

## REHOMING YOUR PET

We know that arriving at the decision to re-home your pet is not an easy one. But if circumstances leave you with no choice it is very important to find a good home that will provide the love, care and attention that your pet needs and deserves and that will be a good match for his/her personality. Here are some tips:

**If you have time you can select the new home for your pet. We do not recommend advertising your pet in local newspapers or on the internet unless you are willing to do a thorough phone screening and home visit for each person who expresses an interest in your pet.**

**Beware**, there are unscrupulous people who search newspaper ads and the internet to find pets so they can sell them to research facilities, dog fighting rings, etc.

**First**, talk to people who you know--- friends, relatives, and co-workers-to see if they would be interested in adopting your pet. If you purchased the dog/cat from a breeder, contact the breeder. Most reputable breeders will take the animal back.

**Next**, create a flyer about your pet including a recent photo, name, age, gender, general health or special health needs, vaccination status , if the dog or cat is on heartworm prevention, behavioral information such as if they are good with children, other dogs and cats or not. It is important to be honest so if the dog is not house broken, is untrained or chases livestock etc. that you put it in the flyer. Don't forget your contact information and what the adoption fee will be. . (Note: an adoption fee of \$50 is reasonable and affordable. If a family cannot afford an adoption fee, then you should question whether they would be able to afford the ongoing cost of food, supplies and veterinary care for the pet. We discourage "free to good home" adoptions unless you know the adopter well and know they will provide an excellent home.)

**NOTE** - When you develop the flyer also create a written Agreement. This Agreement should include the statement that the new family agrees to provide proper care and treatment of your pet, to notify you immediately and give you the opportunity to reclaim him/her if they can no care for your pet, and a statement that you agree to relinquish the pet to them. The Agreement should be signed and dated by both parties.

Good places to post the flyer are your veterinarian's office, local shelters and other pet related businesses. Don't forget to ask for permission to post your flyer.

Once you are contacted we advise that you arrange and perform an introductory visit. If the potential adopter is not already known to you, then do not go alone – take someone else as well as the pet without to the home visit. This visit has several purposes:

- Getting to know the people.
- Observation of how they and their pets interact with your pet.
- Making sure they have the time, resources and experience to care for your pet.
- Checking out the home environment to determine if it is suitable for your pet. (e.g. secure fencing for dogs, cleanliness, etc.)
- Addressing any concerns that arise. Discuss these with the potential adopter.

Do not place your pet in a new home until you are satisfied that the potential adopter will provide the kind of home for your pet that you are looking for! If the people/home are not acceptable and you are uncomfortable rejecting them in person, you can state, "we are continuing to consider people who are interested in adopting our pet. I will let you know once we make a decision".

Once you find a suitable home both parties should sign the written agreement discussed above. You should provide the new family with your pet's veterinary records, bed, supplies, and any medications taken by your pet. Notify your veterinarian that you no longer have the pet. For dogs, notify El Dorado County Animal Services of the name and address of the new owners for dog license purposes. If the dog or cat is microchipped, notify the microchip company of the change of owner and address.

**IF you are too short on time, unable or unwilling to follow these guidelines then we suggest you take your pet to a [local shelter](#). You will surrender the pet to them and they will select the new home.**

Local options in El Dorado County include [EDC Animal Services shelter](#) in Placerville, [Animal Outreach](#) (cats only) in Diamond Springs and the [El Dorado Humane Society](#) cat shelter in Diamond Springs.

Call these shelters first to determine if they have room for your pet.

Be sure to bring the pet's veterinary records and any medications to give to the shelter as well as a note which includes all of the information listed for the flyer above (excluding your contact info).

These shelters generally charge a relinquishment fee or request a donation to help support the care of the pet while they are at the shelter. The shelter staff work hard to provide good care for your pet while they reside there, and to find them a good new home.

**We hope this information is useful and will help guide you in finding the perfect new home for your pet!**

If in blue it should link to the shelter page. Do we need the other shelter links??