

GUIDE TO REHOMING A DOG

Unfortunately, CCHD Rescue is too small to take many dogs out there. We do not have a shelter, only limited space in our foster homes. The information below is intended to help people who are trying to place a dog in a new home.

DO YOU NEED TO RE-HOME YOUR DOG?

Before reading further, consider this: do you really need to re-home your dog? Is there any way you can keep him or her? There are so few good homes out there, and it can take a while to find a safe home where your dog will be happy. If you are having a behavioral issue with your dog, consider working on the problem first.

TIPS:

- **CONSULT** your veterinarian, ask for a referral to a trainer (preferably one that knows your dog's breed characteristics).
- **SEARCH** for your key issues on YouTube and start watching. YouTube has some fantastic training video available. Dump the ones you don't like or that don't apply. And keep watching.

Behavioral problems can often be fixed if the owner is willing to make a change: give the dog more exercise, be firmer about rules, give the dog more attention, and in the case of Heelers, sometime less attention is better! Unearned affection can be the ruin of a heeler. If you can provide structure in adequate measure, you may be able to fix the problem and keep your dog from having to go through the trauma of re-homing!

CCHD Rescue is familiar with herding dog behavior, if it's an issue you would like to work through, shoot us an email. Be concise, explain the issue. **I'm happy to help you save the relationship with your dog.** If for whatever reason, you absolutely can't keep your dog, here are some things you can do to put the word out there and to ensure that it goes to a great home:

TIPS FOR PLACING A DOG:

1. **Make sure your dog is healthy, up to date on vaccinations, and spayed or neutered.** *Never* place an unaltered dog. You're just asking for it to be used for backyard breeding and contributing to this mess of pet overpopulation. Good adopters will want a healthy, sterile, vaccinated pet, so if that is what you are offering, you stand a better chance of finding that good adopter.
2. **Please don't give your dog away.** If someone isn't willing to pay \$100 (that you can in turn donate to a rescue) for a lifetime companion, are they going to be willing to pay for food, vet care, etc.? Your dog has value, and the adopter needs to show that he or she is making a financial commitment. "Free to

good home" ads get answered by people looking for bait dogs and lab test dogs. That good free home may be a short life of hell for your dog. Of course you don't want to "sell your dog", ask the adopter to make a donation to a local animal rescue group -- have them make the check to that group, then you can deliver it yourself and feel good that you helped a group that is also trying to save and re-home unwanted pets!

3. **Screen potential adopters with care.** The saddest thing we see in the shelters are dogs turned in after having been recently re-homed to people who clearly weren't good adopters. One common reason these placements fail is no landlord approval. You can do what we do: require them to give you their landlord's name and number, then call and confirm that they have permission to have a dog. Call the County Tax Assessor's office to confirm that the person they claim is the landlord is really the property owner, too -- a common scam is to lie and give another person's name as the landlord. If the potential adopter says they own their home, Google the tax assessor's office to confirm that too. People will lie about that also, to avoid having you check with their landlord. Other screening precautions include:
 - Make sure the new adopters are a match for your dog.
 - Do they plan to exercise the dog? How and how often?
 - Will they allow it in the house?
 - Do they have other pets? If they do, your dog needs to meet those pets before you hand it over, be sure that everyone gets along. Double ditto for children or other members of the family -- everyone in the family needs to meet a dog before you re-home it, to prevent the dog from clashing with a frightened child or a husband who is being given a "surprise" gift that they don't want!
 - **Rule of thumb: Never adopt a dog out as a surprise gift. Always discuss!**
4. **Do a home check as part of the adoption.** Can you really give your dog to someone without seeing the conditions in which it will be kept - if their fence is really high enough, whether the family takes care of its possessions, etc.? If you are nervous about going to a stranger's house, take a friend. And now we have Google earth! You can actually see an adopter's home on your computer. Use a search engine to look for the address.
5. **BE HONEST!** People are tempted to lie or withhold information about a dog because they want to place it in a hurry. The truth will come out, pretty quickly, and then your dog is all too likely to end up in a shelter. If a dog is un-adoptable due to aggression toward people or other animals, you don't want to run the risk of harm to others. Yet, there could be a home out there with an adopter who has limited people around and no other animals. Sometimes people will take a dog with a behavioral or health issue, because they have a big heart and are willing to work on the problems. One man's trash... Everyone deserve to know the truth, and your dog deserves a new family that is fully aware.

HOW TO FIND A GOOD ADOPTER:

1. If you are not experienced, you are better off having a rescue group help you place your dog -- they have application forms, as well as experience screening people. Some breed rescues will help you by having you foster, while they take applications, do the initial screening, etc. If you have a purebred dog or even an obvious mix-type, contact the nearest breed rescue and ask if they can help. To find the breed rescue nearest you, search engine your breed, rescue, and location as your search parameters. If

they won't do the screening, they may at least put your dog up on their website on a courtesy page, as we do on ours. Email them to request information on how to list your dog on their sites. A generic application can be requested.

Ask your vet if they know of any good no/low kill shelters in your area. They may have a waiting list, but it will be worth it if you can get your dog a better home.

2. **Put up signs** at pet shops, feed supply stores, vet's offices, etc. -- a good photo, a few brief details, contact info. **Not everyone is online**, and sometimes good adoptions come from random encounters with people at pet-friendly locations.
3. **Work every situation!** Put an adopt me bandana or vest on your pet, walk the dog! Go to the park, Petco, talk to every new person who seems interested in your dog, to friends, to family, etc. Post the dog on your social media page and share with everyone you know; everything leads to something. You'd be amazed how often someone will step up through social media and word-of-mouth advertising.
4. **Read through [CCHD Rescue's Courtesy Listings](#)**. Once you have your ad comprehensively built, we are happy to post it on our site. Show people you love your dog, you believe in your dog, and others will as well.

HOW TO CREATE A SOCIAL MEDIA ALBUM ON FACEBOOK FOR YOUR DOG:

FROM YOUR OWN PAGE, GO TO:

- PHOTOS > ALBUMS > CREATE ALBUM
- Name album, dog's name, or title: "Rover Needs A Home"
- Add all the great photos and video you have of your dog.
- Add your write up into the description box.
- Put any links to YouTube video in the description.

NOTE: When you are ready to save, check the Audience, to make sure the album is marked PUBLIC, your profile page can retain the same setting, but the album needs to be public in order to share it. You now have a URL you can place in any ad, to give a viewer a good look and read all about the dog. As you add photos, they will show up in the link you share.

EXAMPLE:

[Rescueme.org](#) is an excellent DIY site to list an owner surrender dog you are able to foster. You get one photo, so your link should be placed in the description as "More Photos Here:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1139935870301399&type=3> example.

TROUBLE CREATING YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA ALBUM OR COMPREHENDING THESE INSTRUCTIONS?

Email: info@cchdrescue.org with your specific questions and you will be answered.