

Rehoming your dog or cat

Regardless of the reason, we at CARE know that rehoming your pet is both an emotionally complicated and logistically difficult process. The following information may help you in your search for finding a new family for your pet.

Determining new owner credibility

- When a potential new owner shows interest, ask them for the name and number of their most recent or current vet. If they refuse to provide this information, do not give them an animal.
- If the vet will not recommend them for pet ownership, do not give them an animal.
- If they are first time pet owners, do not give them an animal.
- If they offer a substantial amount of money, do not give them an animal.
- Ask if the animal will be kept inside, outside, or both. If the animal will be kept outside only, do not give them an animal.
- Ask what type of yard and fence they have. If they have none, ask how they plan to exercise the animal.
- If you have reason to believe the dog will be used for hunting, do not give them a dog.

Facebook Groups

Advertising your pet in a Facebook group is a fast way to reach a lot of eyes. If you follow the advice above, it is possible to find a loving family for your dog or cat to go to.

- **Free Animals in Arkansas**
- **Pets for rehoming in Arkansas**
- **Furbabies of Arkansas**
- **Arkansas shelter animals/Animals needing homes**

Veterinary Clinics

Consider designing a flyer to post in local vet clinics. Include the best photos you have of your pet and a thorough description including age, sex, weight, health needs, defining characteristic. Almost every vet clinic has an event board or info board where this flyer can be posted. This ensures you are reaching an audience of responsible pet owners.

Doggie Daycares

Many doggy daycares will allow you to post the flyer as well. This ensures you are reaching an audience of responsible and financially stable pet owners.

Rescues

Some (not all) non-profit rescue groups will accept owner-surrendered animals. If you have exhausted your other options, you may need to resort to seeking rescue assistance. Remember that all rescues prioritize stray, abused, or shelter pets first and foremost. Be patient with rescue staff and volunteers, and trust that they have your pet's best interest in mind the same as you. Finding a foster placement or an adopter can be a very time consuming and lengthy process.

Additional Tips

- If you suspect you may need to rehome your dog or cat, don't wait! Begin the search immediately. It can take weeks or even months to locate a trustworthy family that will take in your pet.

- If your pet is not already spayed or neutered, consider getting that done prior to rehoming. This ensures the animal will not be used by a new owner for unethical breeding purposes.
- If your pet has known health issues, dietary restrictions, or other special needs, be fully transparent about this when advertising. If it seems as though a potential new owner will not be able to reasonably afford special vet care, prescription kibble, or accessibility tools, do not give them the animal.
- Trust your gut. You know your pet better than anyone. You are therefore the best judge of who will love it the best.