



# REHOMING PLAYBOOK

—  
A Guide to Rehoming Your Pets



[www.pawshumane.org](http://www.pawshumane.org)

# KEEPING PETS IN THE HOME

If your family is in need of pet support or guidance, we can help.

Neighborhood Pet Support is a program that focuses on keeping people and their pets together.

We believe no person should have to give up a pet they love due to financial hardship. Our community partnerships and resources within Paws Humane Society help pet owners resolve the problems they are facing, preventing unnecessary owner surrenders and keeping beloved pets out of shelters.

[nps@pawshumane.org](mailto:nps@pawshumane.org)  
706-987-0009



## We can help with...

- Emergency Pet Food
- Low Cost Veterinary Care
- Dog Houses
- Crates and Carriers
- Community Rehoming Resources
- Affordable Dog Training

# TIPS FOR REHOMING YOUR PETS

## HEALTH & PREVENTATIVE CARE

Be sure your pet is spayed or neutered and up-to-date on their vaccinations, as well as flea preventative. If you have a dog, be sure to have your dog heartworm tested and on a monthly heartworm preventative.

## SHARE THEIR STORY

Write a story about your pet that includes the reason you need to rehome them, the type of home and family your pet would thrive in, and some fun information to gain interest in your pet (such as what their favorite things are, what tricks they can do, some of their funniest characteristics and behaviors, etc.). It always helps if you can tell the story from your pet's perspective. For example, "Hey there! My name is Momma, and I am the Queen of Cuddletown and the HCIC (Head Cat in Charge) of my current castle..."

## TAKE GOOD PHOTOS!

Show off your pet's unique and endearing qualities and all of their cutest features by taking several, good quality photos of your pet. Appropriate lighting helps make your pet shine! Bring along a favorite toy for your photoshoot to help capture your pet's attention.





# TIPS FOR REHOMING YOUR PETS

## **MANNERS & TRAINING**

Work with your pet to make sure they are comfortable with different people and situations. While you are searching for the perfect new home, continue to work with your pet on good manners, socialization, and maybe even teach them a new trick or two. Check out Best Friends Animal Society for some resources!

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## **GET SOCIAL!**

Give your photos, story and email to everyone you know asking for their help in finding a new home for your pet. Use your social media accounts to ask your network to share your pet and assist in the search for a new, loving home. Advertise through your community bulletin board, neighborhood association Facebook pages, or your local NextDoor app. Ask friends, co-workers, and family members if they are looking to add a companion to their family. Placing your pet with someone you know will ease the transition for you, the new guardian, and for your pet!

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## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

Search the internet for additional resources such as local rescue groups. There are several species- specific and breed-specific rescue resources. You can also use the internet to find local classifieds to find a new home for your pet like Craigslist, rehoming groups on Facebook, Petfinder, etc.



# TIPS FOR REHOMING YOUR PETS

## **SPREAD THE WORD**

Simple templates can be found online to create a rehoming flyer or poster. If you are the creative type, there are several free graphic design resources available to create something that may be more pleasing to the eye and grab more attention. Checkout sites like Canva ([www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com)) or PicMonkey ([www.picmonkey.com](http://www.picmonkey.com)). You can share your rehoming flyers and posters online and in the community. If you are posting them around town, be sure to place posters at the library, pet supply stores, community centers, veterinary offices, and grooming salons, where pet owners and pet enthusiasts may visit.

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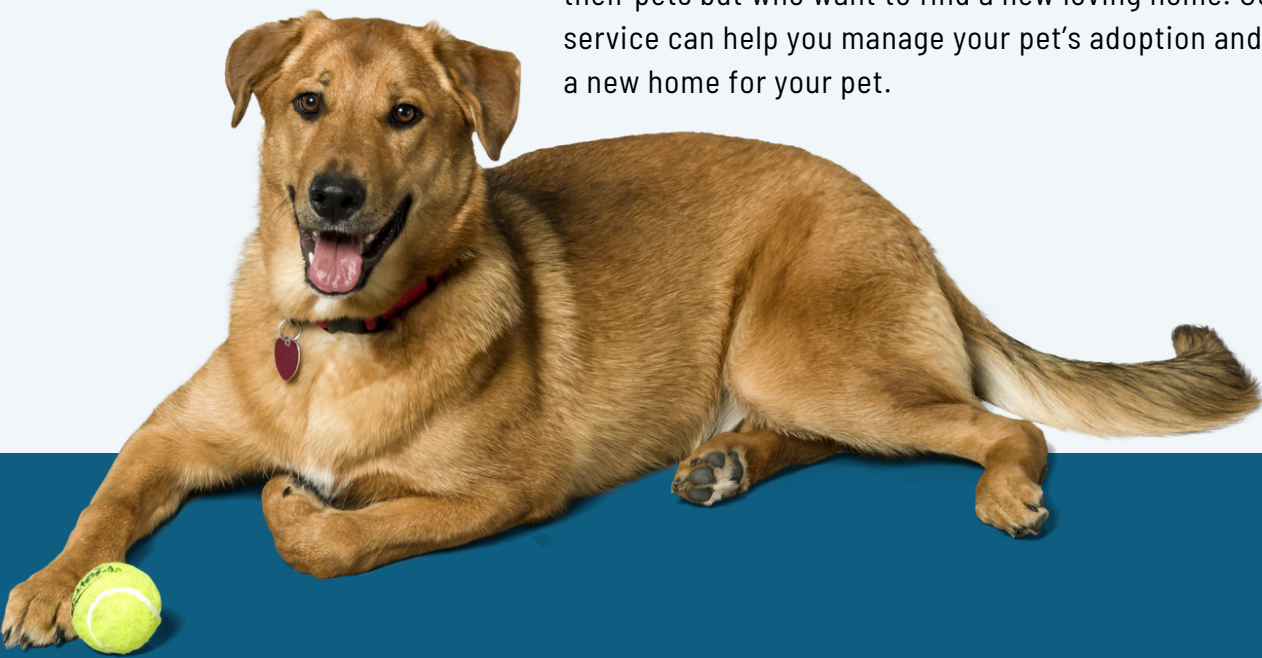
## **REHOMING FEE**

A modest and reasonable rehoming fee can help you cover the cost of updating your pet's vaccines, getting them groomed, or the cost of additional supplies such as flea and/or heartworm prevention, carriers or crates. A rehoming fee will also help you find serious adopters and increase your chance of finding a new home that is full of love and a safe place for your pet.

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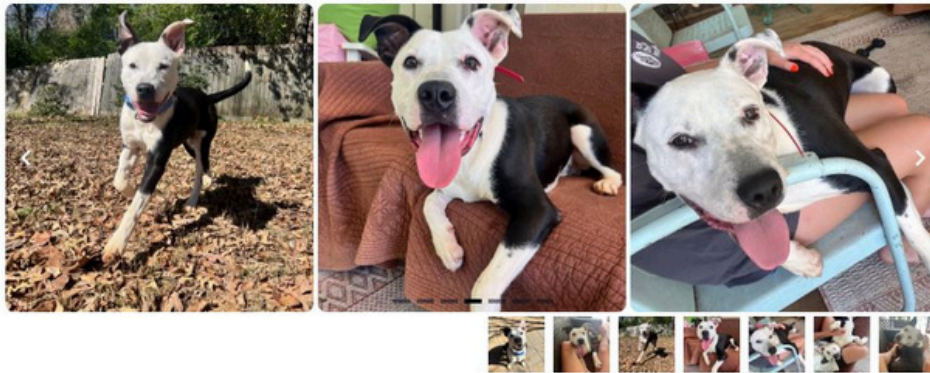
## **REHOME ON OUR NEIGHBORHOOD PETS PAGE**

You can promote your pet online using our Neighborhood Pets Page. Simply fill out a rehoming application on our website and we will help you list your animal for adoption on our page. Using our Neighborhood Pets Page is our free rehoming service available for pet owners who are unable to continue caring for their pets but who want to find a new loving home. Using this service can help you manage your pet's adoption and safely find a new home for your pet.



# REHOMING ON OUR NEIGHBORHOOD PETS PAGE: DOG EXAMPLE

CLEAR, EYE  
CATCHING  
PHOTOS



## Gus

ANIMAL ID	PHCV-A-87819
BREED	Mixed Breed (Medium)
SEX	Male
WEIGHT	41 lbs
AGE	1Y/6M/3W
LOCATION	Owned Animal In the Home
ADOPTION FEE	\$0.00
INTAKE DATE	6/10/2025

Donate



## ATTRIBUTES

Neighborhood Pet

## Meet Gus!

Gus is a lovable mixed-breed pup, estimated to be around 1.5 to 2 years old. He was found as a stray back in March and has been living with his finders ever since. Full of playful energy, Gus thrives on daily walks around the neighborhood and is always ready for a game of tug-of-war with his favorite rope toy.

Affectionate and loyal, Gus loves being close to his people and is a total cuddle bug. He has a big, happy smile and won't miss a chance to shower you with kisses. He does well in his crate when the humans are away, and although he hasn't been fully tested on his house training he has never had an accident in the crate.

Gus is unable to become a permanent part of his rescuer's family due to the preference of the already established dogs in the home. Gus, however, has not shown any behaviors to indicate that he would not do well with other dogs! Meet and greets are always encouraged to make sure it's a good fit prior to adoption.

Gus is neutered, microchipped, and up to date on his vaccines! Want to learn more or meet Gus? Please reach out to (\*contact info here) – he can't wait to meet his forever family!

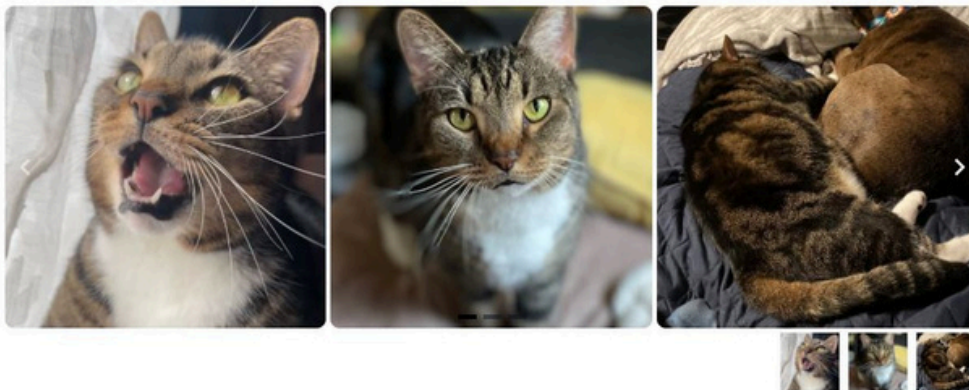
Disclaimer: All pets posted and adopted through Neighborhood Pets are not members of Paws Humane Society. Paws Humane Society is not liable for any animals' well-being or placement. Please practice safe adoption.

GENERAL  
INFO, BIO &  
PERSONALITY,  
AND CONTACT  
INFO.



# REHOMING ON OUR NEIGHBORHOOD PETS PAGE: CAT EXAMPLE

CLEAR, EYE  
CATCHING  
PHOTOS



## Kitt

ANIMAL ID	PHCV-A-85762
BREED	Domestic Shorthair
SEX	Female
WEIGHT	12 lbs
AGE	7Y/4M/2W
LOCATION	Owned Animal In the Home
ADOPTION FEE	\$0.00
INTAKE DATE	3/25/2025



GENERAL  
INFO, BIO &  
PERSONALITY,  
AND CONTACT  
INFO.

Kitt is absolutely the life of every party. She is social, outgoing, and ready to be everyone's bestfriend. Kitt is a little chunky so a diet is in the works, but for now it just means there is more of her to love!

Kitt has lived with cats and dogs her whole life and gets along great with everyone, however we think she will do best in a home with just one or two other animals as she has been known to stress pee when there are several animals and extra smells in the home. Other than this, she is litter box trained.

If you would like to meet Kitt and give her a home where she can thrive and live to her fullest extent, please text (\*contact info here) 3.

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# MEETING POTENTIAL ADOPTERS

## INTERVIEW CAREFULLY

You should interview potential adopters carefully to ensure they are a good fit for your pet. You can use the sample adoption interview questionnaire we have provided for you in this guide.

## GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

If you are looking for additional ways to make an informed decision on whether or not the potential adopter is a good placement option for your pet, you can ask for additional information including references from a friend or neighbor, what clinic or practice they currently seek veterinary care from or where are they looking to establish a relationship for veterinary care, or whether the potential adopter's current pets are received routine medical care.

## GIVE YOURSELF TIME

Rehoming your pet is a big decision and a difficult one at that. Take the time you need to review applications and interview potential adopters. Do not allow yourself to feel pressured into making a quick decision or a decision that you are not completely comfortable with. Your judgment is your best guide and if you do not feel that the potential adopter is a good fit, chances are you are right.

## BE THOROUGH

You should thoroughly review all questionnaire forms and information. Being thorough will help you evaluate whether or not the potential adopter and their home is compatible with the unique needs of your pet. Does your pet get along with small children? Does your pet need a lot of room to run? Does your pet get along with other animals? Does your pet have a lot of energy? It is important to make sure that your pet fits into the life and lifestyle of a potential adopter and that your pet is a good match for the type of companion animal the potential adopter is looking for.

## FOLLOW UP

Establish a communication plan with the potential adopter so that you can follow-up with them and give them an opportunity to contact you with any questions or concerns they may have. Open and honest dialogue is an important part of the rehoming process. Be sure to establish a communication plan so that you can follow-up on your pet after they are adopted to see how they are adjusting in their new home with their new family.



# INTRODUCING A NEW PET: TIPS FOR DOGS

## DOGS

Dogs are social animals and often enjoy having a companion, but proper introductions are essential for comfort and safety. Here's how to set them up for success:

### CHOOSE A NEUTRAL LOCATION

- Avoid either dog's home or favorite spots, as these can cause territorial behavior.
- Good options include a quiet street, a park neither dog has visited, or a friend's yard with no resident dogs.

### USE PROPER EQUIPMENT

- Both dogs should be on secure collars or harnesses and leashes.
- Keep leashes loose—tight leashes can mimic aggressive body language and create tension.

### TAKE IT SLOW

- Start by walking the dogs parallel to each other a few feet apart so they can see but not touch.
- Gradually reduce the distance over several passes.
- Allow brief sniffing without rushing contact.

### MONITOR BODY LANGUAGE

- Watch for signs of stress or aggression (stiff body, growling, raised hackles).
- Positive signs include relaxed body posture, wagging tails, and play bows.

### ALLOW NATURAL PLAY—BUT SUPERVISE

- Dogs may establish a pecking order (dominant vs. submissive behaviors). This is normal as long as there's no aggression or distress.
- If tension arises, calmly separate them and try again later.

### MULTIPLE MEETINGS ARE BEST

- A single meeting doesn't guarantee compatibility. Schedule several short, positive sessions before making a decision.

Dog body language 101:



Dog behavior while playing:



# INTRODUCING A NEW PET: TIPS FOR CATS

## CATS

Cats require a very different approach. Introductions must be slow, structured, and respectful of their space. Most cats do not adjust instantly, and some may never become best friends, but they can often learn to coexist peacefully.

### START WITH A "SAFE ROOM"

- Set up a separate room for the new cat where they can feel secure.
- The resident cat should not have access to this space initially.

### SCENT SWAPPING FIRST

- Exchange items like blankets, toys, or bedding between the cats so they can get used to each other's scent.
- Gradually increase exposure before any face-to-face meetings.

### CONTROLLED FEEDING

- Feed both cats on opposite sides of the closed door to create a positive association with each other's presence.
- Slowly move bowls closer to the door over time.

### BARRIER INTRODUCTIONS

- After scent work, try short sessions with one cat in a carrier or behind a baby gate so they can see and smell each other safely.

### SUPERVISED FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

- Choose a neutral space and allow each cat to approach at their own pace.
- Watch closely for stress signals like hissing, growling, or hiding.

### BE PATIENT

- Cats can take up to 3 months (or longer) to fully adjust to major life changes.
- Rushing the process often leads to setbacks.

### GOLDEN RULE FOR BOTH DOGS & CATS: GO SLOW

Keep interactions short and positive at first. Use praise, treats, and calm reassurance to reward good behavior. With time and patience, most pets can learn to share their home peacefully.

# THE ADOPTION PROCESS

ONCE YOU HAVE FOUND THE PERFECT HOME FOR YOUR PET, THE ADOPTION PROCESS CAN BEGIN



## 1 MEET UP

Arrange a time and public place for you and the adopter to meet up. A well known spot and area is recommended for your safety. To help your pet transition into their new home, it is important to provide their favorite toys, bedding, carrier, kennel, litter box, and/or other familiar items. It is also nice to give the adopter any remaining pet food you have so they know what diet your pet is eating so they can either continue to provide the same food or successfully transition the pet onto a new diet.

## 2 RECORDS

It is important to provide the new owner with copies of any and all veterinary records you have. To make the transfer super easy, you should offer to contact your veterinarian to send the pet's records directly to the new owner's preferred veterinary clinic. You may need to provide this request in writing to your veterinarian. Be sure to alert your clinic of the new ownership in the process.

## 3 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

It is incredibly important that you create a written document and record the transfer of ownership to the adopter. The document should be signed by both you and the adopter and as the previous owner, you should retain a copy for your own personal records.

## 4 UPDATE THE MICROCHIP

If the pet is microchipped, it is important to update the information registered to the microchip. You can do this by contacting the database where the microchip is registered (such as Found Animals, Home Again, 24PetWatch) and notifying them of the change of ownership and the new owner's contact information. Be sure to provide the new owner with the pet's microchip information and remind them to keep their own contact information up-to-date on the registry. Microchips can be registered for free with Found Animals using their website at <https://www.foundanimals.org/microchip-registry/>

## 5 NOTIFY (AS NEEDED)

If you adopted the pet from a local rescue or shelter, be sure to contact them and let them know that you have rehomed the animal and give them the new owner's information so they can update their ownership records.