

The following is our summary of our animal transport from Oklahoma to St. Paul, Minnesota as volunteer drivers for GHART. GHART is a volunteer 501 3 c non-profit that transports Oklahoma dogs from high kill shelters to their forever homes in Colorado and Minnesota. Tina and I transported 15 dogs in an extended cargo van from the towns of Collinsville and Wagnor to their new forever homes in Minnesota. THANK YOU to each and every one of you who had us in your special thoughts and prayers for a safe trip! We really appreciated those!

Our journey started with picking up a Great Pyrenees mix from the Duncan Shelter. We met the dog "Connie" and a volunteer in OKC at 4pm on Thursday (19th). From there we traveled to GHART's base camp (Tulsa) dropped off our SUV and picked up the GHART cargo van. We then headed to Collinsville and Wagnor to pick up the lucky dogs. Each and every dog was appropriately documented on the highly organized trip manifest and had matching paperwork (with their picture) attached to each crate. We were finally loaded and on the road to Minnesota by 9pm that night. We were scheduled to drive all night and arrive at the Minnesota animal shelter between 8-9am on Friday.

For those of you who really know me, know I am an early to bed gal and NOT a night owl. I have to admit I was honestly concerned whether I could stay up all night. It's in Tina's genetics to function very well with little sleep. She could work a 36-hour shift, sleep for 3 hours and be fine. I on the other hand had not ever been put to the test, nor was I ever interested...till now because I had the opportunity to be a part of something I thought was special. I even purchased the large 4-pack of sugar free Red Bull as my backup plan if needed to stay up-which I didn't need till opening one on the way back to Oklahoma (lol)! Let me say, not only did I stay up all night, I did surprising very well!!! I suppose it was the adrenaline, the precious cargo we had the privilege of driving and two large cups of hot tea that made it possible. Matter of fact, I had trouble settling down to sleep on Friday once we unloaded the dogs at the receiving shelter.

After we unloaded the dogs, we shopped at Trader Joes, ate a late breakfast and headed to the hotel. We managed to get a 3 hour nap and then we decided to do what all girls should do when the opportunity is available...we headed to the Mall of America! We headed back to the hotel early evening and started to settle in for the night. We got up on Saturday morning, ate our yummy (seriously) hotel breakfast and were on the road for home at 6:45am. We arrived safely back home Saturday evening.

Minnesota is BEAUTIFUL! The farms in northern Iowa and southern Minnesota were breath taking. What sections of Minnesota we were exposed to were very clean, the homes were nice and well kept, people were active as they were out walking their dogs or working in the yards and folks were very friendly. The Minnesota folks there (tv, radio) were talking about the heat wave they were having to endure...uh, the temp was 85 degrees! Tina and I told them a heat wave is what we have right now in Oklahoma with temps over 100 degrees and that's not including the heat index!

What a wonderful experience we were able to be a part of! Everything from start to end was so well organized! Everyone we met from GHART, Collinsville, Wagnor and Minnesota were so friendly and all around good-hearted people. Thanks again for letting us share. ❤️ Mouziane & Tina