

“No Paws On (the) Ground”

THE 5 W's of NPOG

WHO does “NPOG” apply to?

“NPOG” applies to any puppy under the age of (typically) 6 months who has not received at least 3 rounds of juvenile vaccines, no less than 14 days prior to transport.

WHAT does “NPOG” mean?

“NPOG” stands for “No Paws On the Ground”, and it means literally just that. **The puppy’s paws are NEVER to be placed directly on the ground, pavement or any unsanitary surface.**

WHY are the puppies “NPOG”?

The puppies traveling “NPOG” don’t yet have fully-developed immune systems and are more susceptible to various parasites, diseases, and viruses commonly found in and on the ground at public locations.

WHEN is “NPOG” in effect?

No Paws On the Ground is in effect from the time transport leaves at the beginning of the day until it arrives at the destination at the end of the day.

WHERE is “NPOG” imposed?

No Paws On the Ground is in effect at ALL transfer meeting locations. The ONLY location where puppies may be placed on the ground is at the overnight, ONLY in the overnight host’s house or possibly yard, **ONLY if the house or yard has 100% NOT been exposed to any unvaccinated animals in the last 2 years or if not frequently visited by animals infected with parasites.**

HOW TO COMPLY WITH “NPOG”

It’s imperative to the well-being of the puppies that the following protocol be followed to the letter and without fail.

- **Prior to transport**, clean out your vehicle and remove any bedding, blankets, crates, etc. that previous animals may have used.
- If planning to use one of your own crates as a “holding area” while their crate is being cleaned, your **crate MUST be sterilized with bleach prior to transport.**
- Sterilize any water bowls that you plan to use.
- The puppies will typically be traveling in their own crate and with a supply of puppy pads or newspaper to replace any that end up soiled, but it’s always a good idea to bring extra for your leg to use just in case supply runs low.
- Food for the puppies will also be sent. **Feed puppies during transport if specifically instructed to so.** Instructions will be made very clear on transport plan/runsheet. (Very young or nursing puppies may also be sent with a tube of Nutri-Cal.)
- Use antibacterial hand gel prior to handling the puppies, or wear rubber/non-latex gloves.
- Puppies old enough to drink should be offered water at every stop.
- **Potty Time:** To allow the puppies to stretch their legs and potty, they must be placed on something covering the inside of the back of your vehicle or on a groundcover. Groundcovers to be used ONLY if an x-pen/playpen will be set up around the perimeter (groundcover must extend well beyond the x-pen on all sides),

and ONLY if temperature is above 70°F, it's not raining, and ample shade is available. **NEVER leave puppies unsupervised in the back of your vehicle or an ex-pen!** Some items that can be used to cover the area are:

- Shower curtain liners (buy for cheap at dollar-type stores)
- Small or folded tarps
- Plastic sheeting
- Blankets that have been previously washed with bleach
- Slip leads/leashes are to be removed while puppy is crated to prevent leash-chewing. After removal, attach the lead/leash to the top or front of the crate for easy access and to prevent it being accidentally left behind.
- **When removing puppy from the crate:**
 - If puppy is wearing a standard collar with a slip lead, loop the lead around the puppy's neck (do NOT attach lead to the collar) while still inside crate, loop lead handle around your arm, and place the puppy wherever you plan to allow them to potty.
 - If puppy is wearing harness with leash, attach the leash to the harness while puppy is still inside of the crate, loop leash handle around your arm, and place the puppy wherever you plan to allow them to potty.
 - If you're removing the puppy from the confines of the vehicle, even if you're planning to just hold them, the lead/leash handle is remain looped around your arm.
- Crates should be checked at each stop and cleaned if soiled.
- If crates are soiled:
 - Prepare the area where you plan to allow puppies to potty (refer "Potty Time" instructions above).
 - **If there are multiple puppies in a single crate, you must wait for the next driver to arrive or make sure you have a passenger before cleaning crate. Do NOT attempt to do this on your own!!!!**
 - Remove puppy from the crate and place her/him on the prepared surface or in one of your previously disinfected crates.
 - Remove soiled pads and place in trashbag.
 - Wipe down the crate with a non-toxic cleaner.
 - Dry the crate surface after cleaning.
 - Transfer crate to next vehicle.
 - Place clean pads in crate.
 - If puppy is a mess as well, clean her/him using baby wipes, puppy wipes or a natural/non-toxic/enzymatic waterless shampoo.
 - Dry off any excess moisture on puppy using a clean towel.
 - Place puppy into clean crate.
- Should you need to transfer to next vehicle while puppies are inside crate, do NOT pick up the crate by the handle or trust that the bottom of the crate can bear the weight. **Always make certain to lift the crate while supporting the bottom.**

If Puppies are Traveling with Mama

On occasion, puppies come fully equipped with their mama, and they may or may not be weaned. In these cases, ALL above protocol still applies **in addition to** the following:

- **Listen to mama's cues.** She's a good mama and will let you know what she and the puppies need and what is or is not acceptable.
- Mama should say NPOG as the babies are... but if she needs to be walked and she is going to be placed back in the same crate with her babies or allowed to interact with them at any point, her feet and legs **MUST BE WIPED DOWN**

VERY, VERY WELL with **antibacterial** baby wipes prior to allowing interaction. If she rolls or lies down in the grass, her **entire body** (especially including her belly) must be wiped down.

- Use antibacterial hand sanitizer **after** handling mama and **before** handling the puppies again, or use gloves when handling mama and remove them before handling the puppies.
- For puppies not yet weaned, mama will be traveling in the same crate with them. Be very watchful to make sure no puppies are stepped on or smashed when she reloads.
- For puppies in the process of being weaned or already weaned, it's best that mama not be in the crate with them.
- If not yet fully weaned, she should be allowed to feed a couple of times during the day.
- Nursing mamas need to stay hydrated and should be offered water at everyone stop.

ITEMS TO BRING WITH YOU

These items should be included **in addition to** what is already needed for general transports.

- Extra newspaper or potty pads
- Trashbag(s)
- Antibacterial hand gel or rubber/latex-free gloves
- Baby/puppy wipes and/or natural/non-toxic/enzymatic waterless shampoo
- **Antibacterial** baby wipes (for use on momma when hauling nursing babies)
- Old towels or blankets (previously washed with bleach)
- Sheet to cover crate in summer; blanket to cover crate in winter