

BASIC SUGGESTIONS FOR REHOMING YOUR PET:

- ❃ Spay and neuter your pet if not already spayed or neutered
- ❃ Make sure your pet is up to date on vaccinations
- ❃ Wash and groom your pet before taking pictures or showing your pet to potential adopters
- ❃ Prepare a history of your pet including veterinary history, favorite treat, what food the pet is used to eating, what litter and what sort of litter box if a cat. Preparing a pet resume to give to potential adopters is a good idea. (see below)
- ❃ Screen all potential adopters. Ask about their experience grooming and clipping nails. Ask how much time they are at home and what arrangements they make for a pet when they are away or ill. If adopting out a cat: Ask if they have ever declawed a cat. Ask if they ever allow their cats outside. Ask to speak to their vet about their history with animals. Ask if they have ever had an animal euthanized and why. Ask if they have ever brought an animal to a shelter. Find out what other animals they have. Find out if any people in the household have allergies. Ask if they will allow you to visit their home before you place the animal there. Ask if they have arrangements in place for someone to care for the animal should they (the owners) become ill, are hospitalized, or die.

ADVERTISING YOUR PET:

- ❃ Contact the breeder and ask if they will take the pet back or help you rehome the pet
- ❃ Advertise your pet and charge a nominal fee (do not offer for free as it attracts undesirable interest from those who may not value your pet:
- ❃ Post an ad on <http://www.petfinder.com/post/classifiedhop.html>
- ❃ Make flyers which display your pet's photo and put your contact information on it. Ask your vet to post it in his/her office. Put them up at work. Ask to post them at the local pet stores and food markets. Post them at your church. Post them on community bulletin boards. Post them to your friends and family and ask that they post them where ever they can. Post them at the local grooming establishments.
- ❃ Put an ad in your local newspaper

PREPARING FLYERS:

- ❃ Describe the appearance, size, and age of the animal.
- ❃ Describe his/her nature and appealing qualities.
- ❃ Include the pet's name
- ❃ State that the pet is spayed or neutered.
- ❃ Define any limitations, e.g. not good with cats/small children/other dogs/other cats.
- ❃ Use a good photograph. Color is best. Copy places like Kinko's can help with these.
- ❃ Be sure to put in your phone number, and time you can be reached.

PREPARING A PET RESUME:

A pet "resume" provides an opportunity to present potential adopter with a summary of your pet's best qualities and an example of your commitment to your pet. We suggest that you include the information below in their pet resume.

Tell the potential adopter what foods your pet is used to and what litter you normally use. Provide the pet's usual litter box, dishes, toys, scratching post, if possible, and a worn article of your clothing to place in their bedding - the familiar items and the scent of you will make the transition easier.

Provide a complete veterinary history from your veterinarian for the adopter to take to the new vet. If your pet is not spayed or neutered, please make arrangements to have spay or neuter done prior to placement in a new home.

Describe your pet's age, activity level, and/or breed traits. Describe characteristics that make your pet suited or unsuited for living with other animals. Tell the adopter something special about your pet's personality, and how much you care about your pet. There can be a big difference between a 10-year-old cat and an active, inquisitive kitten. If your pet is quiet, calm and/or less active, point that out. If you have an active pet, explain how you fulfill his/her exercise requirements and what pet toys are used during play times.

Give examples of your pet's good behavior. If your pet has lived in other homes before temporarily and is accustomed to changes, be sure to say so. If you have more than one cat or a dog, let the new home know how your pet gets along with the other animals. If your cat uses a scratching post, say so and make sure to note that your cat is litter box trained.

Explain any bathing or grooming requirements, including frequency of claw clipping and grooming, and shampoos used.

Describe any behavioral quirks, difficulties with certain situations (the vet, other animals, thunder storms, etc). The foster home needs to know what to expect for them to be a "good fit" for your pet.

In addition to your pet's resume, you may also want to provide addresses of your pet's usual groomer and a picture of your pet.

COURTESY OF THE SPCA OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

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