

OUT OF STATE ADOPTIONS

(In response to an email complaining that rescues would not adopt a puppy out of state.)

Perhaps I can explain their position. We, too, almost never adopt across state lines. The reasons are numerous and have been formed from experience.

If you adopt to someone in another state and it does not work out, the adopter (no matter what they have promised) will often call and say, "Come and get this dog...if he isn't out of here today, we are taking him to the shelter." We don't have the ability to travel around the country collecting dogs from adopters. And we certainly can't do it at the drop of a hat. (We ran into this the very first time we tried an out of state adoption.)

If anything happens and you should have to go to court, it almost forces you to let the case drop. I may want to take a dog back because I have evidence that the dog is being poorly cared for, but if I have to try to prosecute in Alabama, it is going to be an almost sure loss. It is even hard to go to court on the other side of the state. We have learned that you have to hire a lawyer who lives near the court to stand much of a chance. That means you have all kinds of travel expenses and still are likely to lose. (One of our dogs was involved in a court case between a divorced couple...we learned a lot from that experience.)

Contracts that make sense in Michigan don't always translate across state lines. Each state has their own "rules" and they may not honor our contract.

We can't keep as good an eye on a dog who is a long distance away. When they are here we have more chance of keeping in contact, esp. now that we have more foster homes sharing the contacts. When they are far away, we don't know what will happen.

We have a hard time getting home checks when they are in a distant state. We have to rely on people we don't really know.

And, most of our donors are from the local state. When we have the rare puppy who many want, is it fair to our supporters to give it to someone out of state? If we had a puppy in care and we sent it to Tennessee, wouldn't you be upset if you were on the waiting list?

We do rarely place out of state but it is usually to a previous adopter or supporter or it is a dog that we could not find a home for locally or for some reason it was better for the dog (perhaps a highly allergic dog going to a state where allergies are less of a problem).