

What's the longest distance someone has traveled to adopt or reclaim an animal from your agency/organization?

That's the question we asked for this issue's Coffee Break, and you responded with tales showing that when people fall in love with an animal—or want to get a family member home—distance is no obstacle.



There was a dog by the name of Titus who was getting really stressed and scared. We were going to see if we could find an alternative place for him. Within one day of him being removed off the adoption floor, a gentleman called from Alaska and asked if we still had him. He flew out the next day, and spent most of the day with him to try to get him to warm up to him. Titus got adopted and is on his way to Alaska as we speak.

—Angela Wheatley, adoption counselor
Southwest Washington Humane Society
Vancouver, Washington

We run a small animal shelter in Picayune, Miss. A family in Juneau, Alaska, wanted a Manx kitten and saw two Manx brothers listed on our website. The husband, Mr. Sullivan, called inquiring about these kittens, and a few days later, he flew down to adopt them. We were amazed that he would come so far, and our local newspaper even did a story on it. He ran into a lot of problems on his trip, too numerous to mention in 150 words, but it turned into quite an ordeal. In spite of all this, he said he has no regrets about coming, and that they are wonderful kittens. He still sends us e-mail and pictures.

—Maria Diamond, president
Pearl River County SPCA
Picayune, Mississippi

You may have heard the story of Jack Daniels, a little black kitten abducted from the San Francisco SPCA last summer. Despite a city-wide search, we thought we'd never know what happened to the little guy. ... When animal care and control picked up a stray on 100th Street in New York City, they had no idea that the cat they found had begun his life in San Francisco, but when they scanned for a microchip registered to the San Francisco SPCA, they picked up the phone to alert us. Welcome home, Jack Daniels! Thanks to our partners at JetBlue Airways and Kimpton Hotels, Jack Daniels made it back to the San Francisco SPCA safe and sound and ready to find a new home. We don't know how he got to New York, who took him from the San Francisco SPCA or any of the details in between, but we are glad he made it back here. Jack Daniels is happily settling into his new digs! His new pal Miles says that he is adjusting nicely and currently trying to figure out which he likes better: belly or back rubs! He's off to a good start with the sweet life.

—Laura Gretch, community outreach
specialist
San Francisco SPCA
San Francisco, California

Thirteen hundred kilometers! [Approximately 808 miles.] A woman returning from a visit with her parents in Halifax, Nova Scotia, found a dog wearing a collar and tags on the side of the road. She didn't know what to do, so she brought the dog to us in Ottawa, Ontario, after feeding it nothing but fast-food chicken for two days. The owners were contacted, and arrangements were made to fly the dog home the next day. For fun we sewed a bandana with our logo for the 1-year-old German shepherd, which he wore on the plane ride home.

—Michelle Tribe, communications coordinator
Ottawa Humane Society
Ottawa, Ontario

A gentleman in Vancouver, British Columbia, saw online a special-needs, three-legged Pomeranian that we had in our rescue, and fell in love. His three-legged Pomeranian had recently passed, and he just knew that our dog was meant for him. After applying and being approved to adopt her, he had a friend from L.A. fly to Indiana to pick her up for him, and then he had to fly to L.A. that weekend for business, and he picked her up in L.A. and took her back to Vancouver! Where they are living happily ever after!

—Dawn Moore, founder and president
Moore Love Rescue
Greensburg, Indiana

While it's only about seven hours by car, we had a family 400 miles away in Toronto, Canada, travel to our shelter near Albany, N.Y., to adopt an adorable terrier mix. But in order to get here in time to adopt Scruffy before anyone else, they chartered a private plane to come get him! After a short cab ride, they arrived at the shelter, and it was love at first sight. Scruffy enjoyed his experience on a plane, settling down to nap at the feet of his new family. They say every boy needs a dog—we think every dog needs a boy (or a girl). Scruffy is now best of friends with the family's son, thanks to a young couple who knew that he was special enough to travel to another country, by air and by land, to find his "forever" home.

—Melissa Tata, animal welfare manager
Animal Protective Foundation
Scotia, New York

We received a lost report back in August for an orange, medium-haired neutered cat named Ike whose family had been visiting in Gaithersburg, Md. The family routinely travelled in an RV, and the cat somehow escaped. In mid-November, a cat matching the description of the lost kitty was brought in as a stray to our shelter. While checking our lost reports, our lost-and-found coordinator felt that she had found a match. She contacted the family, who had just returned to their home in Illinois. They looked at Ike's photo on our website, and promptly turned around and drove back to Rockville, Md., to pick up their beloved cat, Ike. When Ike was reunited with his human mother, he gave her a big hug. There was not a dry eye in the shelter lobby.

—Kathy Dillon, operations and medical programs manager
Montgomery County Humane Society
Rockville, Maryland

We had a charming pair of Chinese Crested sisters up for adoption. Their elderly owner had gone into a nursing home and was devastated to give his girls up. We wanted very badly for them to be able to stay together, [because they had] already lost someone they loved dearly. We turned down many people who wanted to adopt just one or the other, but finally, the perfect couple from Miami contacted us about adopting both. Since the girls were in Pennsylvania, we wondered how they planned to get them. They flew to Pennsylvania, rented a car, and drove all the way back to Miami with their new little family members in the back seat. We get regular updates of the girls in their bikinis enjoying life from their new home overlooking the beach.

—Sue Hankard, director
Bare Paws Rescue
Gilford, New Hampshire

Congratulations to Sue Hankard, whose submission was selected in a random drawing from those published in this issue. Her organization, Bare Paws Rescue in Gilford, N.H., will receive a free coffee break: a \$50 gift certificate to a local coffee shop. "Bone" appétit!

Check out the latest Coffee Break question and submit your responses (150 words or less) at animalsheltering.org/coffeebreak or send them to Editor, *Animal Sheltering*/HSUS, 2100 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20037. **Your answer may be printed in a future issue of *Animal Sheltering*.** If your response is chosen for publication, you will be entered into a drawing to win **a free coffee break (valued at \$50)** for your organization. Responses may be edited for length or clarity; no donation or purchase is necessary to win. See animalsheltering.org for contest rules, or send an e-mail or letter to the above addresses to request a printed copy.