

## Companion Animal Transport Program Best Practices Glossary

Here are common phrases you'll come across in both the SAWA Best Practices document for Companion Animal Transport Programs and corresponding 7-part webinar series on [ASPCApro](#).

- **Adoptable:** Animals meeting the criteria identified and set forth by an individual group as being safe, healthy, and responsible candidates to be rehomed in their community through their adoption program. For purposes relating to transport, adoptable is defined by the Destination agency.
- **Aggregator:** Unaffiliated third party providing the service of transportation between Source and Destination agencies. Provides care and complies with best practices for animals during transport; does not provide services for transport candidates prior to transport or after arrival at the Destination agency.
- **Behavior Assessment:** A method of information gathering regarding an animal's behavior that can be utilized as part of the decision-making process to determine adoption candidacy. A variety of formal assessments are available to be used.
- **Destination Agency:** Agency that receives animals transported from a Source agency. Transferred animals supplement adoption program population and do not infringe upon the resources and placement opportunities available to local community of animals.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** A written agreement between two agencies to establish and define expectations as said agencies embark on a partnership. MOUs are established out of mutual respect to help groups adhere to commitments to one another throughout their professional relationship.
- **Population Imbalance** (also referred to as Community Imbalance): There are more animals surrendered to local shelter(s) than there are individuals adopting animals in a community. Or, there are a greater number of individuals wanting to adopt than there are animals available for placement through the shelter(s) in a community.
- **Resources:** Availability and access to a pool of services and assets that contribute to the network providing care to animals in an agency's charge, including but not limited to financial support, staff availability, volunteer programs, veterinary services, behavioral expertise and housing accommodations.
- **Source Agency:** The agency from which transport animals originate. A Source agency is in need of transport opportunities for animals to provide immediate relief due to population imbalance and/or inadequate resources to address the medical or behavioral conditions of transport candidates.
- **Transport:** The physical act of relocating animals from a Source agency to a Destination agency.