

M.A.M.A.S. Transport

In 2001, The Mary Ann Morris Animal Society (M.A.M.A.S.) started as a small shelter in the rural county of Bamberg in South Carolina by local citizens due to dog overpopulation. Before M.A.M.A.S., there was no safe refuge for stray dogs in the area. We transitioned to a no-kill shelter in 2008. Also founded in Bamberg, South Carolina, M.A.M.A.S transport arm, known as M.A.M.A.S. on the Move (M.O.M.T.), travels 545 miles and beyond to help animals in need, with unwavering support of approximately 490 volunteers and 34 fosters –unselfishly contributing their time and resources in support of our mission. Currently, we intake close to 700 stray, abandoned, and surrendered dogs annually, transporting them northward to adopters, fosters, and other rescue organizations. Every other weekend, starting at 4:00 a.m., the shelter staff in Bamberg begins the journey and hands off the lucky travelers to an army of volunteers in Columbia, South Carolina. From there, they continue to make their way northward as far as Baltimore, Maryland, on a leg-to-leg transfer, each about an hour long and approximately 60-80 miles. Overnight volunteers in Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware prepare their furry guests for their next day’s journey. From there, they trek further north, sometimes as far as Maine. This massive volunteer network started with 5-10 dogs every other week and has grown to up to 40 dogs every other week.

This massive undertaking requires approximately 100 dedicated volunteers to carry out this significant two-day mission of transporting dogs up the East Coast. Our 490 transport volunteers include—but are not limited to—drivers, overnights, adoption coordinators, transport coordinators, and transport monitors. In addition to the 34 fosters assisting in this grand effort, we partner with approximately 32 receiving rescue groups. A snapshot of the number of dogs transported and rescued over the past five years is displayed below:

- 2019 - 622 dogs
- 2020 - 669 dogs
- 2021- 653 dogs
- 2022 - 652 dogs
- Year to date - 313 dogs