

## So you need to re-home a dog.

This dog's best chance is you! You should know some things about re-homing. The information below will help make your dog more adoptable and be seen and give you an idea of what it can take to re-home a dog. With some concerted effort up front and diligence thru the process you will be successful.

**Train and Socialize:** This dog will be competing with many wonderful dogs that need homes and are being fostered and marketed by local rescue groups. These dogs are trained and socialized. You need to make sure that the dog knows some basic obedience and can FOCUS. At a minimum sit and focus, name recognition, and walk nicely on the leash. This dog should also be crate trained.

**Proper and current vet care:** This dog should be spayed or neutered and current on vaccinations. If you cannot afford to do this you should contact your vet and/or shelter and ask about low cost clinics or coupons and participating vets.

**Bath and photograph dog:** Groom this dog and take "good" photos. Photos taken from the dog's level are much better than standing over dog looking down. Have a 2<sup>nd</sup> person to handle the dog. One good head shot and a full body shot as well as a cute playful one are good. Then you should update photos often. Change your postings or emails or flyers often to keep making your dog noticed.

**Be Honest:** It is obvious to highlight this dog's virtues but when you start to talk to people you should be very honest about their health and potential behavior issues. It could be that certain behaviors need to be worked on while you are looking for a home. Some things are easily fixed while other issues may be more complicated. It is imperative to be honest about aggression towards other animals. Aggression towards humans means a dog is NOT adoptable. Be careful before you consider that a dog human aggressive. Dogs can bite for many reasons and they are not always because a dog is human aggressive. Some dogs are not good with small children but excellent with older kids.

**Qualify adopters carefully:** If you care enough to re-home this dog than please care enough to properly qualify an adoptive home. There are people out there who want free dogs for very bad reasons. You should require a simple questionnaire to be completed to help answer basic questions and start some dialogue. You should insist that all family members be in agreement and meet the dog. You should watch how the family interacts with the dog and how the dog reacts to them. You should do a home visit and look for safety hazards or fencing problems. For example; if the neighbors have lots of cats and you know this dog is cat aggressive you need to explain that. There may be small dig holes under fences and the neighbors have barky small dogs that you know will agitate this dog. Again, if you care enough to save this dog from the shelter do not send them into a fail situation.

**Marketing:** You should make flyers and post them at Pet Stores, and Coffee Shops, and Vet's Offices and other places with bulletin boards. You can contact local rescue groups and ask if they will do a courtesy listing on PetFinder. You should email all of your friends and relatives and business associates and tell them to pass around. Regularly update photos and descriptions and resend all the information. While you are marketing the dog make sure to continue training and socializing. You want this dog to make good impressions when it meets people.

Then don't sit back and wait for the phone to ring. Take the dog for walks to show off how well trained it is. Consider a harness that says adopt me. Dress him in a nice collar and scarf to get attention from passer by's. Anyone may know someone who may be interested. Word of mouth is big. If you are on Facebook or other social media shout it out to your friends list. Depending on the dog this process can take a few weeks to a few months. You should have patience.

For more information on the points above please feel free to contact me. I will do my best to be a shoulder to cry on or help you with the proper resources or steer you in the right direction.

**Rescue - Rehab – Rehome  
It does work.**