

Tips for Re-Homing Your Pet

STEP 1: ADVERTISING YOUR PET

- **Start by taking good photos of your pet (a photo of your pet's face and your pet's whole body).** A photo of him standing by a person will be helpful in showing his size. If your pet is an indoor pet, then you will want to take the photos indoors. A photo of him on his favorite bed and/or playing with a favorite toy would also be good. Photos are very important... a pet profile with a great photo will get the most attention by potential adopters.
- **Next, compose your pet's biography so you can post him on an Adoptable Pets page or flyer.** Begin with his age, weight, color, and sex. Provide his medical information, such as if he/she is neutered or spayed; last vaccinations given and when; heartworm prevention history (if applicable); flea/tick prevention history; and if he has had any other medical treatments such as dentals, etc. Be sure to say if he has any conditions requiring medications or other forms of treatment.
- If your pet is not spayed or neutered and you don't want him or her to be used solely for breeding purposes, then you may want to consult our Low Cost Spay and Neuter Clinic about having him/her neutered before beginning the re-homing process.
- **Describe the ideal home you would like to find for your pet.** List any commands he may know and say whether or not he is crate-trained. If he is house-trained and has a particular way of letting you know he has to go outside (such as ringing a bell), describe this. If he has had any formal obedience training, and whether or not he/she likes children, other dogs and cats etc.
- **If your pet has a behavior problem, you need to disclose this!** It may take a special person to adopt a pet with issues, and consequently it may take longer to place your pet. But the applicant should know of any issues up front since they may not want that responsibility.
- **Next, list your re-home fee.** Please do not put "free to good home"! If you have a family member or a good friend who wants to adopt your pet, then you don't need to charge a re-home fee, as long as you're sure they can provide a good home for your pet. Otherwise, it's important to set a re-home fee. When deciding your re-home fee, please consider this important point – that if someone can't afford to pay you an appropriate re-home fee, then they may not be able to afford the basics for your pet, such as a good quality food, vaccinations and regular check-ups, plus all the other things that will keep the pet healthy. If your pet has been vetted such as spayed/neutered, microchipped, and/or vaccinated, you may want to check with your local animal shelter or a local rescue group to find out what their adoption fee is for your type of pet. This will help you come up with an appropriate re-home fee. Ideally your fee would be at least equal to the shelter or rescue's adoption fee.

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- **Now, make a flyer.** Try to include one or two of your pet's photos, as much of your pet's biography as you can, your re-home fee, and your contact information. Display your flyer in as many pet-related businesses as possible. Look for grooming shops, veterinary clinics, and pet stores. Always ask the manager of the business for permission to post your flyer and where to post it. You can also email your flyer to friends, family, and local rescue groups. Remember that even though a rescue group may not have room for your pet, they may know of a prospective adopter looking for a pet like yours! You could also ask if they would be willing to help you through the re-homing process. If you are on Facebook, post your pet's picture and information, and ask your friends to share.

STEP 2: REVIEWING APPLICANTS

Once you get some interest in your pet, you will want to call the prospective adopter and discuss your pet with them over the phone. Ask the applicant if you may send them an application to fill out, which will provide you with all their information. We have a sample Re-Home Application attached to this handout that you may use, and many animal rescue organizations have applications on their websites which you can download for additional ideas about what to ask when interviewing the applicant.

Ask the applicant about their own pets (past and/or present). Ask them to describe a typical day in the life of their pet. Be sure to ask them about contact information for the veterinary clinic they use, as well as the name of their veterinarian. Ask them if you may call the clinic for a reference. If they say "yes," ask them to call their vet's office to let them know you'll be calling. (Some vets won't give out any information about a client unless they have their client's approval beforehand). When you call the vet clinic, ask things like the last time their pet was in; if the pet is up-to-date on vaccinations; their history of heartworm prevention (if applicable); and if they do other things, such as dentals. After speaking with the vet clinic, you'll be able to tell what kind of medical care the adopter has provided for their pets.

If your pet is one that needs grooming on a regular basis, and the applicant also has (or had) a pet that needs regular grooming, ask for their groomer's contact information and that they call the groomer to let them know you'll be contacting them for a reference. Then when you speak with the groomer, find out how often the applicant brings their pet in for grooming services.

If you like what you hear from the applicant, their vet, and their groomer (if applicable), then you may want to schedule a meet-and-greet... either in a public place (such as a local pet supply store), or at their home. If you feel comfortable meeting at their home, you will be able to see where your pet will be living. However, in this case, you should take a friend or a relative along, for your personal safety. Your friend or relative may also see or hear something during the visit that you may miss, which might be valuable information to help with your decision. While you are getting to know the prospective adopter, your friend will be able to watch your pet. If it isn't possible to have a meet-and-greet at the applicant's home, or at a public place, you should ask them to send



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you photos of their home, yard to show you where your pet will be living. Also, you can find more information online with websites like Zillow and Google Maps. Ask for photos of their current or past pets as this will help to show if they have been well cared.

Please be as thorough as possible in checking out a prospective applicant.

RE-HOME APPLICATION:

Pet's Name: _____

Male: Female:

Species: _____ Breed: _____ Age: _____

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION

Applicant: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I am currently:

Employed: Student: Retired: Unemployed: Work from home: Stay-at-home mom:

Do all the members of your household want to adopt this pet?: _____

Do you:

Own: Rent: Live with parents:

If you rent, name of landlord or real estate company: _____

Phone _____

If you rent, may we check your lease for a pet clause? _____

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If you rent, do you have landlord's permission to have a pet?: _____

Do you have a fenced yard?: Pet door?:

How many hours will your pet be home alone on a typical week day?: _____

Weekends?: _____

Where will your pet stay when home alone during the day?:

Where will your pet stay/sleep at night?:

If your pet will be living outside, describe its living facilities:

If you are no longer able to keep your pet for any reason, at any time, will you return the pet to me?:

Yes: No:

Please list all pets you currently have, and have had in the past five years, and what happened to them:

Name, Species, Breed, Age, Spayed/Neutered? Living/Deceased Vet Used (please use back of page if more space is needed)

Name of the Veterinary Clinic you use the most: _____

Phone number: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

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Are you willing to keep vaccinations up-to-date and provide adequate medical care for this pet?:

Yes: No:

If you are considering a long-haired breed, how often would the pet be groomed?:-----

Name of the groomer you use the most -----

Phone number -----

STEP 3: MEET-AND-GREET... AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION

If possible, it's best to visit the prospective home to see where your pet will be living. Before you leave for the meet-and-greet, fill out a Pet Information Sheet and prepare two copies of a Re-Home Contract to take with you, just in case you like and feel very comfortable with the applicant, and the meet-and-greet turns into an adoption! For the same reason, also take your pet's bed, toys, food, medicines, etc. as well as a copy of his medical records. And make sure your pet has proper identification on his collar, including a rabies tag, an ID tag with your information, and a microchip tag (if your pet is microchipped). In case you end up doing an adoption that day, he'll need to be wearing proper identification, just in case he should run away from his new home. You should ask the adopter to keep proper identification on your pet at all times, especially until he feels very secure with his new family.

If during the meet-and-greet you feel the applicant may not be the right match for your pet, you and your pet can return home, and you can give it some more thought. Then contact the applicant and let them know your decision.

If you do feel comfortable with the prospective adoptive family and their home, and you are prepared to leave your pet with them, make sure that they fill out the Re-Home Contract before you leave your pet with them. (You should have two copies: one for you and one for them to keep). The contract you ask the adopter to sign should state that, if for any reason they can no longer keep your pet, they will contact you and the pet will be returned to you. Offer the adopter a trial period of three weeks, in order to make absolutely sure the placement is a good match for both your pet and for the new family. Reiterate to them that, as the contract states, if for any reason they can longer keep the pet, they must notify you and return the pet to you.

Remember to give the adopter your Pet Information Sheet, as well as your pet's bed, food, medicines, medical records, and favorite toys. This will help make your pet feel more comfortable during the transition.



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After the adoption, check in with your pet's new family after about 48 hours, and then weekly for three weeks to get updates on how your pet is coping in his new home environment – and how his new family is doing with him! Ask them to call or email you with an update from time to time, and ask for photos, too! Remember, your pet is counting on you to provide him the best home possible...whether that is with you or with someone else.

Also, when your pet has been successfully re-homed, please remember to log in to any websites or accounts where you had posted your pet's profile and remove it.

INFORMATION ABOUT MY PET

Pet's Name _____ Species/Sex _____ Breed/Mix _____

Age/DOB _____ Spayed/Neutered Yes r No r Weight _____ Color _____

Microchip brand and number _____

I/we have owned the pet since _____

Pet was found _____ Pet was purchased from _____

Ages of children in household _____ Pet has lived with these children _____

Pet has spent most of his time:

- Always outside
- Mostly outside
- In garage or Outside unless we are home
- In a crate inside
- Always inside-Run of House
- Confined to room or rooms

Hours pet has been left alone _____ Where/hours pet sleeps _____

Pet is completely house-trained: Not house-trained: Mostly house-trained:

Pet will let you know when he needs to "go" by: _____

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How pet is used to being exercised daily _____

Pet is confined to our property with _____

Pet has had the following type of obedience training _____

Pet knows these commands/tricks _____

We have consulted a trainer/ behaviorist for the following problem(s) with our pet _____

Pet has bitten or snapped at someone: No: Yes : If "Yes", these were the circumstances _____

Describe if pet has had any problems with the following (give examples):

Children: _____

Dogs: _____

Cats or wildlife: _____

Strangers: _____

Other: _____

RE-HOME CONTRACT

- I hereby acknowledge receiving the pet named _____
- a _____
[age, sex, color, description, species, breed]
- I agree to provide fresh food, fresh water, adequate shelter, a safe environment, and kind treatment at all times.

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- I agree to take this pet to a veterinarian for examinations and immunizations at least once per year and as needed, and to procure immediate veterinary care, at my own expense, should this pet become ill or injured.
- I agree to keep this pet clean and cared for, and to provide regular grooming care as needed.
- This pet has been fed _____
_____ [brand(s), amount each meal, and number of times per day]

I agree to call the person below if I have any questions regarding this pet or if I can no longer keep this pet.

OWNER'S NAME _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

ADOPTER'S NAME _____

PHONE(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

RE-HOME FEE _____ CASH _____ Received by: _____