

# RE-HOMING YOUR PET



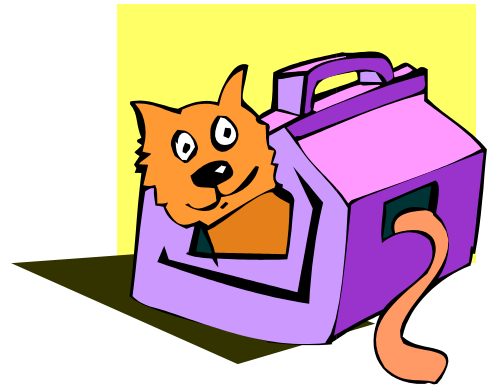
Making a decision to re-home your pet is very difficult but if re-homing is the only option you have, this handout provides resources that will offer alternatives to surrendering your pet to a shelter. The majority of animals find their homes through private individuals, not animal shelters, and by keeping your animal out of the shelter you not only minimize their stress, you actually help the shelter save more homeless animals in need. If you are dedicated and creative you can find a home for your animal. Best of all, you can make sure that the adopter meets your qualifications and your animals' needs.

First, be sure your pet is spayed or neutered and is up-to-date on all of his/her vaccinations. This will make it easier for you to find a new home for your pet. Options for low-cost spay or neuter in Yolo County include the voucher program through the Sacramento Area Animal Coalition (apply online at [www.sacanimal.org](http://www.sacanimal.org)), and Chako Pit Bull Rescue (bully breeds only- [www.chako.org](http://www.chako.org)). Low cost vaccination clinics are offered by Yolo County Animal Services Shelter (rabies clinics, 530-668-5287), Yolano Vet (916-487-3596), and VIP clinics at Pet Extreme in Woodland (Wed. and Sunday afternoons).

Next, follow these guidelines. Be thorough and patient - finding the right home takes time, but it's worth it for your sake and the sake of your pet.

- **Take several color photos of your pet. A PICTURE IS WORTH 1,000 WORDS.** Remember that with all postings, pictures are key! Full body shots of your pet are great, but make sure that potential adopters can connect with your pet's eyes. We recommend leaving people out of the photo. If possible, provide multiple photos and/or videos of your pet. Make sure to showcase your pet's best attribute; if he or she is super-cuddly, post a photo of your pet curled up on a couch or with a stuffed animal. If your pet is athletic and loves to play, post a photo of them with a toy, swimming, hiking, etc.!
- **Write a story about your pet.** Include the reason your pet needs a new home, the kind of home he or she needs and would do well in, and some "human interest" information - for example, your pet's funniest behaviors, his/her favorite things to do, or the thing you love most about your pet.
- **Post your pet online.** There are several websites that will allow you to post your pet's pictures and story. Craigslist.com or Petfinder.com (classified section) are 2 online resources for the public. Social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook are a great way to spread the word that your pet is in need of a new home. Post the message to everyone you know with video and pictures. Enlist your friends to spread the word!
- **If your pet is a purebred,** search online for breed-specific rescue organizations. Send the organization the "ad" you've created for your pet. Oftentimes these breed rescues will be able to help you place your pet in a new home.

• **Connect with friends, family or coworkers.** Don't forget to reach out to everyone that's already in your pet's inner circle: veterinarians, groomers, neighbors, dog park buddies, and pet sitters are often willing to help a friend in need. Your dog or cat may already have admirers nearby who would be willing to open their home to your pet. Give your photos, story and e-mail to everyone you know asking for their help. Advertise through your workplace e-mail or your community bulletin board. Placing your pet with someone you know will ease the transition for you, the new owner and your pet.



• **Make a re-homing poster.** Make an attractive poster advertising your pet, the more eye-catching the better! Make several photocopies of the poster and then attach an original photo to each poster. Place the re-homing posters in veterinary offices and pet supply stores near and far, where people who take good care of their animals visit often.

• **Charge a fee.** Most people who want a pet for the right reasons are happy to pay something for the animal and a fee will discourage most people who have malicious intentions. If you wish, you can 'donate' pet food, toys, or other items to the adopter that are equal in value to the adoption fee.

• **Advertise.** Place an ad in your local newspaper, listing the most important characteristics about your pet and the kind of home your pet needs. This will cost a little more, but will save you time and aggravation evaluating applicants. Advertisements with photos get more attention.

### **HELPFUL HINTS ON EVALUATING POTENTIAL ADOPTERS:**

• **Interview potential adopters carefully.** Does your pet fight with cats? Is your pet high or low energy? Make sure he/she fits into the lifestyle of the applicant's family, and your pet is what they're really looking for.

• **You might want to consider the following:**

1. Verify the name and address with a driver's license.
2. Call the person's landlord and make sure he/she has permission to have a pet.
3. Get references (friends, neighbors, current veterinarian), and call to see if they can vouch for the person's ability to care for animals.

• **Take the time to consider applicants.** Don't allow yourself to be pressured into making a decision that you do not feel right about. Your judgment is your best guide.

• **Follow up.** Call to see how your pet is doing in his/her new home. A responsible owner will welcome your concern for the animal.

The Yolo County SPCA staff are happy to help you by taking pictures, editing your ad, and/or screening potential adopters. You can email us at [ycasrescue@hotmail.com](mailto:ycasrescue@hotmail.com), or call 530-662-8858.