



Do-It-Yourself Rehoming

DIY Rehoming Tips – When you can't keep your pet

Why DIY?

Competition

Even in a “no-kill” shelter environment, your pet will be alongside many other pets, all waiting for homes. Shelters can be noisy and frightening, and sometimes excellent pets aren't able to show their best qualities to the people who've come to choose a new companion. If your pet isn't the most beautiful, the best behaved, and the closest-to-perfect one in the whole facility, he may very well get overlooked and repeatedly passed by. Time in frightening, noisy environments is hard on pets, and the longer they spend in kennels wondering where their families are, the more stress they can experience. Stress can cause unattractive behaviors, and unattractive behaviors can cause stressed animals in shelters to continue to be passed over. For some pets, ending up in a shelter – even a really great shelter – can turn into a vicious cycle in a competition they become less and less likely to win.

If you look for a new family for your own pet, he can stay with you during the process, and the people who come to see him are interested in meeting him, specifically. If all goes well and the adoption takes place, you'll have the peace of mind that comes with meeting the people who are bringing your pet into their lives, and your pet can have the peace of mind that comes with staying out of the shelter system altogether.

Owners know pets best

Nobody in the world knows your pet better than you do. You know his favorite foods, his feelings about vacuum cleaners, and which television shows he likes best. You know where he likes to be scratched, how he likes to be spoken to, and what sorts of mischief he gets into when he's bored. You've been your pet's family for as long as he's known you, and so you're more qualified than anyone else to know what he's going to need from his new human friends.



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Space is limited

Many shelters operate on an Open Admission basis, which means they don't turn any incoming animals away, regardless of how much space there is to house them in the facility. Sadly, many animals are euthanized in order to make room in the kennels and cages for the new arrivals. In North Carolina, shelters are required to keep stray animals for three days before choosing what step they'll take next in their journey, but if an animal is surrendered by his legal owner, the law does not require any "hold time" at all. Because these shelters are obligated to make sure the pets in the community that have been picked up as strays have a place to stay while their families try to locate them, it's possible that on a busy day in a busy shelter, pets surrendered by their owners might be euthanized before ever being placed in a kennel, since they're not lost and nobody is going to come searching for them. If you know you can't keep your pet forever, please consider going through the rehoming process yourself instead of bringing him into the shelter system. Surrendering him may cost him his life almost immediately, or, perhaps another healthy, adoptable animal will have to lose her life because she's come to the end of her 3rd day, and the shelter wants to put your dog in her kennel.

Maddie's Fund:

The term No-kill is defined as saving both healthy and treatable dogs and cats, with euthanasia reserved only for unhealthy & untreatable animals. Each organization or community is responsible for defining the terms "healthy, treatable, untreatable, and manageable" in ways that are appropriate and applicable to their particular geography, economy, and population. While no-kill organizations save all the healthy and treatable shelter dogs and cats under their care, no-kill communities save all of the healthy and treatable pets in all of the animal welfare agencies community-wide.

No-Kill does **not** mean "no euthanasia."



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Tips to Find Other Rescue Assistance

- Call out-of-state
- Try breed-specific rescues

How to Network

- Friends
- Family
- Neighbors
- Email contacts
- Vets
- Pet Stores
- Co-workers
- Ask rescues for courtesy listings (http://www.findlostanimals.com/?page_id=971)

Use Social Media to Promote Your Pet

- Facebook (<http://classroom.synonym.com/can-make-facebook-account-pet-19722.html>)
- Instagram (<http://www.vetstreet.com/our-pet-experts/7-easy-tips-for-turning-your-pet-into-an-instagram-star>)
- Twitter (<https://support.twitter.com/articles/100990#>) and (<https://www.petcentric.com/09-05-2015/how-to-make-your-pet-a-star-on-twitter/>)
- Don't Forget Your Email Accounts! From each email account you own, send out the best photo and a brief description of your pet's situation to every name in the contacts list/address book. It's important to be brief, as people sometimes skim unsolicited email and you need your message to make an impression in about 2 seconds.



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How to Choose/Take the Right Photos

- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/21/one-picture-saves-a-life_n_4810738.html This link includes before and after pics of the same dogs so you can see the difference that a good pic makes.
- <http://dogtime.com/lifestyle/parties/1874-how-to-take-pictures-of-your-dog>. Basic things to keep in mind when trying to take a good pic of your pet.

Screening Potential Adopters

- <http://www.aspcapro.org/blog/2014/05/27/go-ahead-try-it-open-adoptions>
- <http://www.aspcapro.org/blog/2016/07/21/when-you-can-say-no>
- <http://www.maddiesfund.org/assets/documents/Institute/Rethinking%20pet%20adoption%203-3-16.pdf>

List of Barn Cat Programs

- Alley Cats and Angels <http://www.alleycatsandangels.org/barn.html> (Will travel up to two hours from the Triangle area to place cats)
- Wake County TNR Hotline 919-743-2287
- Town of Cary 919-387-1867 (inside Cary town limits ONLY)