**Transports and how they work**

We are partnered with about 7-10 other shelter/rescue groups in our area. Southern Pines Animal Shelter in Hattiesburg runs and coordinates the transports working with shelters in states like Minnesota, Maine, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, etc. where they have good laws and spay/neuter requirements/incentives for owners.

We have to provide at least 50% small dogs and puppies to stay in the program.

There are medical and behavior requirements to be met.

We submit a list of our candidates with their medical records and behavior comments (Skin issues are a big deal - one reason we have you do the exam at start meds - the quicker we can fix an issue the quicker we can get them on transport or adopted) and pictures of each.

Our dogs have to be picked by the shelters that are going to receive them. So it is a competition to get our dogs to look/sound fantastic. Good information on their personality is helpful.

Dogs are more likely to get picked if we can say they have been housed with other dogs. This adds another important reason to pair up dogs in kennels. This is particularly true of our bullies as the destination shelters want to know that they can be ambassadors for their breed.

Our PetSmart team is always wanting puppies so we made a deal - anything 4 months or older gets submitted for transport (5 month and under is considered puppy). PetSmart team also does not like taking puppies that are 8-10 weeks old and weigh 10 pounds or less along with older bigger puppies as they all have to be in the same pen at PetSmart. So puppies under 4 months that weigh 17 pounds or more are also tagged for transport submission.

We get no reimbursement for dogs/puppies that go on transport. That is why you are asked not to microchip dogs if they are 4 months or older or if they are under 4 months but weigh 17 pounds or more. That is also why we don't send dogs that we have recently S/Ned.

Never ever tell a potential adopter that a specific dog is going on transport. We use the same "Yippie I'm spoken for" signs on both adoption and transport accepted dogs on purpose. If a potential adopter harass a receiving shelter we will get kicked out of the program. Feel free to describe the program to customers and explain how it works, but we NEVER pull dogs off the transport list once they have been accepted for a potential adopter.