

In order to follow our mission of protecting stray, homeless, abused and abandoned animals, SCRAPS does not take in owner surrendered pets unless they were adopted from SCRAPS within the last six months. This allows us to better serve the stray animals in our community.

If you are no longer able to care for your pet, re-Homing Service is the best option. It reduces the number of pets turned in to our shelter, while maintaining a safe place for the animals. The goal of this information is to empower good pet owners to be advocates for their pets and to find permanent, loving homes for their beloved animals.

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## Information for Pet Owners Wishing ReHome Their Pet

**This information is to help you re-home your pet(s). While you may be at a point where keeping your pet is no longer an option, we have included information about some of the common reasons people relinquish animals, along with some solutions you may not have considered. Here you will find information on:**

### **Keeping Your Pet**

#### **Behavior Issues**

If your pet is having behavior issues that are making it difficult to keep him, SCRAPS has many resources to help you work with your pet to get his issues resolved.

#### **Dog Training Classes**

If your dog won't stop jumping on guests, doesn't know basic manners or runs away whenever he is off leash, a dog training class may help teach your pet to make the right choices and keep him in your home. SCRAPS offers group behavior classes the first and third Saturday of each month here in our community room. The classes are free though you do need to schedule a class so we can keep them small. Call 477-2532 to register.

#### **Financial Difficulties**

Unforeseen financial difficulties can happen to anyone at any time. Your pet can be a source of great comfort when financial difficulties happen, but if the cost of caring for your cat or dog has become difficult, we have some resources that can help. We have a low income pet food bank here at SCRAPS and a list of lower cost veterinary clinics with affordable spay/neuter services. We offer a low-cost vaccine clinic on the third Friday of each month here at SCRAPS.

#### **Simple Behavior Issues**

If your pet is having just one issue, or you don't feel a group class would be appropriate or safe for him, we have resources available to help you work through it. Click on our Pet Care Tips section to view a library of cat and dog behavior issues. You can also email us at [info@scrapshopefoundation.org](mailto:info@scrapshopefoundation.org) and tell us about your issue. One of our trainers or partner veterinarians will respond to your questions as soon as possible.

## **A New Home For Your Pet**

**Please consider the following BEFORE you start looking for a new home for your pet:**

- To get help with behavior problems such as chewing, housebreaking challenges, excessive energy, check out our online pet behavior resources or attend one of our free dog training classes.
- Moving is stressful, even under the best circumstances. However, this does not mean you have to give up your pet. If you are renting, here are some tips for negotiating with potential landlords:
  - Allow yourself extra time to find a residence where pets are allowed.
  - Do your research. There are many pet-friendly rentals in Spokane for almost any budget. If pet deposits or pet fees are difficult to come up with, ask the landlord or property manager if the fee can be split up into a couple of payments.
  - When talking to landlords, be honest and offer to introduce your pet(s) to the landlord. This should demonstrate that your pet is well behaved and will not pose a threat to anyone in the community. See our list of pet-friendly apartments.
  - Providing references from your veterinarian and/or past landlords can help show a prospective landlord you are a responsible pet owner. Proving your pet is current on vaccines shows that you are diligent about providing necessary care.
  - Offer to sign a statement promising to keep all pets indoors or on-leash at all times when they are on the premises.

If you still need to find a new home for your pet, consider the following:

- Promote your adoptable pet using social media, create a Facebook page, bulletin boards at work, school or church or use the flyer provided in this packet. Make sure a good quality color picture is included as well as information about the pet's personality and your contact information.
- Reach out to breed rescue groups. Most purebred dogs and cats have rescue groups either locally or nationally. Contacting a rescue group that is foster-home based will allow your pet to stay in another home until adopted instead of coming to a shelter.

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### **Write a Compelling Bio and Provide Good Photos for Your Pet**

By taking the time to write a compelling, informative and detailed description of the cat or dog you need to re-home and by providing good quality, attractive photos (and even video) of your pet, you will help guarantee that your pet finds a good match.

#### ***Bios***

Your observations on the personality and uniqueness of your pet will help tell his or her story - and may help this pet find a new home faster. Also, your description will help a potential adopter better assess if an animal is right for his or her lifestyle and family.

Your pet bio should condense a lot of personalized information into a few well-chosen sentences (try for 6-10 sentences). Every pet is unique, and people want to see that uniqueness.

When writing about your pet, keep in mind these questions:

- What makes your pet unique - i.e., what personality or qualities make your pet particularly special?
- What are your pet's likes and dislikes?
- What kind of home would your pet thrive in?
- Does your pet have any special needs, diets or preferences that the new owner should know about?
- Why are you re-homing your pet?

### ***Photos and Videos***

Photos are incredibly important. If you don't have good photos of your pet, be sure to take some. Make sure photos are good quality. If your pet is darker colored, take photos of your pet outside in the sun so your pet's unique features can be seen. If your pet is light colored, make sure the photos are not washed out. The best photos show your pet happy and relaxed.

In addition to providing attractive photos of your pet, consider uploading videos to YouTube that show your pet's tricks or how well he or she plays with other dogs or children, for example.

### **What to Look for in a Home**

**Re-homing your pet by yourself can be a stressful process. You want what's best for your pet, but also don't want to be too picky and not be able to find the right match. Here are some tips to help guide you towards finding the best new home for your pet:**

- Ask for references. Asking for 2-3 personal and a veterinarian reference will help to ensure the potential adopters take good care of their pets. If the person rents, ask for landlord info to make sure they are allowed to have pets.
- Interview all potential adopters. Some good questions to ask are: Do you have kids? Do you have other animals? Where will the pet be during the day? How will the pet get exercised? Who will be the primary caretaker? If your pet is purebred, does the adopter have any experience with this breed? Knowing these things and the type of family your pet would do best with will help to make the best match.
- Ask if you can bring the pet to their house for adoption. This ensures you get a look at the environment your pet will be living in.
- Ask to meet all family members and pets prior to re-homing. If you are re-homing a dog and the new family has dogs, a meeting prior to re-homing at a neutral location (like a park or pet store) with all dogs is highly encouraged to make sure they get along.

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### **Relinquishing Your Pet**

SCRAPS's mission is to provide stray, homeless, abused and abandoned animals with care and protection. We do not impound owned animals. Several agencies in Spokane such as the Spokane Humane Society do offer to take owner releases as part of their mission. Please call them first to ask about their policies. If you decide to surrender your pet to an agency here in Spokane County instead of using our Courtesy-Rehoming Service, please contact that agency directly.