

8 TIPS FOR REHOMING DOGS

Rehoming your dog into a loving family is your goal. This is not a simple task, nor one to be done in a rush without proper checks and verifications. Otherwise, there is a chance that your dog can suffer tremendously at the hands of new owners.

Dog fighting, crush videos and backyard breeders abound in Southeastern Ohio. These atrocities happen every day, in every community, among people from all economic backgrounds. DO NOT convince yourself otherwise. We see the results of abuse and neglect every week in Athens County.

So, how can you improve the odds of rehoming your dog going into a loving environment?

- 1. Unless you are sending your dog to a reputable rescue, always ask for a rehoming fee!!!** Ask for \$75 — more if it is a purebred. Free dogs are the ideal targets for animal abusers. No matter how tempting it may be to discard your unwanted pet, follow the golden rule. Suppose you were being re-homed. Wouldn't you want your caretaker to be discerning? Your dog is completely at your mercy.
- 2. With a friend, visit the home of the potential new owner.** Is this a place you'd want to live? Ask questions prepared beforehand such as: Where will the dog sleep? How many hours will the dog spend alone? Will the dog be crated when unattended? Ask more questions. Come with a list of at least ten. Ask to tour the yard. Do you see dog houses? Chained dogs? Bare patches of earth where dogs might have been kept? Trust your intuition. Do NOT bring the dog to the home visit. You will need time to think before making a decision that will change the life of your pet forever. You can tell the potential adopter you have one or two more home visits before making a decision if your intuition is telling you that this isn't the right home for the dog.
- 3. Request that the potential adopter allow his/her veterinarian's office to be contacted as a reference.** Ask the vet's office if previous animals had been kept up to date on vaccinations. Does the vet recommend the potential adopter? Why or why not?
- 4. Ask for two more references that are not family members.** A dog-loving friend of the potential adopter, or colleague will do. Call them. Ask questions.
- 5. Make sure that the new home is in the best interest of your pet, not you.** Consider the lifestyle, energy level and age of the potential new owner. Do they mesh with the pet you want to rehome? If not, keep looking. Otherwise your pet may end up at a different home that you have not screened.
- 6. Check up on your re-homed pet!** Do not assume that no news is good news. No news may mean that the pet you just re-homed may now be in another location with another owner. Check in several times over the course of 3 months, and then once a year to be sure your former dog is still safe in a loving home.
- 7. If you cannot find a suitable home, only then should you contact a rescue for help.** Rescues can be an alternative surrendering your dog to a dog shelter, but they should not be used lightly. Many rescues save dogs from high-kill facilities. Is your dog in danger of being euthanized? If a rescue accepts your dog, it may mean one in a shelter will die that could have been chosen instead.
- 8. Do your homework. Not all rescues are reputable.** All rescues should follow the above protocol with the addition of a long, detailed application. Check out their Facebook page. What are their ratings? Do a google search. Is there any bad publicity? Go to their website. Open the adoption application and read through it. Are they foster based? If not, are you ok with your dog being kept in a kennel until adoption? Ask how long a dog will typically stay at a facility before adoption. If foster-based, ask how many pets are at the home of the foster. Ask to talk to the foster if possible.

Please check out the following references for more detailed information on re-homing your pet. If your pet were re-homing you, we imagine you'd want him to do the same.

<https://www.petful.com/animal-welfare/free-to-a-good-home/>

<https://aidanimals.com/save-a-pet/free-to-good-home/>

