

REHOMING A PET

The SPCA of Wake County (SPCA Wake) understands that giving up a pet is an emotional and difficult decision. If rehoming is your only option, we want to assist your family in this process to make the transition as seamless as possible. The guidelines below can increase your pet's chance of quickly finding a new home without having to go to a shelter.

If you need assistance with behavioral concerns please contact our helpline (spcawake.org/helpline) and select "Behavior and Training" from the dropdown menu.

BEFORE REHOMING:

Set your pet up for success from the start. By taking a trip to the veterinarian before finding a new home for your pet, you can reassure potential adopters that he/she does not need medical attention and is healthy. Spay or neuter your pet and make sure he/she is current on vaccinations. Make sure you have an updated copy of veterinary records; this will be an added bonus for the new owner.

Take quality color photos. Highlight the lovable things your pet does and activities he or she enjoys. A mid-action shot of your dog jumping into water is a great way to showcase their love for swimming. A photo of your cat with his favorite toy will help potential owners see their fun-loving personality. Even a photo of your dog walking nicely on leash or lounging on the couch might help you find the right match.

Write a detailed paragraph. Point out your favorite qualities and the reasons why you adopted. Explain why the pet needs a new home and what kind of environment he/she would need to make the transition flawless. Make sure to outline their likes and dislikes, desirable traits and tricks, and any extras that animal lovers would look for (dog park dog, lives peacefully with cats, great with babies, may be best as only pet in the home, etc.). Try to go into detail about your pet's personality and why anyone would be lucky to have them as a part of their family.

You could try writing from the pet's point of view for a great way to catch a new owner's attention: *"Hi there I'm Duke and I'm looking for my forever home! I'm a pretty active outdoorsy guy, and I really love playing fetch with my Frisbee. I'm not really in to sharing my owner so I would prefer to be the only pet in the home."* Remember to keep your description detailed and share positive information about your pet too!

You could also complete a **Previous Owner Questionnaire** and email that to the potential owners (*attached to the end of this document*).

Additional Resources are available at spcawake.org/helpline

GET THE WORD OUT:

Use email and social media to spread the word about re-homing your pet. Send information to all of your friends and family and ask them to forward it on to everyone they know. You can also post ads on Craigslist, Facebook Rescue Pages, and various rescue websites. Some rescue organizations will post courtesy postings for individuals trying to re-home a pet, do a basic internet search to find these resources.

Post fliers with your pet's information and photos throughout your community to attract potential adopters (see example flier below). See if you can post a flier at grocery stores, pet stores, dog day cares, vet clinics, groomers and retirement communities. Try placing an ad in the local newspaper too.

FIND THE RIGHT MATCH:

Have the potential adopters fill out a questionnaire. If you are having trouble creating your own, feel free to use the sample questionnaire:

- *What attracted you to this pet?*
- *What are you looking for in a companion?*
- *What are the deal breakers that would make you consider not adopting? (Make sure to be honest and up front if your pet may do something that's a deal breaker for someone else!)*
- *What is your plan of action to introduce the pet to the home?*
- *Where will he/she be during the day?*
- *Where will he/she sleep at night?*
- *Do you have a veterinarian or an idea of one you may want to go to?*
- *What is your experience with animals?*
- *Do you currently have any pets in the home? If so, what is your plan for introduction in the home?*
- *If for some reason in the future you had to give the pet up, what would your plan be to find them a new home?*
- *(If you'd rather have adopters contact you before rehoming, make sure to let them know)*

Unless a relative or close friend is adopting the animal, charge an adoption fee.

(the purpose of the fee is not to make money, but rather to avoid giving the dog to someone unwilling to invest in having a pet.) If you think the person is a great fit and would be the best match for your pet, you can also ask they make a donation to your local animal shelter instead of paying the adoption fee.

Set up a meet in your home only if you feel comfortable. Otherwise choose a calm neutral environment for them to meet with the animal. Ensure that the environment will not cause additional stress to your animal, and secure enough they will not escape. You can always reach out to your local humane society to see if they can assist with the meeting.

For dogs; try to meet somewhere your dog loves like your backyard, the dog park, or go on a walk around the neighborhood. Watch to see how your dog acts with the new person. Make sure everyone that will be living with the dog is at the meeting so you can ensure it will be a good fit for everyone. If the potential adopters have another dog(s), it would be a good idea to do a pet meet as well.

Check references. Ask to contact the potential adopter's veterinarian, landlord and neighbors. This is a great way to ensure your pet will be safe. Asking for references is a great way to help choose your pet's new owner – maybe the adopter has pet sit or walked the neighbor's dogs in the past.

ONCE YOU'VE FOUND A MATCH:

Send the pet to his or her new home with familiar items. Blankets and toys with familiar scents can help ease the transition. Look for an appeasing pheromone (ADAPTIL or FELIWAY) that helps relieve anxiety.

Check in with the adopter. Ask the adopter if you can call to check in after a few weeks. That way, you can rest assured the pet is adjusting well.

WHAT NOT TO DO:

We know you care. There are many dangers facing an animal if abandoned. You should know it's a crime to abandon an animal.

Do not re-home your pet without disclosing any medical or behavioral issue they may have. Adopters will want to prepare for such financial responsibilities. Shelters will want to prepare and assure they have the resources to care for the animal.

USING A SHELTER OR RESCUE:

If you re-home your animal through a rescue or shelter, make sure you do your due diligence with regard to the care they provide. Look up reviews online, talk to previous clients or take a trip to visit yourself to make sure you are satisfied for the care your pet will receive.

ADOPTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Date:		<u>Office use only (person code):</u>		Driver's License/ID#	
Name:			Date of birth:		
Street Address:		Apt/Unit #			
City:		State:		zip:	
Primary Phone #:		Secondary Phone #:		Email:	
Occupation:		Type of Residence: i.e., House, Duplex, Apartment, etc.		Rent, Own, or Live w/ Relatives?	
Name of Property Management/Apartment:			Property Manager's contact #:		Do you plan to move soon?
Who are you adopting this pet for?		Number of adults in household?		Ages of children that will have regular contact with adopted pet?	
Veterinarian Name (if no veterinarian would you like a recommendation)				Would you like to rent or purchase a crate? Yes No	

Current Pets	You and Your Household	Discussion Topics								
Type/Breed _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Spayed/Neutered <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Does Pet Live <input type="checkbox"/> Inside <input type="checkbox"/> Outside <input type="checkbox"/> Both How Long have you been caring for this pet?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Prior Animal Experience:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Childhood pets <input type="checkbox"/> First time pet parent <input type="checkbox"/> Have had 1-3 <input type="checkbox"/> Owned many animals • <u>Time away from home:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Home all day <input type="checkbox"/> Away part time 4-7 Hrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Away full day 7-10 Hrs. • <u>Where will this pet be during:</u> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">The Day</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">At Night</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Indoors</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Indoors</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Indoors w/outdoor access</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Indoors w/outdoor access</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 	The Day	At Night	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoors	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoors	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoors w/outdoor access	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoors w/outdoor access	What would you like more information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Training Classes <input type="checkbox"/> House/Litter Box Training <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Care <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition <input type="checkbox"/> Pet Introductions <input type="checkbox"/> Children Introductions <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Toys <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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WILL YOU ADOPT ME?

I'm looking for my forever home! Could it be you?

(Place your pet's photo here)

4x6

I AM A:

Age, Gender, Breed/Mix

A LITTLE ABOUT ME:

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN MEETING ME PLEASE CONTACT:

Your Name, Phone Number, and Email