



# Pet Rehoming

Finding the best solution for you and your pet



[RescueAnimalsIreland.ie](http://RescueAnimalsIreland.ie)

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## Introduction

At RescueAnimalsIreland.ie, we believe that pets are lifelong commitments; however we know that personal circumstances can change and you may no longer be able to give your pet the time and attention it needs. Some of these changes may be temporary so you will need to decide if the situation can be worked through or if the pet needs a new permanent home.

Before making a final decision, please read our section on the [five most common reasons why people want to rehome their pets](#). For each of these five situations – behaviour problems, allergies, having a baby, lack of space or time and moving – we offer you different options to consider, as well as useful references.

If you have been through this information and resources and have still decided the best solution for your pet is to rehome them, then there are a number of ways to try to rehome your pet.

### Local Animal Shelter

While this is the preferred option for most owners and usually the first place that is tried, it is really not the ideal route to take when trying to rehome your pet. Animal Shelters are run by volunteers to try and help abandoned and neglected animals. They take animals in that have nowhere else to go and help them to recover, if needed, and find them new homes. If they take in private surrenders then they have less time, space and resources to deal with animals urgently in need. It would be rare that an animal rescue would have space to take in your pet immediately. They would be put on a waiting list until a space is free.

### Dog Pound

While dog pounds have improved in the last number of years this still varies from pound to pound. A dog that is found straying must be kept by the pound for five days, it can be then rehomed or killed. It is up to the individual pound to decide. A surrendered dog does not have to be kept by the pound for any length of time. Please do not surrender your dog to a pound unless it is your very last option and you have checked their kill percentage and know what steps they will take to try and rehome your dog.

### Rehome your pet yourself

This is the best option. But it will take time and effort but hopefully we can help you through the process. To ensure a successful rehoming there are some important guidelines you can follow to ensure everything is done in a responsible manner, and thus ensure your pet's long term well-being and safety.

Before you rehome your pet it is important to take the time to consider all the options available to you. Unfortunately, some owners will make a quick decision to rehome their pets and regret it once their situation changes again.

## Most common reasons why people want to rehome their pets

Here are five frequent reasons people give up their pet and different solutions to consider for each one:

### 1. BEHAVIOR ISSUES

Most behaviour problems can be solved with proper training. Positive education, based on stimulation, games and rewards, is effective in the long term. Have you considered the following? :



**For dogs:** Consult a trainer or behaviour specialist who uses positive reinforcement techniques. To find potential trainers and specialists in your area, ask for referrals from your friends and family or search online. Please ask questions when considering a dog trainer. [Click here](#) for a list of questions to ask potential trainer or behaviourist.



**For cats:** it's also possible to train a cat, especially if you start when they are young. Use positive reinforcement techniques, as for a dog, based on stimulation, games and rewards. For some solutions to common problem behaviour [click here](#).



Provide your pet enough exercise every day so that he burns all his excess energy and play with him to keep him stimulated. Lack of activity can lead to depression, stress, aggression and obesity in your animal companion.



Consult with your Vet. Any new changes in your pet's behaviour might be caused by a medical issue.

### 2. ALLERGIES

Before adopting a pet, it's important to always check if someone in your household has allergies to animals. If someone develops allergies afterwards, it doesn't necessarily mean you need to rehome your pet. Have you considered? :



Investigating whether your pet is truly the cause of the allergies or whether other factors such as dust, pollen, grass or other allergens could be at the origin of the allergic reactions.



Consulting your veterinarian who may have some products to help keep your pet clean and reduce dander thereby reducing allergies.



Putting in an air filtration system, remove carpets and vacuuming floors and furniture regularly to decrease pet hair in the home.



Reducing contact with the pet (for example, closing the bedroom door)



Check online for more information on the issue of allergies and pets.

### 3. EXPECTING A BABY

Having a baby doesn't mean that you can't have a pet. The commitment you made to your pet doesn't end because you are having a baby. There are many expecting parents who have responsibly planned the introduction of their pet(s) to their new human addition. Here are suggestions:



Speak to friends and family members that have had babies in a household with pets.



Consult a behaviour specialist or trainer to help you with the transition.



Have a plan in place to help your pet adjust to the new arrival.



Read on the subject to take the proper steps for a successful introduction. Here are a few useful links:



<http://familypaws.com/>



<https://pets.webmd.com/features/pets-and-new-baby#1>



<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+2100&aid=628>



<http://www.parents.com/parenting/pets/babies/introducing-pet-to-baby/>



### 4. LACK OF SPACE OR TIME

The size of your house or apartment isn't a big concern to your pet provided he is getting the proper care and exercise for his age and size. Animals just want to be with their family and be well looked after. You are working longer hours and aren't able to provide your animal with enough presence and exercise? Small home? Consider the following:



Ask friends or family members if they can spend time with your pet, to help with his socialisation and provide enough human contact.



For dogs, hire someone who can walk him in your absence.



Compensate the lack of space by combining a good walk and a play session each day. Cats as well as dogs need stimulation and amusement. Having fun with them will help build your relationship!



If your pet is alone during the day, give him a chewing bone (dog) or toys with stuffed food to occupy him.



For cats, install a cat tree near a window and a scratching post for his claws.

## 5. MOVING

If you are a tenant (and your landlord accepts animals), make sure you absolutely need to leave before deciding to move because it's not always easy to find pet-friendly homes to rent. Consider all the possibilities and make sure you can bring your pet with you. If you must leave your current residence, here is some advice:

-  Start your search several months in advance to allow time to find housing where pets are allowed.
-  Ask the future landlord to meet your pet and if he would consider changing his policy (make sure that your pet is up to date on veterinary care, on his best behaviour and bring veterinary and other references).
-  Some further reading in relation to [Private Rented Accommodation and Pets](#).



Don't forget that pets are lifelong commitments and unless you are no longer able to take good care of your companion, the best place for them is with you. Did you know that, because of pet overpopulation, there are thousands of dogs and cats in shelters in Ireland waiting for a home, and many more available for adoption through rescue groups or individuals? Hence the importance of exploring all options before deciding to rehome your animal.

## Rehoming your pet

If after careful consideration you decide to give up your pet and would like to find them a new home yourself the following information will help in that process.

Getting your animal ready for adoption

-  Make sure your pet is healthy, that all his vaccines and veterinary care are up to date. We have a [sample medical record document](#) you can complete to give to the new owner.
-  Have your pet spayed or neutered your pet if not already done. Your pet will be more easily adopted and attract the right type of people (and not someone looking for animals only to mate or reproduce). Microchips are also legally required for dogs and highly recommended for cats also.
-  Create an advert on [RescueAnimalsIreland.ie](#) with your pet's name, photo and description (e.g. age, breed, behaviour, health, habits, preferences and any other information that may be useful to future owners).
-  Build an adoption questionnaire for people interested in adopting your pet in order to better to know them. It will help you make sure that this is a mindful decision on their part and that they can provide a suitable home (*for examples of questions, you can refer to our sample questionnaire – [click here](#)*).

## How to find a new forever and responsible home

You aren't looking for just anybody to adopt your pet. You want to find people who will give him all the love and care he needs for the rest of his days.



Ask friends or family if they are interested in adopting your pet, or if they know someone who would. By giving it to someone you know, you can stay in touch with your pet.



Check with your veterinarian if they know good people looking for a pet like yours. Your vet may also allow you to post an ad at their clinic (announcing in a vet clinic is preferred because it gives you access to responsible pet owners).



Contact rescue groups that deal with specific breeds if your dog or cat is purebred.



If you place an ad on our website or elsewhere online:

- ✿ Start by phone interviews with interested people before introducing your pet. Thus, you can eliminate from the start those who aren't suitable or serious. Always ask to speak directly to the person who wishes to adopt your pet and not a go-between.
- ✿ Plan one or more meetings with the potential adopters. Make sure all members of the future family meet your pet. During the visit, observe their interaction with your pet.
- ✿ Ask lots of questions to make sure they will be able to ensure your pet's well-being.
- ✿ Ask for valid ID cards with photo.
- ✿ Keep your own safety in mind when meeting someone through online classifieds. Arrange a time and place you feel comfortable with. Bring someone else with you if possible.

### IMPORTANT!

We recommend that you never give your pet for adoption to someone without first visiting their home and checking out their current living conditions. If they don't let you see their home, we recommend that you don't pursue with them. Lots of malicious people seek animals through internet and classified ads, such as puppy farms, dog-fighting organisers. Don't advertise if your pet isn't spayed/neutered, as this will attract puppy/kitten farms or backyard breeders.

## Final steps

When you have found the right home for your pet, make sure to take these last measures with the new family:



Have the new family sign an adoption contact and ask them to contact you if later on it doesn't work out between them and your pet. [Sample contracts can be found here.](#) Perhaps get them to take on the pet for a trial period initially.



Provide your animal's medical records and the veterinarian's contact information. [Sample medical record form can be found here.](#)



Give them your pet's items and food (bowls, toys, baskets, bedding, collar, leash, etc.).



Let them know them about your pet's nourishment, required care, behaviour, preferences and special needs.

If you are unable to find a good home

Speak to your local rescue group if you have taken all the measures described above and you haven't managed to find him a good home. They can advise you on what steps to take next.

Be responsible

Did you know that abandoning a pet is considered animal cruelty law? If you have to give up your pet, NEVER abandon him alone in a vacant home or outside (in the city or the country) in the hope that he will survive or be saved by a Good Samaritan. Abandoning your pet is not only irresponsible, but has very serious consequences for the animal.

For more information visit [RescueAnimalsIreland.ie](http://RescueAnimalsIreland.ie)

