

**APA's Transport Program Mission:** To help eliminate the killing of companion animals in Texas shelters through the use of transport and relocation programming. Our program facilitates the lifesaving connections of Texas pets in shelters at risk of euthanasia to rescues and adopters in other parts of the state, country, and internationally.

**Program Overview:**

It is estimated that over 60,000 companion animals annually are still unnecessarily dying in Texas shelters. In order to increase the number of lives saved, APA! created a transport program in 2021 that connects under-resourced TX shelters to no-kill rescue organizations. The APA! Transport hub closes the resource gap, and helps TX shelters tap into the national (and international) pipeline of rescue support. In order to move pets out of Texas, shelters need to fulfill state requirements which generally include vaccinations that can only be administered with a Veterinarian present, a Veterinary exam of each animal and certificate, and various medical testing. In addition to the medical requirements, transports require several hours of staff time to coordinate the logistics and paperwork. For these reasons, participating in transfer programs has been largely inaccessible to many Texas shelters in need, which leads to an increase in healthy animal euthanasia, despite the demand of homes waiting for these dogs and cats.

Austin Pets Alive!, recognized this significant problem and has designed our transport program to increase accessibility and meet Texas shelter partners where they are. We provide the missing resources, Vet time, health certificates, vaccinations, and transport coordination to enable many TX shelters (over 80 partners currently) to tap into a larger transport network. Our program saves lives by connecting pets sitting in Texas shelters on euthanasia deadlines to no-kill rescue partners that have a surplus of adopters. There are regions of the U.S. and Canada, where the high adoption demand exceeds the local pet population and the opposite is true in many Texas communities. Our transport program works to stabilize shelters and save lives today, while our AmPA! operations provide more local focused support.

**Our Values:**

- We understand our work is directly connected to lifesaving in Texas. We will put our entire effort into this program and cause, and pilot innovative solutions to problems. Transport is just one tool of many, and supporting local solutions to challenges is our priority.
- Resources, location, and demographics do not determine a person or organization's worth or value.
- We believe and will advocate for equitable transport partnerships, and understand the importance of our role in promoting this on a statewide and national scale.
- We will always work with our partner organizations with humility and respect.