

A Step-by-Step Guide to Rehoming Your Pet



Dear Pet Owner:

We know that the decision to rehome your pet is not an easy one to make. Follow these guidelines in order to maximize your effort towards rehoming your pet. Be thorough and patient, finding the right home takes time, but it's worth it for your sake and the sake of your pet.

Take several color photos of your pet to show off your pet's cutest and most endearing qualities.

Working with a second person can help you get that perfect picture!

- Get down to your pet's eye level to shoot the photos. It gives your photos the feeling of a portrait rather than a simple snapshot.
- Take lots of photos! Part of taking a successful pet portrait is persistence. Taking many photos will give you options to choose from and help capture your pet's personality perfectly.
- Make sure the background isn't cluttered! That can take the attention away from the animal. Try taking some photos outside and some photos inside. The lighting will look different in each setting!
- Have treats and squeaky toys at the ready to catch your pet's attention!

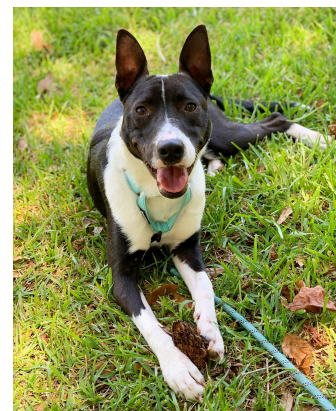
Write a story about your pet. Include the reason your pet needs a new home, the kind of home he/she needs and would do well in, and some "human interest" information (such as your pet's funniest behaviors, favorite things to do, etc. Many people write the story from the animal's perspective, for example, "Hi, my name is Max, but my mom usually calls me "Good Boy"..."

- When rehoming a pet, you should always be transparent about why you are rehoming the animal.
- Disclose "negative" behavioral quotes in a positive way.
For example, if a dog doesn't like cats, a good way to word it would be "I love to play with other dogs, but cats are just not for me!"
- Make sure to include name, age, size
- Include your contact information so potential adopters will know how they can meet your pet.

Here is an example of a photo and description marketing a dog for adoption.

"Hi, my name is Max, but my mom usually calls me "Good Boy"! My favorite pastimes include long naps on the couch, going to the dog park, and playing with my favorite tennis ball. I love to play with other dogs, but cats just aren't for me. I'm a handsome 2-year terrier mix who is looking for a new home because my mom works a lot and does not have enough time to give me the attention I need. If you are looking for a new cuddle buddy, I am your man! I am neutered and up to date on my vaccinations.

Call my mom, Jane, at (444-4444) to find out more about me!



Utilize online platforms: [Rehome by Adopt-a-Pet](#) and [Home-to-Home](#) are online pet rehoming platforms that are able to assist owners who are looking to rehome their beloved pets.

The [Humane Society of the United States](#) and [People and Pets Together](#) have more helpful tips regarding the process of rehoming your pet.

Network. Give your photos, story, and email to everyone you know asking for their help. Search the internet for additional resources, such as breed-specific rescues.

-Use your social media profile(s) to ask your friends and followers to share your pet and assist in the search for a new, responsible home.

-Advertise through your workplace email or community bulletin board. Placing your pet with someone you know will ease the transition for you, the new guardian, and your pet.

Make a rehoming poster or flyer. Simple templates can be found online, and free graphic design websites like canva.com and picmonkey.com can help you create more eye-catching posters to print or share online. Place the rehoming posters in veterinary offices and other places where people who take good care of their animals visit often.

Ask for a fee. A modest rehoming fee can cover the costs of updating vaccinations or the supplies such as a crate, carrier, or flea/tick preventative you plan to pass along to your pet's new guardian.

HELPFUL HINTS ON EVALUATING POTENTIAL ADOPTERS:

Interview potential adopters carefully. Use the sample adoption questionnaire we have provided as a guide.

Utilize a questionnaire form: Review our foster care [adoption survey](#) for suggestions of questions to ask potential adopters.

-Have potential new owners complete a questionnaire to evaluate whether their home is compatible with your pet.

Ex: Does your pet get along with other animals? Is your pet high or low energy? Make sure your pet fits into the lifestyle of the applicant's family, and that your pet is what they are really looking for.

Along with collecting adopter information, you might consider the following (please note that with respect to some of these items, an open and honest discussion will provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision regarding your pet's placement):

-Verify their name and address with proper documentation.

-If the prospective new owner rents a house or apartment, ask about the pet policy in order to ensure he or she has permission to have a pet.

-Ask what for a vet reference. Inquire whether his or her other pets received routine medical care. If they are not established with a vet, have an open conversation about what routine medical care the animal needs and recommend local vets if needed.

Take the time to consider applicants. Don't allow yourself to be pressured into making a decision that you do not feel right about. Your judgment is your best guide.

Follow up. Call to see how your pet is doing in his or her new home. A responsible Guardian will welcome your concern for the animal.

WHEN YOU'VE FOUND THE RIGHT HOME

Once you've identified a loving, responsible new guardian for your pet and confirmed with that person that they are ready to commit to becoming your pet's new owner you should:

Coordinate the exchange. A public meeting place is recommended. To help your pet transition to the new home, provide favorite toys, bedding, litterbox, and other familiar items. It's also important to give any remaining food you have to the new guardian so they can transition the animal smoothly over.

Transfer vet records. Provide the new owner with copies of any written veterinary records you have. To simplify the transfer, you can ask your veterinarian to send records directly to the new owner's preferred clinic. Your vet might require this request to be provided in writing.

Document your pet's new ownership. Create a written record, signed by you and the new owner to document that the adopter is taking ownership of the animal.

Update microchip information. If your pet is microchipped, contact the database where the chip is registered (CAA uses 24PetWatch but private clinics may use other databases) to notify the company of the change of ownership and provide the new owner's contact information.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this guide, please email intake@caabr.org. We wish you the best of luck with rehoming your pet!