

RESOURCE PACKET



St Francis Animal Resource Center

P.O. Box 1583
Norman, OK 73069
(405) 367-5862

Resources for you and your pet

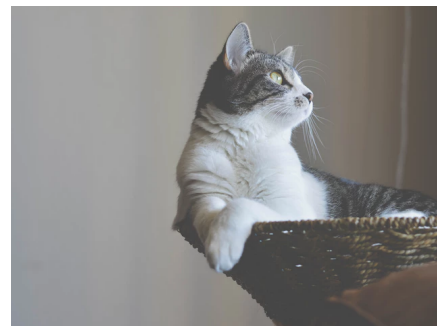
Animal shelters often don't have space for animals being surrendered by their owners. Pets are often very nervous and don't do well in a shelter setting and can have a hard time adjusting. Included in this packet are resources that you may find useful. This includes information on rehoming your pet from your home, behavior assistance for your pet if needed, and other alternatives. If after exhausting these options you still need to find another home for your pet, we can provide the shelter with the surrender forms and all of your pet's information to make surrendering your pet easier and ensure the shelter has all the information they need on your animal.

Rehoming service information and poster

The rehoming information has tools for you to find a responsible and loving family for your pet without causing him or her the stress of entering the shelter system. Our goal is to ensure all pets are spayed or neutered before being rehomed. Having your pet neutered makes it easier to find him or her a new home and improves his or her chance of forming a lasting and successful relationship with the new owner.

Perfect match form and adopter information

Our "Perfect Match" and Adoption Application forms are included to show you how to evaluate potential adopters and give you guidance on the types of things to look for when finding your pet a new home on your own.



Surrendering your pet to the shelter

We try to only have pets surrendered to the shelter as a last resort. If you find you are unable to keep your pet or rehome him or her, we will provide all of your information to the shelter and work with the staff at the shelter to try and coordinate a time for your pet to be

surrendered. We try to make sure all of the animals are vaccinated prior to being surrendered for their safety and, if possible, already spayed or neutered. Norman Animal Welfare Center can take owner surrenders as space becomes available, so we can help keep in touch with the shelter to get your pet in as quickly as possible if other resources are not available or have been exhausted.

If you have used our services, please call us if you are taking your pet to the shelter so we can forward our documents.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

- Your pet's medical history (if we have seen your pet we can forward our documents)
- Your pet's medications
- Special food or treats that your pet needs
- Your pet's bed or belongings that may help your pet transition to the shelter
- The owner surrender fee is \$10

For everyone's safety, all dogs must be leashed and all cats must be in a carrier.



Sincerely,

The Staff at St. Francis Animal Resource Center

The following resources are available to assist you with keeping your family pet.

Rehoming Ask around to see if you know anyone (friends, family, co-workers, etc.) who is looking for a new pet, or try Adopt-a-Pet online. We can help you create a biography for your pet and upload the information through our account if you'd like. It is better for your pet if you are able to rehome him or her yourself. The shelter can be a very stressful environment.

Pet Behavior Help For help with behavior issues and concerns, you can either call and leave a message at the center or email info@stfrancisarc.org. You should typically receive a reply from a staff member within 2 business days. You may also want to visit our behavior website for a list of helpful [behavior resources](#) and information.

Pet Manners Classes Ask how to sign up for a class specifically designed to help great pets that have minor challenges. Visit the [training](#) portion of our behavior webpage for a listing of training classes offered in the area. If you are unable to afford classes, we can try to find a scholarship program.

Pet-Friendly Housing Guide Visit the [housing](#) section of our resource page to find apartments that permit pets. If it is a behavior problem that is keeping you from taking your pet, such as house training, please call us or try our page on behavior for information on ideas on how to successfully housetrain your pet.

Veterinary Care There are some options on obtaining veterinary care for your pet if that's a resource that you need. Check out our [veterinary](#) section of our resource website for different possibilities.

Foster Care If you are surrendering a sick animal or a mom and her litter, are you willing to keep the pet until he or she is well or the litter until it's old enough to be spayed or neutered? We can try and provide you with resources to care for the litter until they are old enough to be adopted. It is especially important to keep young animals out of the shelter if possible since they are more prone to diseases and stress.

Trap-Neuter-Return for Feral Cats If you have feral (unsocialized) cats in your neighborhood, try contacting [Hands Helping Paws](#). There are options on how to make sure these cats are cared for and healthy.

For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please call (405)367-5862. We will contact you within two business days.

REHOMING INFORMATION

Consider finding your dog or cat another home instead of surrendering him to a shelter because it will be less stressful for you animal, allows you to play a part in uniting him with a new family, and makes additional space available for pets whose lives are immediately at risk in surrounding government shelters.

Before you start looking for a new home for your pet, consider the following:

Get help with behavior problems such as chewing, housebreaking challenges, excessive energy, etc. Check out our [behavior page](#) for information on problem behaviors and places you can contact to try obedience classes. Have a specific problem our behavior page doesn't address? Give us a call and we'll see if we can help you. By working to solve behavior problems before you find your pet a new home, you'll help ensure a good, lasting home for your pet.

You do not have to give up your pet just because you're moving. Moving is stressful even in the best of circumstances, so give yourself extra time to find a residence where pets are permitted. When talking to landlords, be honest and offer to introduce your pet(s) to the landlord. Many property owners will allow well-behaved pets, particularly if the owner behaves responsibly. Providing your pet's veterinary records, graduation certificate(s) from obedience classes, and references from past landlords can help to show a prospective landlord you are a responsible pet owner. For ideas on housing and websites for finding pet friendly housing, check out our [housing](#) portion of our resource page.

ST. FRANCIS RESOURCE CENTER DOES NOT TAKE ANIMALS, BUT WE CAN HELP WITH REHOMING First, we want to try and ensure your pet is spayed or neutered and is up-to-date on all of his or her vaccinations. This will make it easier for you to find a new home for your pet and is a requirement for our posting. We can try and help make sure you have access to these services.

People often find Facebook community pages and Craigslist to be effective ways to rehome their pet. If you would like for us to try reaching out to area rescues, you can call us to get our online form or we can get the information from you over the phone. We do request photos of your pet.

Next, follow these guidelines. Be thorough and patient - finding the right home may take time, but it's worth it for your sake and the sake of your pet.

- **Take several color photos of your pet.** Show off your pet's cutest and most endearing qualities. Need assistance with this? Let us know!
- **Write a story about your pet.** Include the reason your pet needs a new home, the kind of home he or she needs and would do well in, and some "human interest" information - for example, your pet's funniest behaviors, his/her favorite things to do, or the thing you love most about your pet.

Many people write the story from the animal's perspective, for example, "Hi, my name is Sabrina..." . We have additional templates if you need help with providing compelling information about your pet.

- **Rehome your pet online.** We can help you find websites and services to rehome your pet. We will have you fill out information about your pet to see what programs or websites may be the most successful way for you to rehome your pet. If your pet is adopted, please notify us so we can update our records.
- **E-mail out to friends, family or co-workers.** Give your photos, story and email to everyone you know asking for their help. Advertise through your workplace e-mail or your community bulletin board. Placing your pet with someone you know will ease the transition for you, the new owner and your pet.
- **Make a rehoming poster.** You can try and rehome your pet with a poster. A template is included in this packet as a guideline. Make several photocopies of the poster and then attach an original photo to each poster. Place the re-homing posters in veterinary offices and pet supply stores near and far, where people who take good care of their animals visit often.
- **Charge a fee.** Most people who want a pet for the right reasons are happy to pay a modest adoption fee.

Helpful hints on evaluating potential adopters:

- **Interview potential adopters carefully.** Use the adoption application we have provided as a guide.
- **Review the "Perfect Match" form.** Go over this document with each applicant to see if the applicant's lifestyle is compatible with your pet. Does your pet fight with cats? Is your pet high or low energy? Make sure he/she fits into the lifestyle of the applicant's family, and your pet is what they're really looking for.
- **Along with the adoption application, you might consider the following in order to ascertain additional information (please note that with respect to some of these items, an open and honest discussion will provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision regarding your pet's placement):**
 1. Verify the name and address with a driver's license.
 2. Call the person's landlord and make sure he/she has permission to have a pet.
 3. Ask to see the person's veterinary records on all his/her current or past pets to see if he/she takes good care of animals.
 4. Get references (friends, neighbors), and call to see if they can vouch for the person's ability to care for animals.
- **Take the time to consider applicants.** Don't allow yourself to be pressured into making a decision that you do not feel right about. Your judgment is your best guide.
- **Follow up.** Call to see how your pet is doing in his/her new home. A responsible owner will welcome your concern for the animal.

I Am Looking for a New Family

My Name Is: _____

Place photo here

I am a _____.

Age, Sex and Breed Mix/Type

Here is my story:

If you would like to meet me, please contact

Owner's name

Days _____ Evenings _____ Last updated: _____

THE PERFECT MATCH FOR DOGS

Suggested questions

What drew you to this particular dog?

What are your reasons for adopting a dog?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ Watchdog | ☐ Breeding | ☐ Hunting dog | ☐ Child's pet |
| ☐ Gift | ☐ Companion for family | ☐ Companion for pet | |

Notes: _____

How many hours a day will the dog be kept outside? _____

Where will the dog sleep? _____

When outside, how will the dog be confined?

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ Fenced pen | ☐ Leash | ☐ Fenced yard |
| ☐ Tether/tie out | Other _____ | |

Do you have or are you planning for a

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ Fenced yard | ☐ Dog run | ☐ Tether or tie-out | ☐ Doghouse |
| ☐ Crate | | | |

About the Household

How many adults are in your home? _____ Children? _____

Ages of children? _____

How many dogs? _____ Indoor cats? _____ Indoor/outdoor cats? _____

Other pets? _____

Have you had other pets as an adult? Where are they now?

I need a dog that can be alone _____ hours a day.

How will you exercise the dog?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ Backyard | ☐ Walk/jog daily | ☐ Dog park |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|

Other _____

Have you ever trained a dog before? _____

Notes:

THE PERFECT MATCH FOR CATS

Suggested questions

About the Household

How many adults are in your home? _____ Children? _____

Ages of children? _____

How many cats? _____ Dogs? _____

Other pets? _____

If you have a dog, what experience has your dog had with cats?

Have you had other pets as an adult? Where are they now?

How long did you have them? _____

Other Possible Questions

Have you ever had a cat with litter box problems? _____

If yes, how did you resolve the problem?

What is it about my cat that drew your interest?

I plan on keeping the cat:

☐ Indoors only

☐ Inside and outside

☐ Outside

☐ Outside in a barn

Notes:

ADOPTER INFORMATION

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

My current living arrangement is:

☐ I own my own home. ☐ I live with my parents.

☐ Do the people you live with know you are getting a pet? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I rent. Describe your landlord's pet policy:

Does your landlord know you are getting a pet? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Veterinarian's name _____

Phone number _____

How much annually are you planning on spending on your pet for vet care?
