



PROD

Promoting Responsible Ownership of Dogs

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Finding a New Home for Your Dog

Sometimes, no matter how hard we try to avoid having to give up our pets, conditions get beyond our control and we need to find them new homes.

If you need to find a new home for your dog, please take the time to find the best possible situation for your canine companion. Keep in mind that it's always less stressful for your dog to stay with you as long as possible.

Also, please do your pet and the rest of the world a favor by making sure your dog is spayed or neutered before you release ownership to someone else. Doing so is the responsible thing to do. It will make it easier for you to find a new home for your pet, and it will help to prevent even more unwanted litters of puppies.

There aren't enough homes for all the animals who need them. About 13,800 dogs and cats are euthanized every day in U.S. Shelters. Be sure you consider that sobering fact before giving up your animal to a shelter.

What You Can Do

Please don't put your dog through a series of failed relationships. Take your time in finding the right family that can meet the needs of your pet. We also encourage you to be honest about your canine's behaviors, don't pass a troubled dog onto an unsuspecting family.

With the needs of your pet in mind, here are some questions you can ask of a prospective new owner, and some things you can do, to ensure a good match.

- Does this prospective new owner own or rent? If renting, is it O.K. with the landlord - get his number to call.
- Have they had a dog in the past and if so what happened to it?
- Do they have any pets now? What are they? If they have a dog is it spayed or neutered?
- Will they have adequate time to give your dog attention and exercise?

- How will they discipline your dog?
- Will your dog be included in their household?
- Where will he/she sleep at night?
- How will they keep your dog confined when they are not at home?
- Do they have children? What are their ages?
- Make an attempt to meet all the family members, including the resident dog.
- Go to see where your dog will live.
- What will be the daily routine for your dog? Is it reasonable and does it make sense?
- Do their neighbor's dogs roam onto their property? If so, and your dog is tied outside it could be at risk, or if running free your dog could pack up with the others and get into trouble.
- Please keep in mind if a dog is wanted for a specific purpose like hunting, guarding, herding, etc. and the dog doesn't perform as expected, many times the dog is unwanted.
- Some times a dog given as a gift isn't appreciated or wanted.
- Be a good listener, what kind of a history do they have with past pets? Trust your instincts. If you see red flags or there just isn't any connection between them and your dog, encourage them to look elsewhere.
- If you give your dog to them ask them to sign an adoption agreement and charge a fee. People place more value on a dog if they pay for it. It also gives you some indication if they can afford to own a pet. Some people acquire animals for profit.
- Get the name, address, and phone number of the new owner. (You may want to ask if they mind if you call their veterinarian. A second opinion can be very enlightening.) Call them periodically to see how your dog is adjusting to his/her new family. Please offer to take your dog back if things aren't working out as planned.
- Be sure you stress the importance of keeping identification on their new dog in case he/she gets confused and leaves the property.