



INDEPENDENCE

★ HEALTH AND ANIMAL SERVICES ★

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PET REHOMING GUIDE



Thank you for being part of the solution by trying to rehome your pet on your own. We know this decision can be difficult, but we are here to help you along the way. The following guide will assist you in trying to find the best possible home for your pet.

Is keeping your pet an option?

The decision to rehome a pet can be very difficult and sometimes, the reason for rehoming may be due to challenges you are experiencing. Below are some resources that may help you overcome those challenges that may allow you to keep your pet.

➤ **Urgent Veterinary Care:**

Red Rover Relief

www.RedRover.org/grant
916-429-2457
relief@RedRover.org

Lantz Tucker Memorial Fund

www.lantzucker Memorialfund.org
lantzucker Memorialfund@gmail.com
Message Facebook Page

Pet Resource Center of Kansas City

www.prckc.org
816-353-0940

Fundraising Resources

www.gofundme.com
www.waggle.org
www.giveforward.com

➤ **Routine Veterinary Care:**

Care Credit

www.carecredit.com
1-800-677-0718
Financing

The Pet Fund

www.thepetfund.com
info@thepetfund.com

Pet Resource Center of Kansas City

www.prckc.org
816-353-0940

➤ **Pet Food Necessities:**

The Jackson County Regional Animal Shelter offers pet food to community members in need in the city of Independence and unincorporated Jackson County. Call 816-325-7207.

➤ **Low Cost Spay/Neuter:**

Pet Resource Center of Kansas City

www.prckc.org
816-353-0940

Sedalia Spay and Neuter Clinic

660-827-4844

Humane Society of Greater KC

www.hsgkc.org
913-596-1000

➤ **Dog Trainers:**

Sit Means Sit

www.sitmeanssit.com
816-878-4878

D.O.G. Obedience Group

www.dogwizard.com
816-228-4567

If you need any further resources, or have questions about what we can do to keep you with your pets, please call us at 816-325-7207 (ext. 2) and we would be happy to help you.

Why rehome?

The best possible option for your pet is to go directly to its new home, so it never has to step foot inside of an animal shelter. Animal shelters are extremely stressful for animals, and they are frequently limited on space and resources. The stressful environment can cause your pet to sit in your shelter for months, unable to find its new home. You know your pets best, and you are their greatest resource.

How does it work?

One of the easiest resources is AdoptAPet.com. They are a nationwide website that advocates pet adoption and rehoming. This service is free for you but charges a small fee to adopters that gets donated to animal rescues & shelters. The majority of people who reach out to us have great success rehoming their pets on their own using this resource. You can also utilize social media to post the link to your dog's profile on the site to give your pet more attention online. Potential adopters will submit applications for you to review/deny, and then you can coordinate a time & place to meet the potential adopter.



What makes a good description?

Descriptions on Adopt-A-Pet are used to describe your animal to potential adopters. The goal of a description is to capture the adopter's attention and make them want to know more about your pet. Descriptions and photos are what will draw in people to be interested in adopting your pet. While it is important to be honest and disclose any behavior concerns or quirks your dog may have, the best time to do that will be in a one-on-one conversation.

Tips for Your Description

- Dive into your pet's personality. Describe what they enjoy the most no matter how boring. This could be sleeping, eating, playing, chewing up toys, etc. Include something that will make them unique.
- Don't be afraid to use humor! Make the first sentence interesting and portray the pet in a positive light. If your dog can't live with other dogs, don't start out with that. Start it out with their happy side.
- Make sure to include a way the potential adopter can meet your pet. Include a phone number or email so they can easily get ahold of you.



Sample Description

Brick is a 3 year old big boy weighing in at a solid 85 pounds. He is the shelter's sweetheart and always has the sweetest smile on his face. He likes other dogs and is playful and bouncy with them. He is working on his loose leash walking and jumping up to say hi, but it is hard for such a loveable guy! Brick doesn't really know how big he is, so a house with older kids would be best for him.

What makes a good photo?

Photos can be the make it or break it point of trying to rehome your pet. A great photo can make someone fall in love with your pet at first site. You want your pet to look happy, so potential adopters can see your pets amazing personality through the photo.

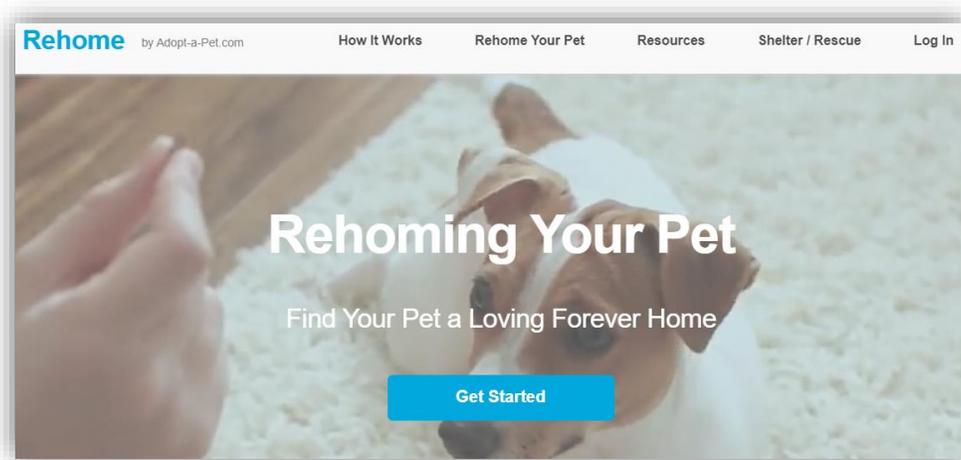
Tips for Your Photos

- Work with a partner! It will be much easier to have a second person engage your pet, so you can take photos.
- Ensure your dog is looking at the camera to essentially “look into the eyes” of your potential adopter. For dogs, using a squeaky toy or whistling can help you do this. For cats, using a bell or a dangling toy will help capture their attention.
- Get down to your pet’s level. Being face-to-face with your dog will help it look like a portrait instead of a quick snapshot.
- Use a handful of treats to reward your pet to keep them focused on trying to capture the best possible picture.
- If you have an iPhone, use portrait mode on your camera. It will blur out the background to keep adopters focused on your pet.
- Ensure the background is clean and free from obstructions. Grass, plain walls, or bare concrete floors are typically the best options.



Advertising Your Pet

Once you have collected your pictures and a description, it's time to head over to Adopt-A-Pet and list your pet. Head to "www.Rehome.AdoptAPet.com" and press "Get Started", and they will guide you through the process. It is extremely important that you accurately list all of your pet's information to help it find the best home.



Use the power of social media to network your pet to potential adopters. You may have friends and family who would love to give your pet a new home without even realizing it. Use those great pictures and the description to find your pet a new home. There are also Facebook groups you can post your pet on. Sometimes posting on Facebook groups will catch the attention of local animal rescue groups, who will help you along the way.

Other Resources

- www.GetYourPet.com
- Great Plains SPCA – 913-831-7722
- Wayside Waifs – 816-761-8151
- Local Rescue Groups:**
 - Unleashed Pet Rescue – 913-831-7387
 - Animals Best Friends – 816-254-8664
 - Midwest Animal ResQ – 816-979-1364
 - The Pet Connection – 913-671-7387
 - Pawportunities – Message on Facebook

Finding the Right Fit

It is very important that you ask adopters questions to ensure that your pet will fit nicely into their new home. Don't be afraid to ask questions, you want to make sure that their living environment will be good for your pet. Make sure that the potential adopters know your pet just as well as you do before they take your pet home. Here are some example questions which might be good to ask:

- Do you have any other pets?
- What vet do you use for your pets medical needs?
- Do you have any kids? If so how many, and how old?
- What energy level are you looking for in a pet?
- How would you describe your home (Active/Quiet/Chaotic)?
- Why would you like to adopt this pet?
- If you can't keep this pet, what would you do?

It is recommended that you charge a rehoming fee. This will filter out serious inquires only. When deciding how much you will charge, list what you are comfortable with, but don't overprice. You don't want to create too many barriers to finding your pet a good home. An overpriced pet will take much longer to find a home versus a reasonably-priced pet.

Updating Microchips

When you successfully rehome your pet, it is extremely important that you ensure that your pet's microchip information is updated. It will also ensure that if your pet ever adventures without its new owners, it can make its way back home quickly.

Spay & Neuter

We highly recommend that all pets that are being rehomed are spayed/neutered before they are transferred to their new home. This can have health and behavior benefits, and will help prevent unwanted litters in our community. Here are some resources for low-cost spay/neuter options:

- Pet Resource Center of Kansas City – 816-353-0940
- Sedalia Spay and Neuter Clinic – 660-827-4844
- Humane Society of Greater KC – 913-596-1000

Bill of Sale

The final step of any rehoming adoption should be a bill of sale. This will officially transfer the ownership of your pet to its new owners. You should keep a copy of this as proof that you are no longer the owner of the pet. This will alleviate you of the liability of being the owner of that pet. A comprehensive bill of sale for any pet should include:

- The date of the purchase.
- Contact information for the buyer and the seller.
- The description of the pet, including age, breed, and microchip number.
- The sale price of the pet.
- Any other items that are part of the sale, such as a crate, dog bed, etc.
- Health documents including vaccination and health history.
- The location of the sale.

Questions?

If you have any questions, our staff would be happy to help you with this process. Please give us a call at 816-325-7207 (ext. 2) with any questions you may have. Remember, the goal is to find your pet a great new home, and we would love to help you find the resources to meet that goal.