

TIPS FOR REHOMING YOUR ANIMAL

Where to advertise your animal:

- Even if a shelter/rescue group is not able to take your animal, they may be willing to do online courtesy postings. This will allow your animal to be posted on sites like PetFinder.com where only organizations can post, not individuals. You can identify local shelters/rescue groups by referring to the resource list provided on our website, as well as looking at the shelters/rescues in your area who are posting on Petfinder.com.
- Ask if you can put up postings at your local pet supplies stores and veterinary clinics. Advertise in the local newspaper or online like craigslist.org, but use caution when considering unknown individuals as potential adopters (see below "When you find a potential adopter...").
- The more people that know your pet needs a new home will increase its chances of finding the right one, so tell your friends, family and co-workers and ask them to do the same.

How to advertise your animal:

- Your ad should include at least one good photo and a description of your animal and the kind of home that would be the best fit. If your animal has an interesting background story, include it in the description, because it will often grab the attention of potential adopters.
- Increase your animal's adoptability by having it spayed or neutered and up-to-date on its vaccinations. If you can't afford the cost of surgery, check with your vet, local shelter, or a rescue group for information about low cost spay/neuter programs that are available. For low cost spay/neuter referrals and vouchers, you can also go to <http://www.allaboutanimalsrescue.org/spay-michigan/> or <http://friendsofanimals.org/>.
- Ask for adoption fee (e.g. \$20-60), to deter people with bad intentions or those who cannot afford to care for an animal. Never include the phrase "free to good home" in your ad, even if you're not planning to charge a fee. The chance at a "free" animal may bring lots of calls, but most of them won't be able to afford a pet or even have ill intentions, such as selling or abusing the animal.

When you find a potential adopter that meets your and your animal's needs:

- Don't be afraid to ask questions to screen potential adopters. People who are really good homes are usually happy to answer your questions, and if they get defensive about answering your questions, that is a red flag. Oftentimes, people do not thoroughly read postings and may want to adopt your animal even though their home may not be the best fit (e.g. the animal doesn't do well with lots of activity and they have small active children), so a few questions can help. The types of questions that you may want to ask include:
 - Why do you want to adopt this animal? Do all members of the household know about and support your interest in adopting this animal?
 - What animals have you had in the past 5 years, and what happened to them?
 - Will there likely be any major lifestyle changes or moves in the future, and how will those changes affect your ability to care for this animal?
- Don't be shy about asking for verification from landlords about their pet policy. Many adopters don't bother to ask, and then have to give up the animal when they find out they are not allowed to have the animal.
- To check for a criminal record to screen out those convicted of animal cruelty or other related charges, go to <http://mdocweb.state.mi.us/otis2/otis2.aspx>.
- Consider conducting a homecheck and meeting other household members before adopting out the animal. If the potential adopter will not allow a home visit, this is a red flag.
- Ask for identification and contact information to follow up on how your pet is doing in its new home. Consider creating a contract if you want the animal to be returned to you if the adoption does not work out.