



PetSmart Charities® Rescue Waggin® Program Fast Facts for 2011

- PetSmart Charities® Rescue Waggin® program launched in 2004 in the Midwest. Today, the Rescue Waggin' program currently operates in 24 states, running four routes: one on the East Coast, one in the Midwest, one in the Great Plains states, and one in the South Central states region.
- The Rescue Waggin' program operates nationally, transporting dogs from high euthanasia shelters to high adoption shelters in order to save more pets' lives.
- Since 2004, more than 45,000 dogs have been saved through the Rescue Waggin' program.
- In 2011, the Rescue Waggin' program is expected to save the lives of more than 9,000 dogs and puppies.

The Dogs

- All adult dogs are given an evaluation before being selected for the Rescue Waggin' program.
- All puppies and dogs must be 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 of down time to adjust to their new surroundings before receiving a medical exam and spay/neuter surgery.
- Once on the adoption floor, dogs from the Rescue Waggin' program are generally adopted within a week of their arrival.

The Vehicle

- Since 2004, vehicles used in the Rescue Waggin' program have logged more than 1.5 million miles transporting dogs 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 to 60 puppies and dogs at one time.
- Temperature-controlled environments and piped-in lullaby music on the Rescue Waggin' vehicles provide comfort for the dogs during the trip.
- Rescue Waggin' program guidelines have been reviewed by veterinarians and national humane organizations and are considered the gold standard for pet transport.

The Shelters

- Currently, more than 60 shelters participate in the Rescue Waggin' program.
- All shelters in the Rescue Waggin' program must go through a screening and training process before being admitted.
- Shelter staff receives behavior evaluation training to ensure only behaviorally-adoptable dogs are chosen and transported through the program.
- Many Rescue Waggin' program shelters report significant reductions in euthanasia as a result of the program, in one case as much as 50%.
- Shelters transporting pets in the Rescue Waggin' program are eligible for PetSmart Charities' grants, so that they can improve their shelter facilities and increase their services to their communities.
- The Rescue Waggin' program picks up dogs from animal shelters and transports them to other shelters that have virtually solved their dog overpopulation problems and are able to accept transfers of dogs and puppies into their adoption program.

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About PetSmart Charities®

Established in 1994, PetSmart Charities, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that creates and supports programs that save the lives of homeless pets, raise awareness of companion animal welfare issues, and promote healthy relationships between people and pets. The largest funder of animal welfare efforts in North America, PetSmart Charities® has provided more than \$134 million in grants and programs benefiting animal welfare organizations and has helped save the lives of more than 4.5 million pets through its in-store adoption program. To learn more about how PetSmart Charities is working toward its vision of a lifelong, loving home for every pet, visit petsmartcharities.org or call 1-800-423-PETS (7387).