

## Rehoming on your own

Deciding that your pet needs a new home is not an easy decision. The Pensacola Humane Society is here to support you and your pet. Finding a home for your pet on your own and keeping them out of the shelter is beneficial to both your pet and others in need.

The best scenario for your pet is if you are able to rehome him or her yourself. The shelter is a very stressful environment for any pet and they'll be happier and better off if they can stay with you until moving into their new home.

### **Marketing Your Pet and Where to Market Them**

Ask family, friends, and co-workers if they know of anyone who is looking for a new pet. Ask people in person, but also leave a flyer so they can contact you if they know of someone or decide to adopt your pet themselves.

Create flyers and post them to; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Next Door, and Craig's List. You can also hang flyers around town, at your local church, veterinarian's office, pet stores, as well as coffee and restaurant bulletin boards. Make the flyers as colorful and creative as you can, highlighting special information about your pet.

Feature your pet on websites like [www.adoptapet.com](http://www.adoptapet.com), [www.home-home.org](http://www.home-home.org) and [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)

*Use Quality Photos* - This step is crucial. The best profiles have a variety of pictures where you can clearly see the pet. We suggest at least four - one of the pet's face, one of the pet with a family member or other pets, one that shows the pet's size and a video if possible. Pictures should be in focus, colorful and without a filter.

*Descriptions* - When writing a profile for your pet who needs a new home, you might be tempted to share all of the reasons why you are rehoming your pet or share all the "negative" information up front. Don't! Always be honest but be sure to remain positive.

- Be as descriptive as possible (name, weight, breed, gender, pet's health, play habits, likes and dislikes)
- Tell a story - many write the story from the animal's perspective
- Include recent photo(s) - so everyone knows how cute your pet is
- Include your name and contact information (phone number/email address).
- Include the date you posted and the date you need find a home by

It's important to remember that what might be negative to you may not matter to others. For example, a dog who does not like cats might make a perfect pet for someone with a cat allergy! Also, remember that the world "children" has a different meaning to everyone. Someone might

consider an 18-year-old a “child” and see “no children” as a reason they cannot adopt, but your pet might only need a home without toddlers. Use the profile you’ve written to showcase your pet.

Ways to write things in a more positive light

Instead of ...	Try:
Needs a lot of exercise	Will make a great running buddy
Is aggressive towards children	Needs a home without toddlers
Needs a lot of attention	Loves people
Doesn't get along with cats/dogs	Prefers to be the only fur child

*An Example* - Luna needs a new home because she is not getting along with the three young children in the home. Her mom writes:

*Luna is a sweet and friendly dog who has lived with another dog and even a cat! She is very smart and would love an owner who can take her for walks and teach her tricks. She is housebroken and kennel-trained. Luna is a very loyal dog. She is not pushy and will seek your affection on her own terms. Luna would prefer not to live in a home with small children. She is spayed, microchipped and up to date on her vaccines.*

### Things to keep in mind

Don't rule out adopters before they can contact you - You may think your dog would do best in a house with a yard, but what if someone lives in a condo with a dog park? Or someone who runs on the beach every day? Your cat might prefer someone who works from home - but what about someone who works part-time, or a house with lots of family members with someone usually at home? Be open minded, and encourage potential families to contact you.

Make sure you use an email address that you check regularly - If you've listed an email on flyers or posted the pet to some of the rehoming sites listed above, they will notify you via email. Don't let questions go unanswered!

A healthy pet is easier to rehome - Make certain your pet is up-to-date on all vaccinations. Provide copies of the vet paperwork to the new owner. If your pet is not spayed or neutered, we highly recommend getting this done. The Barbara Grice Memorial Low-Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic offers the lowest cost spay and neuter services in the greater Pensacola area. Anyone may use these services, regardless of income or residency.

Extra tips - You can help potential adopters by also creating a pet resume for those living in rental housing.