WHAT TO KNOW WHEN RESCUING A PET IN WASHINGTON STATE

RULES FOR ADOPTING PETS FROM OUT OF STATE

• Travel and vaccination documents are required, including a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or similar.
• Proof of current rabies vaccination are also required, except for dogs and cats younger than 3 months - they do not need rabies vaccinations.
• Dogs and cats from areas under quarantine for rabies are prohibited.
• Dogs 6 months and older must test negative for heartworm.
• Cats need a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, but do not require heartworm testing.

RABIES VACCINATION MUST BE CURRENT

Make sure the certificate is complete and valid. Rabies certificates should include:

• Date of rabies vaccination.
• Expiration date of vaccine.
• Veterinarian’s signature.
• Pet’s description, including breed, sex, age, color, and markings.

BEWARE OF FORGERIES

• Be sure documents list where the animal is coming from and where it is going.
• Check documents for the veterinarian’s name, signature, and National Accreditation Number.
• Research pet rescue organizations to verify they have an operation permit if required.
• Penalties of up to $1,000 can be assessed for forged documents or transporting animals into Washington without valid paperwork.