

The Animal Foundation Guide to
Rehoming Your Pet



All of us for all of them.®

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Finding a new home for your pet will likely take time, patience and effort. However, it will be less stressful on the pet to stay out of the unfamiliar surrounds of the shelter, where anxiety and fear are natural reactions that make adoption more challenging. No one knows your pet better than you and best of all, you will be able to choose your pet's new home.



Getting the Word Out

Take several good-quality digital photos of your pet. Make sure your pet is well-groomed, can be seen clearly in the photos (try to avoid clutter in the background), and is looking directly at the camera. People connect more emotionally with photos where the subject is looking directly at them. If you are using a cell phone camera be sure you don't zoom in, get close to your pet instead. Zooming in creates lower resolution photos that may end up being fuzzy if you try to print them or enlarge them.

Compose an ad that describes your pet's personality, habits, and some of the little things that make him or her special. Include your pet's age, weight, and sex. Include any disabilities, health issues or behavior quirks. Believe it or not, sometimes these are the things that potential adopters respond to. For tips on how to write an appealing ad, read [How to Write Animal Adoptable Pet Bios](https://bestfriends.org/resources/pet-profiles-how-write-adoptable-animal-bios). [LINK: <https://bestfriends.org/resources/pet-profiles-how-write-adoptable-animal-bios>]

Post your adoptable pet online. There are several websites that allow you to post photos and descriptions of adoptable pets such as [Rehome](#), [Wagaroo](#), [Rehome Your Pets](#), and [petbond.com](#).

Create an eye-catching flyer using a free website such as [canva.com](#). Share your flyer via email 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!) Print hard copies and post them throughout the community. Veterinary clinics, grooming salons, health food stores, churches, and coffee shops are just a few examples of potential places to post your flyer. Always ask the manager of the business for permission to post your flyer and where to post it.

If your pet is a dog, take him out and about. The more opportunities the dog has to interact with people, the more chances you have of finding your pet a home. Take him on walks, to pet supply and other stores that allow dogs, to the local park, and to dog-friendly restaurants and coffee shops." Adopt me" leashes, collars, bandanas, and vests are all available on Amazon.

Reviewing Applicants

Once you get some interest in the pet, you will want to call the prospective adopter and discuss your pet with them over the phone. You'll want to ask the potential adopter some questions before introducing them to the pet. Following are some questions you can use to help guide your discussion and learn about the prospective adopter to determine whether you think they would be a good fit for your pet. You'll want to keep the interview conversational.

- Have you had pets before? What happened to them?
- Do you have other pets now? Tell me about them.
- Can you describe a typical day in the life of your pet?
- Do you have children? How old are they?
- Do you live in a house or an apartment?
- Do you rent or own the home?
- Does your lease allow pets? Are there restrictions?
- How many hours would the animal be alone during a typical week day?
- Where will your pet stay when home alone during the day?
- Do you have a pet door?
- Where will your pet stay/sleep at night?



For dogs:

- Does your home have a completely fenced yard?
- Will the dog get regular exercise?

For cats:

- Will the cat be an indoor or outdoor cat?
- Would you consider declawing a cat?
- Can I come to your home, to see where the animal will be living?

Meeting

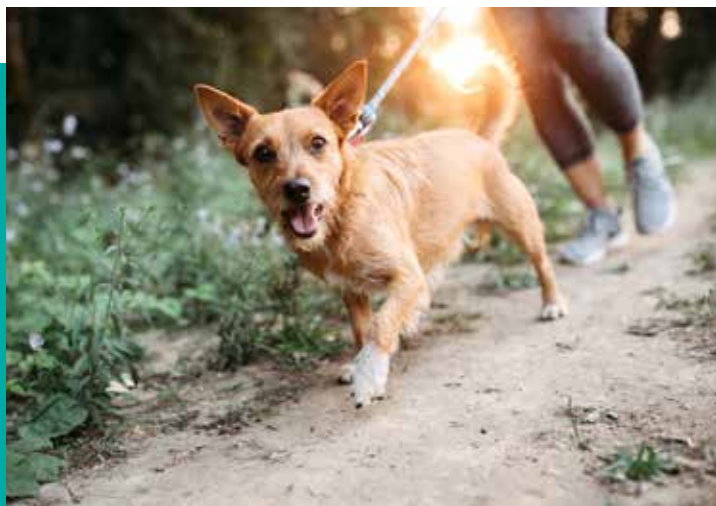
Once you have the answers to these questions, you will have a pretty good idea about whether the prospective adopter will provide a good home for the pet you are placing. Your next step would be to schedule a meet-and-greet either at your home, their home, or on neutral ground, such as a pet supply store, park or vet's office. If possible, it's best to visit the prospective home to see where your pet will be living. (If the prospective adopters have another dog and you are placing a dog, a park setting could be a good place to arrange a first meeting.) If going to their home, we suggest you take a friend or relative along for your personal safety. This person may also see or hear something during the visit that you may miss, which might be valuable information to help with your decision.

Wherever the meeting takes place, observe closely how they relate to the pet, and how the pet relates to them. Hopefully, you will be as impressed with them in person as you were on the phone. In any case, trust your instincts. If there are any doubts in your mind about the "fit" you can either talk to them about it or simply decide not to adopt to them. Don't feel uncomfortable about having doubts – it's fine to be concerned about the pet's well-being, and any reasonable person understands this. To make a graceful exit without confrontation, you could mention that there are other people interested in seeing the pet and that you will get back to them.

What to Take with You

Take your pet's bed, toys, food, medicines, etc. as well as a copy of his medical records just in case you feel very comfortable with the applicant and the meet-and-greet turns into an adoption. 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 the pet at all times, especially until he feels very secure with his new family.

Again, 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.



Proceeding with the Rehoming

Offer the adopter a trial period of three weeks to make absolutely sure the placement is a good match for both your pet and for the new family. Tell them that if for any reason they can longer keep the pet, they should notify you and return the pet to you.

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



Post-Adoption Follow-Up

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.

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



All of us for all of them.®

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