requirements for All Shelter Dogs” SOP chart
Roles/ Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shelter Staff/Coordinators will contact MHF to discuss scheduling animal transport ● Veterinarians, licensed veterinary technicians, and/or trained professionals will perform preconditioning vaccines, lab testing, and parasite control measures ● Volunteers will help with animal preparation, gathering of materials, and transportation of animals between the shelter of origin and MHF
Definitions/ Abbreviations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MHF: Middleburg Humane Foundation ● SOP: Standard Operating Procedure

Please read through this document carefully for clarifying information and follow these steps:



1. IMPORTANT TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Middleburg Humane Foundation Animal Intake Process

Intake Requests: Middleburg Humane Foundation staff cannot make intake decisions on the spot. When making an intake request, partnering shelters will be asked for the following information: **caller's name, contact number, county where they reside, age of the animal, animal's medical status (whether it is spayed/neutered, up-to-date on vaccines, and general health), and reasons for the relinquish.**

Intake Considerations: The Intake Committee will make decisions on the intake requests based on the current shelter population, which will dictate the number and sizes of dogs Middleburg Humane Foundation is able to take.

Middleburg Humane Foundation requires the following from shelter partners:

1. Partners agree to release all ownership rights of the animals to MHF. The transfer partner will accept the return of animals deemed unadoptable by MHF. Animals under a state-mandated stray hold period will not be accepted.
2. Partners agree to complete a bite disclosure report for every dog or cat with a bite history before or upon transferring custody to MHF.
3. All animals must have a basic health screening and be fit for travel/transport. Animals do not need to be spayed/neutered.
 - a. Animals should be in good general health, unless otherwise disclosed and agreed upon prior to transport, animals with suspicious hair loss or symptoms of contagious disease may not be accepted. Special needs animals will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - b. All animals four months of age (16 weeks) or older **MUST** have a rabies vaccination by a licensed veterinarian accompanied with documentation if crossing state lines.
 - c. Dogs at least six months of age **MUST** have a heartworm test 7-10 days prior to transfer. MHF will not accept a dog who tests positive for heartworm unless MHF has agreed upon a special arrangement.
 - d. At MHF's discretion, dogs under six months of age coming from shelters at which the parvovirus has occurred in the past three months **MUST have a Parvo snap test and/or titer test within three days of transfer** to detect viral shedding or determine immunity. If the shelter lacks resources to test, MHF may provide tests or testing.
 - e. Shelter partners will be asked to disclose and test for disease and other health concerns (i.e. parasitic) specific to the local and geographic region prior to transfer.
 - f. Transfers from outside the state of Virginia require an official **interstate health certificate** (pg. 6), signed by a veterinarian.
 - g. The legal ownership of transferred animals will NOT be in effect until the point at which the animals are in the physical custody of MHF (i.e. the MHF building, vehicle, or representative). Should a medical or other emergency arise en route to MHF, **full responsibility for the animal will fall on the partner organization**. If at any point the status of an animal's medical, behavioral, or incidental concern changes prior to the final

relinquishment of the animal, the partner organization agrees to provide full disclosure to MHF and prepare to potentially terminate an individual animal from the transfer program.

4. Animals with known serious behavioral issues(s) such as aggression towards animals or humans, severe separation anxiety, or excessive fearful behavior are not candidates for our program. All known behavior concerns should be disclosed PRIOR to transfer. Animals with specific behavior challenges can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

[Intake Process](#): Once an animal has been approved for transport to Middleburg Humane Foundation, our Transport Support Person/Volunteer will begin arranging air travel (the most common transport method for out of state transfers). A window of availability will be provided by Middleburg and the transportation dates will be determined based on availability of partners and volunteers within that time frame. After a date has been approved, our shelter partners must have the animal(s) examined by a local veterinarian to receive a health certificate and complete vaccines, testing, and deworming requirements (if not already completed). Appropriate **core vaccinations** ([APPENDIX A](#)) MUST be given prior to transport if the animal is healthy enough and old enough. Middleburg Humane Foundation will provide funding for shelters to take transport-approved animals to a local veterinarian for preconditioning.

Relevant Virginia Laws for Transporting Animals

[§ 3.2-6508] Transporting animals; requirements; penalty

- A. No owner, railroad or other common carrier when transporting any animal shall allow that animal to be confined in any type of conveyance more than 24 consecutive hours without being exercised, properly rested, fed and watered as necessary for that particular type and species of animal. A reasonable extension of this time shall be permitted when an accident, storm or other act of God causes delay. Adequate space in the primary enclosure within any type of conveyance shall be provided each animal depending upon the particular type and species of animal.
- B. No person shall import into the Commonwealth, no export from the Commonwealth, for the purpose of sale or offering for sale any dog or cat under the age of eight weeks without its dam [mother].

[§ 3.2-6509] Misrepresentation of animal's condition; penalties

No person shall misrepresent the physical condition of any animal at the animal's sale, trade, delivery, or other method of transfer. For the purpose of this section, misrepresentation shall include selling, trading, delivering or otherwise transferring an animal to another person with the knowledge that the animal has an infection, communicable disease, parasitic infestation, abnormality or other physical defect that is not made known to the person receiving the animal. The sale of an agricultural animal that has external or internal parasites that are not made known to the person receiving the animal shall not be a violation of this section unless the animal is clinically ill or debilitated due to such parasites at the time of sale, trade, delivery or transfer of the animal. Violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

Required Forms

I. [Transfer Form](#) (pg. 7)

- a. If the rescue partner brings in an animal without a transfer form, Middleburg Humane Foundation's transfer form may be used for the animal(s).
- b. Each animal **MUST HAVE** its own individual transfer form.

II. [Health Certificate of Veterinary Inspection](#)

- a. Health certificates are only required for animals transferring from outside of Virginia.
- b. Health certificates **MUST BE** completed by an accredited veterinarian from the state of origin.
 - i. *For animals transferring from Georgia, this means that a veterinarian who is licensed within the state of Georgia must perform the pre-transport exam and fill out the required paperwork.*
- c. The examination and paperwork **MUST BE** completed within **10 DAYS BEFORE** transport.
 - i. *Please refer to the following Virginia State Transport Law:*

[§ 3.2-5902] Certificate of veterinary inspection required for importation of certain pet animals; examination; exceptions; penalty

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to import into the Commonwealth from another state any pet animal, including dogs, cats, monkeys, or other animals, ferae naturae, wild or tame under domestication or in custody, or any poultry not intended for commercial use that by its nature is fit for use only as a pet, unless such animal is accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian. Such certificate shall be on an official interstate certificate of veterinary inspection issued by the state of origin, shall be **dated no more than 10 days before shipment**, and shall contain such evidence of proof of the health of the animal as the Board, by regulation, may require.

III. [Medical Records](#)

- a. ALL health issues or concerns should be discussed with Middleburg Humane Foundation **BEFORE** an animal is scheduled for transport so that the Intake Committee can make informed decisions based on shelter capacity, disease risks, and other factors as appropriate.
- b. Up-to-date medical records should be collected and **arrive with** the animal being transported. Allowing Middleburg Humane Foundation to access records before transport is highly recommended.

Middleburg Transfer Agreement Form



Companion Animal Transfer Form

Today's Date: _____

Animal's Name: _____

Breed: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____

Description: _____

_____ (Relinquishing Agency [name of rescue]) hereby transfers ownership of the above named animal to Middleburg Humane Foundation (MHF), represented by the authorized signing agent below.

MHF hereby acknowledges receipt from Relinquishing Agency of the above named animal for adoption by MHF; and in accepting full legal responsibility for this animal, and in consideration for being entrusted with the care, custody, and possession of the animal agrees that the animal will be provided for in a responsible, humane manner.

I hereby release Relinquishing Agency and its agents from any liability for injuries to any person or damages to property that may be caused by this animal. I understand Relinquishing Agency has limited knowledge of this animal. I further understand Relinquishing Agency has no knowledge of this animal biting a person or animal except as listed on a separate Bite History Disclosure form.

I hereby declare that the organization I represent is a legal animal rescue in its home state. Upon signing this agreement I hereby swear that no agent of the organization I represent has been convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment.

Relinquishing Agency Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature of MHF Representative

Signature of Relinquishing Agency Representative

Recommended Timeline for Animal Transport

2 WEEKS Before Transport: Two weeks before animals are transported (or as early as is reasonably possible), the transferring shelter should be in communication with MHF about which animals are going to be transported. Middleburg Humane Foundation's Transport Support Person/Volunteer will then arrange transport by airplane (the transportation method most often used for out of state transfers). A window of availability will be designated by Middleburg, and once a tentative transport date is set, both shelters should start contacting volunteers to help with the transportation process. Volunteers will be needed for cleaning equipment and/or preparing, transporting, and handling animals. Both shelters should also identify quarantine areas for these animals to stay in pre- and post-transport, if available. In addition, the animals will ideally receive final doses of pre-transport vaccines at this time if they have not already been vaccinated. Appropriate **core vaccinations** ([APPENDIX A](#)) **MUST** be given prior to transport if the animal is healthy enough and old enough.

Middleburg Humane Foundation will provide funding for shelters to take transport-approved animals to a local veterinarian for preconditioning.

1 WEEK Before Transport: One week before animals are transported, they should be closely monitored for any health changes. At this time, animals should be dewormed and given flea and tick prevention, if they have not already had them. Quarantine areas should be prepared, and emergency plans should be made based on the type and length of travel.

3-5 DAYS Before Transport: Three to five days before transport is the final opportunity to have the animal(s) vaccinated. As mentioned above, it is considered best practice to vaccinate two weeks beforehand, but if that is not possible, giving the vaccines three to five days before transport is better than waiting until the day before. By allowing the vaccines to settle in the animal's immune system for a few days before transport, it is believed that the animal may be less likely to catch diseases which the vaccines are meant to protect against.

Dogs under six months of age coming from shelters at which the parvovirus has occurred in the past three months **MUST have a Parvo snap test and/or titer test within three days of transfer** to detect viral shedding or determine immunity. If the shelter lacks resources to test, MHF may provide tests or testing.

Animals should also be moved into quarantine areas, if possible. These animals should be closely monitored during this time for any health changes and partnering shelters should alert Middleburg Humane Foundation IMMEDIATELY with concerns/signs of disease so that decisions can be made about whether the animal should still be transported. The stress of moving animals can make their immune systems weak and therefore it is important to make sure that animals are as healthy as possible prior to transport. Volunteers should also be contacted to confirm that they are still available for transport day.

1 DAY (24 hours) Before Transport: One day before an animal is scheduled for transport, it is recommended that volunteers are brought in and shown what tasks, if any, they will be expected to complete on transport day. At this time, kennels that will be used for transport should be cleaned and sanitized, and the paperwork for all animals should be collected and ready to travel with the animal(s). A physical examination by a veterinarian or other trained professional must also be performed, and if a **health certificate** (pg. 6) has not already been completed within 10 days before the animal is transported, this is the final opportunity to have one completed by the



veterinarian. Animals should be given a form of identification that is safe for transport, such as (1) a collar with an ID tag, (2) tape/paper collar with their name written in Sharpie, (3) microchip, or other measures. Any additional supplies such as bowls, food, toys, bedding, etc. should also be collected and ready to give to transporters.

TRANSPORT DAY: On transport day, a quick health check by a trained professional should be done to ensure animals are healthy enough to travel. The transport volunteers (pilots, drivers, ride-alongs, etc) should then be given copies of emergency plans as well as all paperwork and supplies BEFORE receiving the animals. Once everything is ready and supplies have been collected, the animals should be loaded and make the trip to the importing shelter (MHF). Along the way, transporters should make appropriate stops for bathroom, food and water breaks (pg. 5).

ATTENTION:

Animals should always be boarded into transportation vehicles LAST to avoid unnecessary stress and risks of injury or overheating.

2. BEFORE CONTACTING MIDDLEBURG HUMANE FOUNDATION

Determining the Dog's Health Status

First and foremost, before a transfer date can be arranged or preconditioning needs are determined, the housing shelter must know the health status of the dog being considered for transport. Although Middleburg has taken in multiple animals with significant medical needs, like heartworm disease, they reserve the right to reject any animals at the discretion of the Intake Committee. It is recommended that a veterinarian have seen the animal(s) considered for transfer, but a trained professional's initial health screening will be accepted when contacting Middleburg for an intake request. Once an animal is approved, they will then be required to see a veterinarian and receive required vaccines, testing, and deworming.

Throughout the **pre-transport period** (the period of time before transferring to MHF), shelters and their volunteers should monitor animals closely for new symptoms like those that can be found in this section. All health issues or concerns should be discussed with Middleburg Humane Foundation as soon as the shelter becomes aware so that changes to travel dates can be made, as necessary.

Monitor closely until able to see a Veterinarian	ISOLATE and monitor closely until able to see a Veterinarian	Seek immediate medical attention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decrease/loss of appetite ● Decrease in energy or activity level ● Hiding ● Vomiting or diarrhea ● Blood in urine or stool ● Increased shedding or bald patches ● Excessive scratching or licking of the body ● Foul odor coming from the mouth, ears or skin ● Lumps or tumors ● Limping ● Fever 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coughing ● Sneezing ● Runny nose/eyes ● Puppies with bloody diarrhea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vomiting multiple times in one day ● Straining or unable to urinate or defecate ● Seizures ● Gagging with signs of stomach bloating ● Difficulties breathing ● Sudden collapse or weakness ● Prolonged fever

Below is an additional chart for partnering shelters with staff who are trained and qualified to administer vaccines. It is not uncommon for animals that arrive at shelters to show signs of illness, injury, or pregnancy. So when deciding whether an animal can/should be vaccinated in those situations, please use the “Should the Dog be Vaccinated?” chart to help identify whether vaccines are recommended.

Should the Dog be Vaccinated?		
Younger than 6 weeks of age?	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MHF does not vaccinate animals younger than 6 weeks of age If possible, animals <6 weeks of age should be placed directly into a foster home or maintained in an area separate from the general population
When injured?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With minor injuries, vaccines can still be given
	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccination should not take priority over medical stabilization of patients with severe injuries If there are severe injuries, consult a veterinarian before vaccinating
With mild illness?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccination may still be effective and protect from mild infectious diseases
With mild fever?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the animal has a fever (103.5F or above), it is best to put the animal away and allow time for them to decompress, because a fever can result from stress or anxiety. Recheck the temperature before attempting to vaccinate again. If still feverish, contact a veterinarian.
	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals with prolonged fever should be seen by a veterinarian and should not be vaccinated
When one individual in a litter is larger or smaller than the others?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If one member of a litter appears or is known to be at least 6 weeks of age, all members of the litter should be vaccinated regardless of size
When lactating or nursing?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccination will protect the mother from infectious diseases and is unlikely to harm her litter Nursing animals will not be protected when the mother is vaccinated; they should be vaccinated starting at 6 weeks
During pregnancy?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccination can protect the mother from serious, potentially fatal infectious diseases and may provide protection to offspring for the first few weeks of life There is a small risk to developing puppies and kittens whose mothers were vaccinated during pregnancy, but if there are no other options to keeping the pregnant mother in a crowded shelter, the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks If vaccines are not administered, the animal should be kept in a protected environment <u>outside</u> of the shelter to minimize likelihood of disease exposure

Determining the Dog's Age Range

This section provides guidance on how to identify the approximate age of shelter dogs. Because it is possible that an animal has not been examined by a veterinarian yet, shelters may not know the true age of an animal when contacting Middleburg for transport. It is our hope that by using the collaborative “Approximate Age” charts ([APPENDIX B](#); [APPENDIX C](#)), shelters will be able to use an animal’s physical characteristics to more accurately determine a dog’s age. Doing so will help our Intake Committee to decide what resources are available at Middleburg Humane Foundation and whether we can approve the transport request. Determining the age range will also help to identify preconditioning needs and will make it possible for shelter staff and volunteers to use the SOP chart: “Core Preconditioning Requirements for All Shelter Dogs” ([APPENDIX A](#)).

Additional Information About Age Ranges

[Pre-wean Puppy \(Younger than 6 weeks old\)](#): For the purposes of this manual, a pre-wean puppy is defined as a young canine below the age of six weeks. Despite puppies usually being weaned from their mother’s milk between three and four weeks of age, we have chosen to categorize puppies up to six weeks old as “pre-weaned” because it is Middleburg’s protocol to wait until six weeks to vaccinate. In shelter environments, we receive many animals with little or no background information, and sometimes we take in puppies without a mother. This prevents us from knowing whether the puppies have had an opportunity to breastfeed and receive antibodies from their mother’s milk. To avoid possible complications, it is recommended to wait until puppies are at least six weeks old before vaccinating, especially if they are brought to the shelter without their mom.

[Post-wean Puppy \(6 - 20 weeks of age\)](#): A post-wean puppy, according to this manual, is a young canine between the ages of six weeks and twenty weeks. It is during this time that puppies still possess Maternally Derived Antibodies (MDAs) which the puppies received from their mother during early breastfeeding (IF they were able to breastfeed). Unfortunately, these antibodies can interfere with vaccines. This is because the MDAs can prevent puppies from making their own antibodies. At this time, it is believed that MDAs start to fade when the puppy is about twenty weeks old. Knowing this information, it is important to vaccinate puppies between the ages of six weeks and twenty weeks on a regular basis to give them the best possible chance of protection against disease while MDAs slowly begin to fade. Current recommendations are to vaccinate every **2 to 3 weeks**.

[Adolescent Canine \(6 months - 2 years of age\)](#): The adolescent stage in dogs has been approximately identified as the age between six months and two years. During this time, canines are becoming physically and emotionally mature and they start to have different medical needs than they did as puppies. By this age, dogs should no longer have MDAs from their mother’s milk and vaccines can be given once a year. It is also at this age that dogs will need to start being tested for heartworm disease.

[Adult Canine \(2 - 8 years of age\)](#): Between two years and eight years old, dogs are considered to be mature adults. Usually, medical care during this time is predictable: vaccines are given every one to three years, heartworm and fecal tests are done annually, and regular preventions should be given monthly (or according to manufacturer labeling).

[Senior Canine \(Older than 8 years of age\)](#): At the age of eight and beyond, dogs are considered to be in their final stage of life. And regardless of health or appearance, they will begin to require more attention as their immune systems once again become more susceptible to infectious diseases.

3. PRECONDITIONING REQUIREMENTS AFTER TRANSPORT APPROVAL

IMPORTANT:

The SOP titled “Core Preconditioning Requirements for All Shelter Dogs” ([APPENDIX A](#)) is a condensed, quick-reference chart with all of the main points from this section. It is recommended that the SOP be separately printed and made readily available to shelter staff and volunteers who will benefit from its use. We hope this will help staff who are qualified to administer vaccines with identifying our requirements. Or, if our partner shelter uses volunteers to take transport-approved animals to a local veterinarian, having everything in writing can reduce the stress of volunteers having to relay requirements to veterinary staff.

A. Vaccine Requirements According to Age Range

Core Vaccines:

Core vaccines are non-optional preventive vaccines that should be given to ALL shelter animals. Core vaccines offer a level of protection against the most common and hazardous diseases that can cause illness in shelter-housed animals. Core vaccines also include vaccines that may be required by law in the state of origin and/or destination.

Non-Core Vaccines:

Non-core vaccines are NOT required for transport to Middleburg Humane Foundation. Shelter vaccine programs depend on the diseases common in certain areas, as well as shelter resources and philosophies. Therefore, vaccine programs that include non-core vaccines should ultimately reflect the needs of particular shelter populations and are at the discretion of shelter decision-makers.

Core Vaccine Requirements for All Shelter Dogs

Dog Age Range	Pre-wean Puppy Younger than 6 weeks old	Post-wean Puppy 6 - 20 weeks old	Adolescent Canine 6 months to 2 years old	Adult Canine 2 - 8 years old	Senior Canine Older than 8 years old
Core Vaccines	DO NOT VACCINATE	DHPP or DA2PP	DHPP or DA2PP	DHPP or DA2PP	DHPP or DA2PP
		Bordetella	Bordetella	Bordetella	Bordetella
		Rabies* (16+ weeks old)	Rabies	Rabies	Rabies

*[2VAC5-141-80] **Pet animal entry requirements; exemptions**

C. Any dog or cat older than four months [16 weeks] of age entering Virginia shall be currently vaccinated for rabies.

Non-Core Vaccines Available for Shelter Dogs					
Dog Age Range	Pre-wean Puppy Younger than 6 weeks old	Post-wean Puppy 6 - 20 weeks old	Adolescent Canine 6 months to 2 years old	Adult Canine 2 - 8 years old	Senior Canine Older than 8 years old
Non-Core Vaccines	DO NOT VACCINATE	CONSULT WITH A VETERINARIAN	Lepto	Lepto	Lepto
			Canine influenza virus	Canine influenza virus	Canine influenza virus
			Lyme	Lyme	Lyme

Additional Information About Vaccinations

IMPORTANT:

- Vaccines should ONLY be administered by a licensed veterinarian or trained staff who works under the direct supervision of a veterinarian, such as a licensed veterinary technician.
- All vaccines should be administered ONLY by the route designated by the manufacturer.

Vaccine	Disease Antigens	Route	Frequency for Prolonged Stays in Shelters
DHPP or DA2PP [Core]	[1] Canine Distemper Virus [2] Adenovirus-2 (hepatitis) [3] Canine Parvovirus [4] Canine Parainfluenza Virus	SQ	Younger than 20 weeks: Starting at 6 weeks of age, administer one dose every 2 to 3 weeks until the dog is 20 weeks old. Older than 20 weeks: An initial dose should ideally be administered when the animal is taken into a shelter, with a second dose given 2 to 3 weeks later. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer additional doses once every 3 years.
Bordetella [Core]	<i>Bordetella bronchiseptica</i>	IN	Administer a single dose once yearly.
Rabies* [Core]	Rabies virus	SQ or IM	Administer a single dose within 1 year following the initial dose, regardless of the dog's age at the time of the initial dose.
Lepto [Non-core]	<i>Leptospira interrogans</i>	SQ	An initial dose should be administered at the veterinarian recommended age, with a second dose given 2 to 3 weeks later. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If at risk, continue to vaccinate once yearly.
CIV [Non-core]	Canine Influenza Virus	SQ	An initial dose should be administered at the veterinarian recommended age, with a second dose given 2 to 3 weeks later. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If at risk, continue to vaccinate once yearly.
Lyme [Non-core]	<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	SQ	An initial dose should be administered at the veterinarian recommended age, with a second dose given 2 to 3 weeks later. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If at risk, continue to vaccinate according to a frequency recommended by a veterinarian.

Route:

Subcutaneous (SQ): Injection of a vaccine beneath an animal's skin.

Intranasal (IN): Dribbling of specialized vaccine components into an animal's nose/nostrils/nasal cavity.

Intramuscular (IM): Injection of a vaccine directly into an animal's muscle tissue.

Disease Antigens:

DHPP or DA2PP: Commonly referred to as the "Distemper/Parvo Vaccine," DHPP/DA2PP are used to offer protection against some of the most life threatening infectious diseases seen in young, unvaccinated dogs.

[1] **Canine Distemper Virus:** Puppies and dogs most often become infected with canine distemper virus (CDV) through airborne exposure, like when an infected animal coughs or sneezes. The virus can also be transmitted by shared food and water bowls or equipment. Distemper is often fatal, and dogs that survive usually have permanent nervous system damage.

[2] **Adenovirus-2 (hepatitis):** The adenovirus-2 is related to the hepatitis virus and can be spread between dogs through direct contact, through infected coughing/sneezing, or by contact with contaminated feces or urine.

[3] **Canine Parvovirus:** Also known simply as "Parvo," this is a highly contagious virus that can affect all dogs, but unvaccinated dogs and puppies younger than four months old are at the highest risk. The virus infects dogs' gastrointestinal tract in the stomach, and spreads by direct contact with contaminated feces, environments, or even from people who have handled infected animals. Parvovirus is highly resistant and can survive on surfaces for very long periods of time, so good cleaning protocols with approved products are extremely important for preventing the spread of disease.

[4] **Canine Parainfluenza Virus:** This is a highly contagious respiratory virus and is among the most common causes of coughing in dogs.

Bordetella: This vaccine is often referred to as the "Kennel Cough Vaccine." More specifically, it is meant to offer protection against the Canine Kennel Cough Complex (CKCC) or Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex (CIRD). This vaccine is important because CKCC/CIRD is the **most common** respiratory (airway) condition seen in dogs.

Rabies*: Rabies vaccination in dogs is a legal requirement in the United States. This is due to the deadly effects of the rabies virus on both animals and humans. Unlike the other infectious diseases on this list, there is no cure for the rabies virus once animals or humans begin to show signs of disease, so vaccination is one of the only forms of protection currently available.

Lepto: Leptospirosis is a disease caused by a bacteria which can be found worldwide in soil and water. The significance of vaccinating dogs against this bacteria is that leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can spread from animals to people. It is important that shelters consider their environment and the chances that their animals will be exposed to leptospira bacteria when making vaccine protocol decisions.

CIV: Canine influenza (CIV) is a highly contagious respiratory disease. It is still a relatively new virus and vaccination is not particularly widespread, meaning that dogs who become exposed may be susceptible to infection. Depending on the needs and protocols in individual shelters, vaccination against canine influenza virus may be a helpful tool in limiting respiratory disease in the shelter setting.

Lyme: Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and can infect humans and animals through the bite of infectious ticks. When deciding vaccine protocols, it is important to weigh the costs and benefits of vaccination instead of, or in combination with, oral/topical tick prevention options.

B. Testing Requirements According to Age Range

IMPORTANT:

Middleburg Humane Foundation is always striving to improve the preconditioning process for animals that will be transported to our facility. Lab testing is a vital part of this process, and we acknowledge that some shelter partners do not have the same resources for lab testing as others. Therefore, we are exploring options to ensure that reputable and reliable testing becomes an accessible standard.

As partnerships, funding, and decisions are explored, Middleburg Humane Foundation will be in contact with our partnering shelters in regard to any changes in protocol. If any additional questions or concerns arise, please reach out to your Middleburg contact, or use the contact information in the front of this document.

Testing Requirements for All Shelter Dogs

Dog Age Range	Pre-wean Puppy Younger than 6 weeks old	Post-wean Puppy 6 - 20 weeks old	Adolescent Canine 6 months to 2 years old	Adult Canine 2 - 8 years old	Senior Canine Older than 8 years old
Test	Fecal	Fecal	Fecal	Fecal	Fecal
			Heartworm SNAP Test	Heartworm SNAP Test	Heartworm SNAP Test

C. Parasite Control Recommendations Chart

Proper parasite control is extremely important in shelter environments. And, although it is highly recommended that animals are given parasite prevention as soon as they arrive at a shelter, the following “When” within the chart focuses on preventive treatment before the animal is transported to Middleburg Humane Foundation.

Parasite	Who	When	Notes
Hookworms & Roundworms	ALL Canines 2 weeks of age and older	ONE WEEK (7 days) before transport to MHF	Common treatment options include panacur (fenbendazole), pyrantel pamoate, and ivermectin
Fleas & Ticks	[1] Post-wean Puppies [2] Adolescents [3] Adult Canines [4] Senior Canines	ONE WEEK (7 days) before transport to MHF or immediately when fleas/ticks are found on pet	A variety of topical and oral products are available and many products include treatment for additional internal or external parasites
Heartworms	[1] ALL Post-wean Puppies [2] Adolescent & Adult Canines after HW testing	Only after a negative HW test result or when specifically instructed by a veterinarian	Monthly topical or oral products are available; many products include treatment for additional internal or external parasites

Parasite	Who	When	Notes
Other parasites	All animals	Upon diagnosis	Treatment without a diagnosis is NOT recommended
		<i>Giardia spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combination therapy with panacur and antibiotics are most effective Animals should be bathed at end of treatment course to prevent re-infection
		Whipworms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common treatment options include panacur, milbemycin, and moxidectin Multiple treatments may be required to clear infection
		Tapeworms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flea treatment must be included in treatment course Tapeworms do not cause clinical disease in otherwise healthy dogs and cats Tapeworm species found in dogs and cats are NOT zoonotic
		<i>Coccidia spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most effective treatment options include ponazuril and toltrazuril Animals should be bathed at the end of treatment course to prevent reinfection

Additional Information About Testing and Parasite Control

Heartworm (HW) testing: Heartworms are parasitic worms that are spread with the help of mosquitoes. When a mosquito takes a blood meal from an animal that has heartworms, they pick up small “baby” heartworms with the blood. Then, when the mosquito goes to feed on a different dog, the baby worms that have attached to the mosquito enter the new dog through their skin. In unprotected dogs, the undetectable baby parasites mature over the next six months, making it difficult to diagnose heartworm disease until the worms have fully grown. The foot-long adult worms then establish a home in their host’s heart, lungs, and other nearby blood vessels. If left untreated, this can cause severe lung disease, heart failure, and can even damage other organs in the body.

Heartworm testing is an important part of shelter animal transport. Not only are infected dogs a risk to other animals around them, but they will also need medical treatment which can be time consuming and expensive. Middleburg Humane Foundation is proud to offer the chance for approved heartworm positive dogs to transfer to our shelter so that we can help provide necessary treatment and finally put them into loving homes.

Fecal testing: Fecal testing can be done on-site at most veterinary clinics to diagnose intestinal parasite infections. This can be helpful because adult worms are not always visible with the naked eye in animal feces and infected animals do not always show signs of discomfort or have diarrhea. For this reason, it is important for a veterinary professional to check the feces under a microscope for diagnosis. Young puppies are especially at risk when they are infected with parasites. High numbers of intestinal worms in dogs and puppies can cause anemia and even block the intestines, which is a medical emergency. In addition, testing and proper handling of animal stool is extremely important because not only can many parasites be spread between animals, but some worms can infect humans as well.

[Hookworms and Roundworms:](#) Hookworms and roundworms are zoonotic intestinal parasites that have the potential to infect human handlers. Hookworms are very common parasites in dogs and can infect animals through skin contact with contaminated soil, through ingestion, or even from an infected mother to her puppies while breastfeeding. And although adults will not necessarily show signs of hookworm infection, puppies will often have bloody diarrhea. Roundworms are also common in dogs who can pick up the parasite from infected feces.

[Fleas and Ticks:](#) Ectoparasites like fleas and ticks can transmit infectious diseases to animals and people, such as lyme disease and tapeworms. When an animal arrives at a new shelter, they should always be examined for fleas and ticks to prevent the spread of flea infestation or disease infection to other animals.

PRE-TRANSPORT CHECKLIST
FOR MIDDLEBURG HUMANE FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Shelter Name: _____

Animal Name: _____

Name of Middleburg Humane Foundation Contact: _____

Date Middleburg Humane Foundation was contacted: _____

Scheduled Transport Date: _____

Form of transportation agreed upon:

- Interstate Vehicle
- Pilots N Paws (or other flight: _____)
- Other (Please specify: _____)

Step 1. Identify animal's health status and approximate age using age range charts:

- "Approximate Age of Young Canines Using Teeth"
- "Approximate Age of Adult Canines Using Physical Characteristics"

List any health concerns: _____

Approximate Age:

- Pre-wean Puppy (<6 weeks)
- Post-wean Puppy (6 - 20 weeks)
- Adolescent Canine (6 months - 2 years)
- Adult Canine (2 - 8 years)
- Senior Canine (Older than 8 years)

Step 2. Contact Middleburg Humane Foundation with your intake request:

- Middleburg Humane Foundation
PO Box 684
Marshall, VA 20116
- 540-364-3272
admin@middleburghumane.org

Step 3. Follow the Pre-transport guidelines for preconditioning needs:

- "Core Preconditioning Requirements for All Shelter Dogs" Chart

Check all that apply

Core Vaccines:

- Should not vaccinate
- DHPP/DA2PP
- Bordetella
- Rabies

Lab Tests:

- Fecal
- Heartworm Test

Parasite Control:

- Hookworms & Roundworms
- Fleas & Ticks
- Heartworms

Step 4. Make final preparations for animal transport

Use as a checklist while gathering forms on transport day

- MHF Transfer form
- Health Certificate (if out of state)
- Medical records
- Emergency plan for volunteers
- Final Health Check of animal

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A: Core Preconditioning Requirements for All Shelter Dogs



Core Preconditioning Requirements for All Shelter Dogs

Dog Age Range	Pre-wean Puppy Younger than 6 weeks old	Post-wean Puppy 6 - 20 weeks old	Adolescent Canine 6 months - 2 years old	Adult Canine 2 - 8 years old	Senior Canine Older than 8 years old	When to Give
Core Vaccines	DO NOT VACCINATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHPP or DA2PP Bordetella Rabies* (16+ weeks old) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHPP or DA2PP Bordetella Rabies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHPP or DA2PP Bordetella Rabies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHPP or DA2PP Bordetella Rabies 	Ideally 2 weeks before transport or a minimum 3 - 5 days before transport
Lab Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fecal test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fecal test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fecal test Heartworm SNAP Test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fecal test Heartworm SNAP Test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fecal test Heartworm SNAP Test 	Minimum 7 - 10 days before transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fecal Recommended for all animals Fecal Required for all dogs with diarrhea
Parasite Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hookworms & Roundworms (2+ weeks old) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hookworms & Roundworms Fleas & Ticks** Heartworms** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hookworms & Roundworms Fleas & Ticks Heartworms*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hookworms & Roundworms Fleas & Ticks Heartworms*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hookworms & Roundworms Fleas & Ticks Heartworms*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deworm 7-10 days before transport or immediately when diagnosed Flea/tick prevention 7-10 days before transport or immediately when parasites are seen HW*** prevention 7-10 days before transport

*Rabies VA Code [2VAC5-141-80] Pet animal entry requirements; exemptions: C. Any dog or cat older than four months [16 weeks] of age entering Virginia shall be currently vaccinated for rabies.

**Refer to the manufacturer's packaging for recommended ages before giving puppies flea, tick, and heartworm prevention.

***Only give heartworm prevention to Adolescent, Adult, and Senior dogs AFTER a negative Heartworm Test result or at the specific instruction of a veterinarian.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX B: Approximate Ages of Young Canines Using Teeth



Approximate Ages of Young Canines Using Teeth

<p>2 weeks old</p>	<p>Pre-wean Puppy: (<6 weeks)</p> <p>Puppies up to 2 weeks old are tiny, have no teeth, and have not opened their eyes yet. At this time, puppies do not move around very much and will stay close to their mother.</p>	<p>8 weeks old</p>	<p>Post-wean Puppy: (6 - 20 weeks)</p> <p>By 8 weeks old, puppies should have all 28 of their baby teeth. They are very sharp and as the puppy continues to grow, the teeth will seem too small for their mouth before starting to fall out.</p>
<p>3-4 weeks old</p>	<p>Pre-wean Puppy: (<6 weeks)</p> <p>Between 3 - 4 weeks old, the four pointy canine teeth will start to grow in. They are the first to show in the puppy's mouth. The tiny front teeth (the incisors in between the canines) will be the next to grow in.</p>	<p>6-8 months old</p>	<p>Post-wean Puppy: Around 4 months (16 weeks old), the front teeth will fall out first, followed by the back teeth. This means the front teeth will also start growing in first.</p> <p>Adolescent Canine: At 6 months old, puppies should have their adult canine teeth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this time, adult teeth might start growing before the baby teeth fall out (seen in the photo with double canines).
<p>4-6 weeks old</p>	<p>Pre-wean Puppy: (<6 weeks)</p> <p>The tiny front incisors will grow in between the canine teeth around 5 weeks of age. Then the teeth right behind each of the canine teeth will start to grow in when the puppy is about 6 weeks old.</p>	<p>8-12 months old</p>	<p>Adolescent Canine: (6 months - 2 years)</p> <p>All adult teeth should be visible and fully grown in between 8 - 12 months of age. They will still be pearly white.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be mindful and use good judgement; not all dogs will let you examine their teeth.

Images from wikiphow.com "How to tell your puppy's age" <https://www.wikihow.com/Tell-Your-Puppy%27s-Age>

APPENDIX

APPENDIX C: Approximate Ages of Adult Canines Using Physical Characteristics



Approximate Ages of Adult Canines Using Physical Characteristics

Adolescent Canine 6 months - 2 years old

Adolescent dogs are somewhat similar to human teenagers as they are becoming more physically and emotionally mature. During this stage, they are no longer puppies, but not quite adults yet either.

- Will have all adult teeth and the teeth should still be white
- When the animal is clean and healthy, the coat should be shiny
- Depending on the breed, dogs may still be growing and filling out during this stage



Adult Canine 2 - 8 years old

Identifying the exact age of an adult canine can be very difficult, which is why the age gap within this stage is so large. Once an animal reaches adulthood, they have typically reached their physical and emotional maturity.

- After 2 years old, dogs may start to develop tartar and yellowing on their teeth
- As adults age, their coats can start to grey and become course or rough. This typically starts around the muzzle when the animal is about 5 years old

Senior Canine 8 years or older

Again, similar to humans, senior dogs will typically show more significant signs of aging once they become eight years old and older.

- Elderly dogs are more likely to show signs of wear, staining, and heavy tartar build up on their teeth
- Grey hairs may be more common around the animal's face or along the body
- An elderly dog's face will often start to "sink" and appear thinner
- Cloudy eyes & cataracts are often a strong indication of a dog's old age

Image from the DailyMail.com article "It's a dog's life! Heart-melting pictures of our faithful friends growing from puppyhood to old age." <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3196698/Photographer-captures-heart-melting-images-dogs-tiny-puppies-wise-old-souls.html>