Palm Valley Animal Society Transport Media Kit

**About us**

* Palm Valley Animal Society serves five municipalities (Edinburg, Hidalgo, McAllen, Palmhurst, and La Joya) and Hidalgo County at large on behalf of approximately 545,000 residents, taking in approximately 16,000 animals each year.
* PVAS accepts stray and surrendered companion animals from municipalities and counties who contract our services regardless of age, health, or breed, making us the largest intake facility in Hidalgo County, and one of the largest intake facilities in the country.
* Our mission is to provide lifesaving care, comfort, and compassion to animals in need by engaging the hearts, hands, and minds of our community.
* PVAS has implemented a wide variety of lifesaving measures, and in 2021, our save rate was 88.2%.
* We have two facilities with a total of 350 dog runs and 185 cat kennels.
* Our diverse staff of over 100 trained professionals serves our community in multiple languages, as nearly 75% of the community speaks a language other than English.
* While we rely heavily on our transport partners to save lives, we also adopt out more than 5,000 pets into the community each year and have recently added a Pet Resources Center, providing food, supplies, rehoming support and information on low-cost veterinary care, to help keep pets in the home and out of the shelter system.Our foster care program currently supports, on average, 300 pets in foster care at any given time, and we’re hoping to expand our capacity to provide more intensive lifesaving care to neonate kittens and puppies in 2022.

**Greatest Challenges**

* In 2021, the number of pets in our care varied from 200-500 cats and 500-900 dogs based on time of year and the age of intakes.
* Though we have implemented new contracts with partner municipalities that limit the number of animals they can bring into the shelter at once and encourage progressive field services, we still receive an average of 30 stray pets every single day.
* Veterinary care is one of our biggest challenges. For the large majority of 2021 we did not have a full-time vet on staff so we were left working with a patchwork of visiting vets. In addition to this localized challenge, many private practice vets in our area are not taking on new clients and with nearly 24% of the community living below the poverty line, most veterinary care options are not financially feasible.
* We do have one new facility (opened in 2016) but the large majority of our dogs are still housed in our old facility, which has primarily outdoor, covered kennels. In such a warm climate outdoor kennels are not typically a concern, but we do have a few cold snaps during January-February in which we plea out as many dogs as we can to temp foster, wrap the kennel pods in tarps and provide enough heat to take the edge off the chill.

**Tag us on Social Media!**

* Facebook: [@pvastx](https://www.facebook.com/pvastx)
* Instagram: [@pvastx](https://www.instagram.com/pvastx/)
* Twitter: [@pvastx](https://twitter.com/pvastx)
* Tik Tok: [@palmvalleyanimalsociety](https://www.tiktok.com/%40palmvalleyanimalsociety)

**Find Pets in Need of Transport**

* Our pets most urgently in need of placement are posted [here on our website](https://www.pvastx.org/pvas-urgent-pets).
* We post new pets in need of transfer daily in our Facebook group, [PVAS Partner Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/471530777159307)
* We also send daily emails to fosters and transport partners introducing pets who need placement. If you aren’t on our transport email list, contact us at rescue@pvastx.org.

**Information for Transport Partners**

* All animals are vaccinated with age appropriate vaccines upon intake. We are unable to provide rabies vaccines on intake due to no veterinarian on staff, however if a health certificate is required we utilize visiting veterinarians for such and are able to provide a rabies vaccination at that time. All animals receive dewormer, flea prevention, and heartworm prevention (if applicable). Dogs receive heartworm testing upon intake, or when age appropriate. We are unable to ensure that all pets are spayed/neutered prior to transport due to the lack of veterinarian resources.
* We transport all animals in airline carriers. If we are transporting we request that the receiving agency provide their own carriers at the meeting location. If we transport animals via air transport we seek donated carriers prior to the transports because we know the crates will not be returned to us. We never want a carrier to be the obstacle preventing an animal leaving our facility to a receiving partner.
* Our process is not complex. We ask that you complete an on-line application, provide your 501c3 documentation, and 2 references, at a minimum. We then ask you to join our [PVAS Partner Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/471530777159307) so you can see our daily urgent pleas as well as our email group where we post animals in need throughout the day. We also work with groups when we know we are doing in state and out of state transports. For those transports we can provide working lists that provide information on animals available, length of stay, medical, and behavioral. We do have enrichment occurring at both locations so we are able to do dog/dog testing when requested.

**Transport Options**

* [Pilots N Paws](https://www.pilotsnpaws.org)
* [Doobert.com](https://www.doobert.com/), an online software platform custom-built for animal rescuers: “It’s like a combination of Match.com specifically for animal shelters and rescues to find new partners, and then a volunteer Uber for getting the animals where they need to go.”
* Find more options on [Best Friends Animal Society’s website](https://resources.bestfriends.org/article/pet-transport-resources)
* We are able to provide a list of resources for local transportation that often are able to be paid to add animals to their regularly scheduled transports.

**Other Ways You and Your Supporters Can Help**

* Like us on social media!
* Tag us in transport posts and posts about pets who were transferred from us!
* We’re always in need of airline crates and carriers of all types for pet transport. If you’re picking pets up here, please bring your own with you, and if the transport is returning to PVAS, we’d love any you can send on the return trip!
* Have a surplus of donations? Bring some along on your transport pickup or send some back on the return trip! You can see the items we need most on our [Amazon wish lists](https://www.pvastx.org/amazonwishlist).
* Interested in doing a donation drive or a larger-scale event to help us? Contact info@pvastx.org for help.