

How To Find A Home

Just like a job interview, putting your pet's best paw forward is exceedingly important. To increase the chances of finding a new home and the success of the new placement, it is important that the pet has had most of these done or achieved:

- Spayed or Neutered
- Checked by a vet for a clean bill of health
- Up to date on vaccinations
- Professionally groomed or bathed and free of matting and foul smells
- Reasonably well-behaved, especially housebroken

Pet Selfie. A photo helps create a connection with a potential adopter. Descriptions are important, but it's the picture, more specifically the eyes and expression, that are going to grab someone first. You can use your cell phone camera or another high resolution camera to take great pictures of your pet with these simple strategies:

- For both online and printed, color is best.
- Backgrounds should be simple and in contrast to the animal's coloring (i.e. dark color background for a light colored animal)
- You can have a person holding or petting the animal to capture scale
- Animal should be in a calm or relaxed state
- Focus on the eyes and head, these features should take up a third of the photo (if a confirmation picture is needed, you can add a second picture)
- Take many and from different angles, then choose the very best one

Pet Profiling. Before starting to write your pet profile, make a complete list of what you would consider your pet's ideal home. Once you are done, go back and pick out the non-negotiable items for your pet's unique needs. This will help you with mentioning the most important details in your description and in eventually choosing the right home.

While your pet profile should have the pet's basic characteristics like breed, size, gender, age and appearance, it should also highlight your pet's personality, likes and dislikes, and the little things that make him/her special. Don't hold back when it comes to telling about disabilities, health issues, behavior quirks or limitations (i.e. not good with cats or small children). By not telling the less appealing aspects you are potentially setting up the rehoming for failure. Sometimes these are in fact the very things that particularly speak to a potential adopter.

Example: Not long ago a puppy was born missing most of his back paw to a local breeder. Instead of euthanasia, because he couldn't be shown or used for breeding purposes, the breeder decided to rehome him as a pet. A gentleman

heard about the puppy and his malformation and knew he'd found the perfect dog. The gentleman, who was also born missing much of his hand, saw in the puppy his soul mate.

Advertise Widely. Now that you have a good picture and an engaging pet profile, it's time to get the word out in as many places as possible.

- Posting flyers with the photo and description you've created is inexpensive and often highly effective in getting the word out. A free and easy to use flyer making program is available on the website www.petbond.com . Place flyers throughout the community and especially in places that match your animal's needs. For example, if you were trying to rehome a working dog, placing flyers at farm and ranch supply stores could potentially attract the right adopter. Other places to post flyers:
 - Veterinary hospitals
 - Retail/Grocery store community boards
 - Employee Break Room
 - Dog Parks
 - Car window
 - Library and church community boards
 - Gyms

You can also send a flyer to the Nevada Humane Society Animal Help Desk email animalhelp@nevadahumanesociety.org and we will place it in our non-shelter adoption folder at the front desk. You can contact other shelters to see if they will as well.

- Use community and social media contacts. Ask your church to mention the animal in their church newsletter. If you or someone you know works in an office or at a school or university, ask to send an office wide email. Post about your animal on all your social media outlets and ask your friends and family to share the post.
- Posting information on actual pet adoption websites is another way to stretch your advertising range. There are sites for specific species, breeds, ages, and even some for animals with special needs.
- Word of mouth should never be underestimated. Tell everyone about your pet who needs a home. You never know who is going to be interested.
- Get the pet out there! (This works especially well with dogs.) The more your pet interacts with people the more likely he'll charm the right person. Take your pet on walks, go to pet supply stores, the local park, anywhere your dog is allowed and might meet the right person. Wearing a bandana or a sign that says "Adopt me" or "Looking for a New Home" will also help.
- We do recommend asking an adoption fee for your pet. Those truly looking to add to their family will be willing to pay a small fee. Those looking for other nefarious reasons will probably not. An adoption fee in conjunction with a pet adoption contract can do a lot toward keeping your pet safe.

Quick Comment on Potential Adopters. If someone expresses interest in adopting try to hold a brief interview over the phone before introducing them to your pet. Using a set of screening questions will efficiently eliminate inappropriate or inadequate homes. If the potential adopter seems like they might be a match for your pet, try to meet them in a neutral (and public) location. If at all possible, try to have a few meetings with the potential adopter for a pet with a very shy temperament. This will make the transition easier. After the adopter has signed the contract and taken their new family member home, stay in touch, at least until you are certain a new bond is created and all seems well.

Adoption Websites

Here is a short list of adoption websites. You may want to try and find others online, as well. Ask your local rescues if they will allow your pet on their list of adoptable animals as a courtesy listing.

General adoption websites:

<https://rehome.adoptapet.com>

<http://www.petbond.com>

www.rescueme.org

www.petfinder.com

Special Needs Cats and Dogs:

<http://www.petswithdisabilities.org/>

Diabetic Pets:

<http://www.imom.org/community/>

Purebred Dogs:

www.akc.org/akc-rescue-network/

Purebred Cats:

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/RescueSiamese/>

http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Persian_Rescue/

Purebred Special Needs & Senior Cats:

<http://purebredcatbreedrescue.org/>

Senior Dogs:

<http://www.srdogs.com>

<https://muttville.org/>

Blind Dogs:

<https://www.blinddogrescue.org/>

Deaf Dogs:

<https://deafdogsrock.com/>

<http://www.deafdogrescueofamerica.org/>

You can also post messages on the Yahoo groups.

Brochure: “How To Find Homes For Homeless Pets”

The Best Friends Sanctuary in Utah has also put together an amazing resource that includes sample contacts for potential adopters. This guide will give you lots of ideas on how to advertise for a home. I highly recommend downloading the brochure in the link below.

http://bestfriends.org/uploadedFiles/Content/Resources/Resources_for_Rescuers/Adoption/HowtoFindHomesforHomelessPets.pdf.

Remember, Be Creative and Persistent. Creativity and persistence are usually rewarded. Finding a new home takes work, but there are good homes out there!

If you have any questions concerning this content, please email or call the **Nevada Humane Society Animal Help Desk**

(775)856-2000 ext. 200

animalhelp@nevadahumanesociety.org