

Finding a Good Home for your Pet

1. Do you really need to re-home your pet? Don't be afraid to accept help.

a. Behavior problems: Have you consulted your veterinarian and a behaviorist?

b. Financial Difficulties/Extended Traveling: Ask a family member or trusted friend to care for your companion temporarily. Put out the word at work. You might be surprised at who will come to your aid. Humane Societies or some breed rescue groups may help "foster" in certain situations. Women's shelters often have helpful programs for women in need.

c. Trouble Finding an Apartment: Network through local humane societies and animal welfare groups. There are many apartments available that allow pets. Try Craigslist. You may have more luck renting a room or apartment in a privately owned home.

2. Allow lots of time:

If you are in a situation where you really do need to find a new home for your friend, please allow enough time to do so. It can take weeks to months to find a great home for your companion. Adult cats, special needs pets or senior pets can be particularly challenging to place.

3. How to place a pet in a GREAT home: Don't be afraid to be an advocate for your pet.

a. If you have a purebred, contact local "purebred rescue" groups.

b. Check with family, friends and co-workers. Have them help you "put the word out"!

c. Put up flyers with pictures at veterinary clinics, pet stores, work, etc..

d. Put an ad in the paper.

e. Use the already overcrowded animal shelters as an absolute last resort. Less than 10% of cats and 40% of dogs will find a home with this route.

f. Be PATIENT. Remember, it takes TIME to place a pet.

g. Be HONEST about your pet's personality, energy level and needs.

h. Charge a nominal fee (at least \$50.00) to discourage "Bunchers". These are unscrupulous individuals who will "adopt" your pet then sell them into animal research.

i. Ask screening questions such as "Where will the pet live?" (Avoid folks who want an "outdoor" pet). "What type of personality are you looking for in a dog (or cat)". "Can I contact you in a few weeks to see how the pet is doing in his or her new home?".

j. Check the prospective adopter's veterinary references to make certain they have a history of taking proper care of their pets.

k. Visit the prospective adopter's home if at all possible.

l. If you are not comfortable with a potential adopter, don't be afraid to say "No". It is up to you to find the best home for your furry friend.

m. Have the adopter fill out an adoption contract stating that they will care for the animal properly and will contact you if they cannot keep the pet.

n. Whatever you do, please don't simply abandon your pet. Domesticated animals do NOT survive well on their own outdoors and, unfortunately, by the time anyone realizes a pet has been abandoned inside a home, it is often too late. If you have exhausted all resources and have been patient, but have still not been able to place your beloved companion, please do the right thing and take them to a humane shelter.

For more information and a brochure (including an adoption contract), please contact Safe Harbor Animal Hospital at 616-942-8147