



 820 Beacon Lake Dr.  
Raleigh, NC 27610

 919-212-PETS

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## A Guide to Rehoming Your Pet

While no one ever plans on rehoming a beloved pet, sometimes it's what's best for the pet or for the family. As you can be the best advocate for your pet, rehoming straight from your home to another home (and avoiding an animal shelter) is always the best option. Below are tips for rehoming your pet to another loving family.

### 1. If the situation is temporary, try contacting friends, family members, or colleagues to foster your pet through your crisis.

Sometimes it's not necessary to completely rehome your pet. By reaching out to those closest to you, it can be avoided entirely. You might find you have a bigger support system than you think.

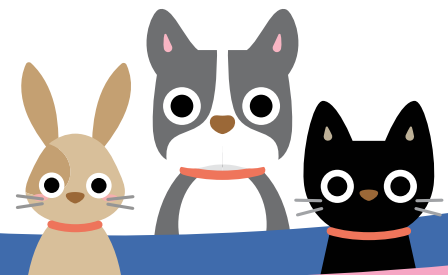
### 2. If your pet has minor behavioral issues, training support is out there.

When hiring a dog trainer, be sure to vet them like you would any other service. If you aren't comfortable with their training methods (or sales tactics), don't move forward with training. Trust your gut.

In addition to researching local professional dog trainers, here are some online tools and hotlines:

a. **The Wake SPCA's Hotline** - <https://spcawake.org/helpline/> - while the Wake SPCA does not take in stray, found, or surrendered animals, their hotline "provides free advice or guidance for whatever pet needs or concerns you may have."

b. **The American Kennel Club's Good Dog Helpline** - <https://www.akc.org/products-services/akc-gooddog-helpline/> - please keep in mind this helpline is only for dogs.



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c. **The Family Paws Dog and Baby Support Line -**

<https://www.familypaws.com/dog-and-baby-support-line/> - while geared primarily towards families with babies and toddlers, this support line could be beneficial to any family with pets.

**3. If you need to rehome, start by reaching out to the animal shelter or rescue you originally adopted from.**

Most ethical and reputable animal shelters and rescues will take the pets adopted from their organization back into their care. A couple of things to keep in mind:

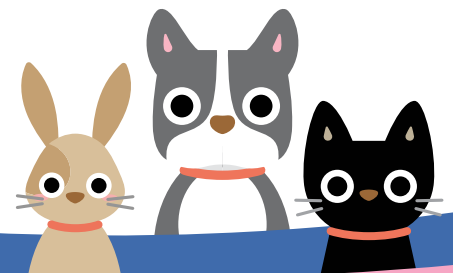
- If you have more than one pet, this might mean splitting up your pets - if you adopted your cat from a cat rescue, they might not be able to also take your dog, etc.
- If possible, you might be asked to foster your pet for a few days to a couple weeks while the organization finds space, a foster home, etc.
- Due to space or foster home issues, they might not be able to take their pet back, but could always post your pet on their website as a courtesy.

**4. If you didn't adopt from an animal shelter or rescue, reach out to the breeder or the original pet owner.**

As with ethical and reputable animal shelters and rescues, ethical and responsible breeders will always take their offspring back. If you adopted from another pet owner, still reach out. That pet owner might be out of the situation which required them to rehome in the first place and reuniting with their original owner could be best for the pet as well.

**5. Advertise your pet both online and off.**

As you know your pet best, post your pet's picture, personality, likes, dislikes, quirks, etc. on your social media profiles and ask others to share. Tap into any of your social circles or even your pet's veterinarian, groomer, trainer, or pet sitter.



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## 6. Advertise your pet on rehoming websites.

As with tip five, utilize online rehoming websites to help showcase your pet to a wider audience or potential adopters. Some websites include:

a. **Rehome by Adopt a Pet** – <https://rehome.adoptapet.com/> – in addition to being a rehoming service, Adopt a Pet has a Help Center and some resources on rehoming pets.

b. **Facebook Groups, Next Door, and Craigslist** – using websites like these can get your pet in front of more potential adopters and aren't any more dangerous than using your social circles or social media profiles themselves if done right. Please use your best judgement when meeting and vetting potential adopters via any avenue for rehoming.

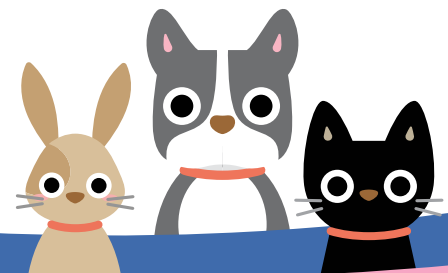
## 7. Be honest with potential adopters.

Transparency is always best when talking about your pet's behaviors, medical conditions, reasons for rehoming, or anything else that a potential new family should know. Think about your family and how you would feel being blindsided with an expensive medical condition or behavioral problem. You don't need to rehome your pet to the first family who inquires, be patient (and picky) with your pet's new home.

## 8. Rehoming versus Humane Euthanasia.

While rehoming is best for the vast majority of pets and families, sometimes humane euthanasia is the best outcome for a severe medical condition or behavioral problem. Is it in your pet's best interest to continue to live with this medical condition or behavioral problem and is it safe to pass it on to a new family? Talk with your veterinarian and trainer for advice.

The Wake County Animal Center provides free humane euthanasia for Wake County residents who cannot afford for their pet to be euthanized at their veterinarian. This is the same procedure as a veterinary office;



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however, the owner cannot be with their pet at the time of their passing. Like veterinary practices, the Wake County Animal Center also works with crematory services if the owner is interested in those services.

**Please note:** During the temporarily closure of the Wake County Animal Center, you will need to call and make an appointment for this service as well as provide proof of ownership and medical condition of the pet that requires euthanasia. Since WCAC is closed to all intake, if staff assessing the animal does not believe humane euthanasia is the answer, we reserve the right to refuse this service and refer owners to their private veterinarian for assessment / treatment. **Convenience euthanasia will not be performed at WCAC.**

If you are interested in more information about pet rehoming, and rehoming best practices, please check out the following guides:

- **Humane Society of the United States** -

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/need-find-your-pet-new-home>

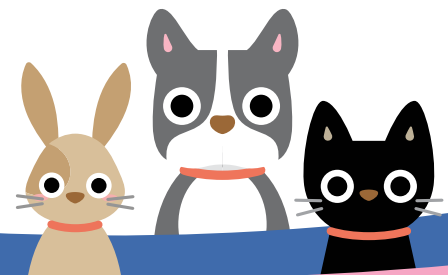
- **Petfinder** - <https://www.petfinder.com/adopt-or-get-involved/adopting-pets/rehoming/how-to-rehome-your-dog/>

- **You can also reach out to the Wake County Animal Center for further guidance.**

#### **Future WCAC Services:**

Please be aware that previously, owner surrender appointment wait times were approximately six weeks for dogs and three weeks for cats. So, realistically, you are looking at a minimum of 3-4 months before we can schedule your pet to be surrendered. It would be best for owners to use the above resources to rehome their pets themselves as you are the best advocate for your pet.

**Thank you for your help and support!**



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