DO YOU NEED TO FIND A HOME FOR A PET? HERE'S WHAT TO DO.

If you need to rehome your pet, it can be a challenging and emotional process. Remember, even though you've decided you can no longer keep your pet, you are still the person who loves them the most. It's important to act responsibly and ensure they find a safe and loving new home. Here is a detailed guide to help you navigate this situation responsibly and compassionately. If you found a pet and need help finding its owner or a new home, please refer to our other handout " What to Do If You Find a Lost Pet".

1. Assess the Situation

Before deciding to rehome your pet, consider if there are alternative solutions:

- Behavioral Issues: Seek advice from a professional trainer or veterinarian. New behaviors can be signs of illness or that a pet is in pain. Please have any recent behavior issues asses by a vet before moving forward. If your pet has a behavior problem, it will carry over to the next home. Many issues can be resolved or managed with the right approach. Consider reaching out to a trainer or behavior counselor to explore solutions that might allow you to keep your pet.
- Allergies: Consult a doctor for possible solutions like medication. There are also prescription medications online available, such as getcurex.com/pets, for as little as $39 a month which provide relief from pet allergies specifically. There are also supplements for pets that reduce the amount of allergens they emit. Consider trying one of these supplements for your pets and allergy medication for you before deciding allergies are a dealbreaker.
- Life Changes: Consider temporary care options such as friends, family, or pet sitters. Houston is in a pet overpopulation crisis, meaning there are far more pets in need of homes than there are people willing to adopt them. This causes pets to suffer needlessly on the streets and increases the number of pets in the shelters, which increases the number of pets needlessly euthanized for space.

2. Prepare Your Pet

Ensure your pet is ready for a new home:

- Health Check: Take your pet to the vet for a check-up, vaccinations, and any necessary treatments.
- Spaying/Neutering: Consider spaying or neutering your pet if not already done. This can prevent more unwanted pets in the future AND helps in finding a responsible new home. Unaltered pets are more likely to be in demand for people who plan on breeding them, which ultimately only adds to Houston animal overpopulation crisis. If you must rehome your pet, please do right by them and ensure they are spayed or neutered beforehand. Please see page 5 for a list of low cost pet vet clinics.

3. Gather Information

Prepare a detailed profile for your pet:

- Medical Records: Gather all health records, vaccination history, and any medications.
- Behavioral Traits: Note any quirks, likes, dislikes, and routines.
- Photos: Take clear, high-quality photos to show potential adopters.
- Things to include in flyers and posts: heartworm status/prevention (dogs), FeLV/FIV status (cats), up to date on vaccines?, spayed/neutered, good with dogs?, good with cats?, good with kids?, age, weight, lots of adorable, high quality photos

4. Network Within Your Community

Start by asking people you know:

- Friends and Family: Reach out to your immediate circle to see if anyone is interested.
- Social Media: Post on your social media accounts with details and photos.
- Local Community Boards: Share across as many platforms as possible! Nextdoor, Ring Neighbors, Petco Love, Pawboost or various community bulletin boards are a great place to start.

5. Use Rehoming Websites and Apps

List your pet on free, reputable rehoming websites which can help you find a new home without utilizing a rescue organization. Here are some of the most popular sites:

- Rehome: by Adopt a Pet: rehome.adoptapet.com
- Home To Home: home-home.org
- Rehome Your Pets: rehomeyourpets.com

6. Screening Potential Adopters
Ensure your pet goes to a good home:

- Application Process: Create an adoption application to screen potential adopters.
- Home Visits: Arrange a visit to the adopter's home to ensure it's suitable.
- Interview: Conduct a thorough interview to understand the adopter's experience and lifestyle.

7. Finalize the Adoption
Complete the rehoming process with care:
Adoption Contract: Use a contract to outline the terms of the adoption.
Transition Plan: Provide the new owner with your pet's belongings and a transition guide.
Follow-Up: Check in after a few weeks to see how your pet is adjusting.

8. Contact Rescue Groups and Offer to Keep Your Pet Until a New Home Is Found
If you have been unsuccessful at finding a new home for your pet on your own, consider fostering your pet for a rescue group. Private nonprofit rescue groups in the Houston area generally do not have facilities with open space to take in animals from the public, especially not owned pets. By keeping your pet with you until new home is found, you keep them safe and cared for until a permanent solution is found. If you cannot foster for a rescue, do you know anyone in your network who may be able to? Going through your contact list and reaching out to each and every person you know can frequently lead to results! Maybe that specific person cannot take a new pet, but maybe they know someone who can or is already looking for a new pet! Please fully exhaust your entire network of friends, family members, coworkers, neighbors, and acquaintances BEFORE attempting to surrender your pet.

If you or someone you know are able to foster for a rescue, contact any of the hundreds of local rescue groups in the Houston area. Page 3 of this handout contains just a few. Be sure to provide all important information such as age, any heath issues, behaviors, size, weight, possible breed, etc. The more rescues you contact, the more likely it is that one will be able to help. Please understand that contacting a handful of groups is unlikely to find anyone who can help. The more you contact, the better.

Last Resort Options

9. Surrender to a Shelter
While there are public shelters, securing an appointment to turn in an animal can be tricky. At the time this flyer was made (June 2024) BARC, the city of Houston shelter, is currently opening intake to animals each Sunday from 1-4pm without an appointment. However, they stop taking in pets once all kennels at the shelter are full, so we recommend arriving as early as possible before the open intake start time begins. Lines begin forming early in the day. For more information on open intake on Sundays or to make an appointment to turn in a pet, please call 311 or visit the city's website:

DID YOU KNOW?
Abandoning an animal is a felony under Texas Penal Code - PENAL § 42.092- cruelty to Non Livestock Animals

Please note, surrendering a pet to the pound should be a last resort option. Local shelters are always over max capacity which forces staff to make difficult decisions regarding space and often results in perfectly adoptable pets being euthanized. Unfortunately, the city and county government does not allocate nearly enough funds to shelters to allow them to properly house and care for all the pets in need across our city. We implore citizens to contact local city and county officials advocating for proper funding for our public shelters and to open intake for pets in need.

Lastly, please note that to turn in a pet into a public/government shelter, your home address must be in the jurisdiction that specific shelter covers. For instance, if you live in La Porte, you will not be able to turn in a pet to Pasadena Shelter. The two main shelters in this area are BARC and Harris County Pets. Page 4 of this handout includes a comprehensive list of local, taxpayer-funded public animal shelters. We recommend contacting the shelter ahead of time to verify your jurisdiction before attempting to turn in a pet.

HOUSTON-AREA ANIMAL ORGANIZATIONS

Remember, private nonprofit rescue groups in the Houston area generally do not have facilities with open space to take in animals from the public. By opening your home until the owner or a new forever home is found, YOU can bridge the gap for that pet to keep them safe. If you are able to foster for a rescue, contact any of the hundreds of local rescue groups in the Houston area. Be sure to provide all important information such as age, any heath issues, behaviors, size, weight, possible breed, etc. Most organizations provide all vet care and supplies free of charge to fosters!

Please note, while we have done our best to compile a list of several local rescues, we cannot guarantee that any of these organizations are able to take in pets at any given time. There are many more groups not listed here that can be found on Google and Facebook. All reputable rescues in Houston are overwhelmed with pets in need and are severely underfunded. Please be kind and patient when contacting rescue groups and shelters. Animal lovers just like you are answering that call or email, and the amount of pets in need right now is truly overwhelming. We appreciate your kindness and empathy.

1. Houston Pets Alive
houstonpetsalive.org

2. CAMO Rescue
Specializes in: small breed dogs and small breed medical cases
camorescue.com

3. Animal Justice League
animaljusticeleague.org

4. Friends For Life Animal Shelter
friends4life.org

5. Pup Squad Animal Rescue
Specializes in: Rescuing orphaned puppies, kittens, and nursing litters
pupsquad.org

6. K-9 Angels Rescue
k-9angelsrescue.org

7. Adopt A Rescued Friend (AARF)
aarfhouston.org

8. Houston Boxer Rescue
Specializes in: Boxer breed only
houstonboxerrescue.org

9. Golden Beginnings Golden Retriever Rescue
Specializes in: Golden Retriever breed only
gbgrr.org

10. Basset Buddies Rescue of Texas
Specializes in: Basset Hound breed only
bassetbuddiesrescue.org

11. Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP)
cap4pets.org

12. Scout's Honor Rescue
scoutshonor.org

13. Houston SPCA
houstonspca.org

14. Mutts & Meows Rescue
email: muttsandmeows@mail.com

15. All Texas Dachshund Rescue
Specializes in: Dachshund breed
atdr.org

16. Homeless Pet Placement League
Specializes in: Foster care and adoption
hppl.org

17. Honoring Hope & Faith Rescue
hhfrescue.org

18. Three Little Pitties All Breed Rescue
threelittlepittiesrescue.org

You may notice that Rescued Pets Movement is not included on this list. Sadly, at this time, we are unable to accept any pets directly from the public. We are currently only able to save animals from BARC, the city of Houston shelter.

Directly Rehome a Pet

There are several website which can help you find a new home for a pet directly without utilizing a rescue organization. Here are some of the most popular sites:

1. Rehome: by Adopt a Pet
   - rehome.adoptapet.com

2. Home To Home
   - home-home.org

3. Rehome Your Pets
   - rehomeyourpets.com

DID YOU KNOW?
Dumping an animal is a felony under Texas law

HOUSTON-AREA PUBLIC SHELTERS

Please consider surrendering a pet to a public shelter as a last resort. Local shelters are frequently overwhelmed, leading to tough decisions about space and the euthanasia of otherwise adoptable animals. Insufficient funding from city and county budgets exacerbates this issue, limiting the shelters' ability to care for all the animals in need. We encourage citizens to contact their local officials to advocate for better funding and support for public shelters, ensuring they can become open intake facilities for lost, abandoned, pets and those in need of a new home.

Additionally, most, if not all the shelters listed here are not "open intake" meaning they do not accept pets without an appointment. Unfortunately, due to how frequently this information changes, we are unable to provide intake information for each individual shelter listed. Please reach out to shelters directly to identify their intake process. Please be aware that when surrendering a pet to a shelter, both your home address and the location where the pet was found must fall within the shelter's jurisdiction. We recommend contacting the shelter in advance to confirm your jurisdiction before bringing in a pet.

BARC Animal Shelter and Adoptions (City of Houston)
2700 Evella St. Houston, TX 77026
713-837-0311
houstontx.gov/barc/

Baytown Animal Control
705 N Robert C Lanier Dr. Baytown, TX 77520
281-422-7600
baytown.org/1160/Animal-Services
animalcontrol@baytown.org

Bellaire Animal Shelter
5110 Jessamine St. Bellaire, TX 77401
713-668-0487
bellairetx.gov/1039/In-Our-Pound

Bunker Hill
713-467-9762
bunkerhilltx.gov/citizens/animal-services

Deer Park Animal Shelter and Adoption Center
4213 Luell Avenue Building G Deer Park, TX 77536
281-478-7274
deerparktx.gov/490/Animal-Control
animalshelter@deerparktx.org

Fort Bend County Animal Control
1210 Blume Rd. Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-342-1512
fortbendcountytx.gov > "Animal Services"

Harris County Pets
612 Canino Rd. Houston, TX 77076
281-999-3191
countypets.com

Humble Animal Control
240 Dennis St. Humble, TX 77338
281-446-2327
cityofhumbletx.gov/animal-services/

Jacinto City Animal Control
713-453-7411
jacintocity-tx.gov/animal-control/
publicworks@jacintocity-tx.gov

LaPorte City Animal Control
10901 Spencer Highway La Porte, TX 77571
281-471-3811
laportetx.gov > "Animal Shelter & Animal Control"

League City Animal Care
755 West Walker Street League City, TX 77573
281-554-1377
leaguecitytx.gov > "Departments" > "Animal Care

Missouri City Animal Control
1923 Scanlin Rd. Missouri City, TX 77489
281-403-8707
missouricitytx.gov/92/Animal-Services
animalservices@missouricitytx.gov

Montgomery County Animal Shelter
8535 State Hwy 242 Conroe, TX 77385
936-442-7738
mcaspets.org

Pearland Animal Control
8311 Freedom Dr. Pearland, TX 77581
281-652-1970
pearlandtx.gov > "Departments" > "Animal Services"

Rosenberg Animal Control
1207 Blume Rd. Rosenberg, TX 77471
832-595-3490
rosenbergtx.gov > "Community" > "Animal Control"

Seabrook Animal Shelter
1100 Red Bluff Rd. Seabrook, TX 77586
281-291-5644
seabrooktx.gov > "Department" > "Police Department" > "Animal Control"

Sugarland Animal Control
101B Gillingham Ln. Sugarland, TX 77498
281-275-2364
sugarlandtx.gov/220/Animal-Services

IS THE PET INJURED, VISIBLY SICK, SEVERELY UNDERWEIGHT, OR A NEWBORN? If yes, you can take them to BARC located at 2700 Evella Street from 9am to 5pm. Please note, no appointment is necessary for sick/injured animals but wait times for unscheduled animals being turned in may take up to 3 hours, so we recommend arriving no later than 2pm.

LOW-COST VET CARE IN HOUSTON

If you're a pet parent in Houston in need of affordable veterinary services, there are several clinics and programs available to help ensure your furry friends get the care they need. Here are some options:

1. Texas Litter Control
- Services : Spay/neuter, vaccinations, and wellness services for cats and dogs.
- Address : 150 Pruitt Road, Spring, TX 77380
- Phone : 832-510-7622
- Website : texaslittercontrol.org

2. Emancipet
- Services : Affordable spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations, and heartworm prevention with office visits starting at $5.
- Address 1: 910 South Wayside Drive, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77023
- Address 2: 8533 Gulf Fwy, Houston, TX 77017
- Address 3: 13830 Northwest Fwy, Houston, TX 77040
- Phone : 713-321-2713
- Website : emancipet.org

3. Houston Humane Society
- Services : Comprehensive veterinary care, including low cost spay/neuter, vaccinations, and wellness exams.
- Address : 14700 Almeda Rd, Houston, TX 77053
- Phone : 713-433-6421
- Website : houstonhumane.org

4. Pet Check Animal Clinic
- Services : Vaccinations, parasite control, minor illness care, and preventive care.
- Address : 9500 Westview Dr, Suite 103-B, Houston, TX 77055
- Phone : 713-738-2432
- Website : petcheck.vet

5. Houston Spay Neuter
- Services : Wellness care, minor illness treatment, bloodwork, and surgical procedures including spay/neuter.
- Address : 7234 Wynnwood Ln, Houston, TX 77008
- Phone : 888-410-7729
- Website : houstonspayneuter.com

6. Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP)
- Services: General pet wellness and vaccinations. Do not provide care for sick or injured animals.
- Address: 17555 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77094
- Phone: 281-497-0591
- Website: cap4pets.org

7. KAAWS Clinic
- Address 1: 17259 FM 529, Houston, TX 77095
- Address 2: 21727 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble, TX 77338
- Phone: 281-200-2325
- Website: bestlowcostvet.com

8. Northline Low Cost Clinic
- Services: vaccinations, microchipping, wellness care, minor illness treatment, bloodwork, and surgical procedures including spay/neuter.
- Address: 51 Tidwell Rd. Houston, TX 77022
- Phone: 713-697-3297
- Website: northlinevet.com

9. Harris County Public Health Veterinary Clinic
- Services: vaccinations, microchipping, nail trims, heartworm and flea and tick prevention, and other basic wellness services.
- Address: 612 Canino Rd, Houston, TX 77076
- Phone: 281-999-3191
- Website: countypets.com/Pet-Clinic

10. Safe Haven Animal Hospital
- Services: spay and neuter, lab work, surgeries, vaccines, dental cleanings
- Address: 3928 Old Spanish Trl Suite A, Houston, TX 77021
- Phone: 346-240-3102
- Website: safehavenvets.com

Programs to Help Pay for Vet Care

1. CareCredit
- A health care credit card that can be used for veterinary expenses. It offers various financing options, including deferred interest and extended payment plans.
- How to Apply : You can apply online or at participating veterinary offices. For more information, visit: carecredit.com/vetmed/

2. Scratchpay
- Provides simple, transparent payment plans for veterinary care. No hidden fees or deferred interest.
- How to Apply : Apply online to get pre-approved without affecting your credit score. For more information, visit scratchpay.com

3. United Way of Greater Houston
- Offers various assistance programs, which might include support for pet care. Contact them to see what resources are available.
- Contact : Call 2-1-1 or visit unitedwayhouston.org

4. Laurel's House
- Free vet care for families in need.
- Visit their website for more information and how to apply: laurelshouse2.org

5. Help Me Keep My Pet
- Assistance for low income households to help prevent surrendering a pet to the shelter. Assistance is on a first come first serve basis dependent upon the need as well as availability of supplies and funding.
- Visit their website for information and how to apply: helpmekeepmypet.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

This handout is provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute veterinary, legal, medical, behavioral, or other professional advice. Individuals are solely responsible for evaluating their circumstances and taking appropriate action. Rescued Pets Movement (RPM) assumes no responsibility or liability for any injury, loss, damage, claim, or outcome resulting from the use of information contained in this handout or any referenced resources.