



**Young-Williams  
Animal Center**

## **Rehome My Dog, Cat or Other Pet**

If you would like to rehome a pet, rather than turn the animal into a shelter, there are proactive strategies you can use to increase your chances of success.

**First, prepare the animal for adoption.** To increase the chances of finding a home and the success of the new placement, it is important that the pet is:

- Spayed or neutered
- In good health and up-to-date on vaccinations
- Clean and groomed
- House-trained and reasonably well-behaved

If your pet isn't spayed or neutered, have it done. We don't recommend placing an animal who has not been spayed/neutered into a new home. Doing so can result in unwanted litters, and neutered animals are less likely to show undesirable mating behaviors, such as mounting or howling. Puppies and kittens as young as eight weeks old can be spayed/neutered. For more information, talk to your veterinarian. If you need to find a source of low-cost spay/neuter surgery in your area, check the [SPAYUSA](http://SPAYUSA) website.

Although your local shelter may not be able to adopt out the pet, they may be able to offer other assistance. Some have low-cost spay/neuter clinics, or offer obedience-training classes. They may have a bulletin board where they post information about animals available for adoption.

**Next, advertise widely.** Get the word out, in as many places as possible, to increase your chances of success in finding a new home. Here are some tips:

- Photos and descriptions really help people make a connection to an animal. Take several good-quality digital photos of your pet. Make sure your pet is well-groomed, is looking at the camera, and can be seen clearly in the photos. If you don't have a digital camera, use a cell phone camera or whatever you have available. Compose an ad that describes the pet's personality, habits, and some of the little things that make this animal special. Do not hold back when it comes to telling about any disabilities, health issues or behavior quirks. Sometimes these are the things that potential adopters particularly respond to. For some tips on how to write an appealing ad, read [Pet Profiles: How to Write Animal Bios to Get Your Adoptables Into Homes](#).
- Flyers are inexpensive to produce and often highly effective, especially when they include a good photo and lively description of the animal. They work especially well for older animals or animals with special needs. At [www.petbond.com](http://www.petbond.com), you can combine a photo of your pet and the adoption ad into a flyer by following the simple instructions.



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Plug in your contact information and the adoption ad, and upload a photo, and you'll have a very attractive flyer. You can save it as a digital file, which can be attached to emails and used for posting on social media websites, and you can also printout hard copies for posting around town. Post the flyers throughout your community, wherever a good prospective adoptive person may see it. Health food stores, supermarkets, libraries, churches, health clubs, veterinarian's offices, and sporting goods stores are just a few examples of good places to post flyers.

- Posting the description and photo of the pet on adoption websites is another effective way to find a new home. Check with your local shelter to see if they have an online adoptions page where you could list your pet. There are specific sites for certain types of animals (FIV+ cats, disabled pets, senior dogs, etc.) as well as general adoption websites, such as [Getyourpet.com](http://Getyourpet.com), [Rehome](http://Rehome) and [Petbond.com](http://Petbond.com). Post the flyer or information about your pet on social media sites, such as Facebook. Ask friends and family members to do the same.
- To find a home for a dog of a particular breed or breed mix, look for a breed rescue group with whom you could list the dog. (On the Internet, search for "breed rescue," where "breed" is the name of the particular breed.)
- Contact all rescue groups and shelters in your area. Even if they can't take your pet, some groups will offer courtesy postings on their websites, or allow you to bring the animal to one of their adoption events. Some ways to find local rescue groups and shelters:
  - [Best Friends Network partners](#)
  - Local rescue groups and shelters: [Petfinder](#) (look for "Find animal welfare groups")
  - Statewide listings of rescue groups: [World Animal Net](#)

Use word of mouth and community contacts. Word of mouth should not be underestimated. Tell anyone and everyone about the pet that needs a home and ask friends, co-workers and family members to help with spreading the word. It's possible that a coworker's father's neighbor's daughter is looking for a new pet.

Ask people you know to mention the animal in their church's newsletter, send an e-mail about the pet through their office memo system, or share some flyers with the members of their book club.

**Get the pet out there!** (This works especially well with dogs.) The more the pet is out and about, interacting with people, the more likely he'll charm the right person. Take him on walks, to pet supply stores, to the local park. You can even put a colorful bandana or sign on him that says "Adopt me" or "Looking for a home." Check with your local shelter to see if they have offsite adoption days; if so, they might let you bring your pet.



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**Be creative, positive and persistent.** There are many animals needing homes at any one time, so finding a home can take some work. But, there are good homes out there, so try to maintain a positive attitude. Explore all options you can think of for finding a home - creativity and persistence are usually rewarded.

**Remind yourself that you are this pet's best option for finding a new home.** You might think shelters or rescue groups would be more adept at placing the pet because we have experience, facilities, screening guidelines, etc. But, an individual, particularly one who knows the animal, can focus all his or her efforts on that pet, provide the most information to prospective adopters, and best determine the appropriateness of a new home. Also, any shelter or sanctuary is stressful for an animal. The shelter setting, no matter how nice, can bring on stress-related problems. Anxiety, aggression, and even illness are common and these natural reactions may make adoption difficult or impossible.

For more details on rehoming a pet, including what questions to ask prospective adopters, check out this resource. <https://resources.bestfriends.org/article/rehoming-stray-dog-or-cat>

### Pet Resource List

The shelter can be a very stressful place for any animal. Despite all our efforts and resources to make their stay as comfortable as possible, it will always be a noisy, unfamiliar environment. This can be especially stressful for animals used to being in a home. Please see the following resources to help keep your pets out of the shelter.

### Lower-cost Vet Care

- [PetWell Clinic](#) (865) 272-9491 – This clinic does not charge exam fees for yearly vaccines like many clinics! 7329 Kingston Pike Knoxville, TN 37919

### Low-cost Spay/Neuter

Aside from preventing unwanted litters, spaying and neutering can also help with many behavioral issues such as house soiling, aggression, rivalry between household pets, and roaming away from home. It also increases likelihood of re-homing outside of the shelter.

**Young-Williams Animal Center Spay/Neuter Solutions 865.433.3499, [young-williams.org/spay-neuter/](http://young-williams.org/spay-neuter/)**

Benefits of spay and neuter: <https://pets.webmd.com/reasons-spay-neuter-pet>



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### Pet Food Pantries

- Young-Williams Animal Center's Pet Food Pantry offers help with pet food for families experiencing financial hardship. Food can be picked up once a month during operating hours. Proof of income/ government assistance and proof all animals in the home are spayed/neutered is required within **60 days of applying**. Visit [youngwilliams.org](http://youngwilliams.org) and click the "resource" tab for the online application. Or the Pet Resource Center at 6400 Kingston Pike, Knoxville TN 37919.
- FISH Food Pantry/ Pantry for Feeding Pets : 865-244-0521 [www.Fishpantry.org/](http://www.Fishpantry.org/)
- Knoxville Animal Lovers Pet Food Pantry <https://www.facebook.com/KALPFP>
- Humane Society Tennessee Valley: Pantry takes place on the last Saturday of each month at the main location (6717 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919) (865) 573-9675

### Behavior Issues

- **Young Williams Animal Center** - The Pet Resource Center now offers behavior counseling for cats and dogs. **Call 865.433.9922 (option 4)** or email us at [Pethelp@young-williams.org](mailto:Pethelp@young-williams.org) to schedule a behavior consultation. (Behavior consultation is required BEFORE any priority can be added to a surrender request or before any grant assistance can be considered.)
- **Denver Dumb Friends League** - has downloadable articles on a variety of different behavior problems. They also offer a free behavior helpline for both dogs and cats. <https://www.ddfl.org/> **My Curious Canine** - Offers various levels of obedience training packages, including 1 free initial Meet and Greet. Contact them via their web site at: [www.mycuriouscanine.com](http://www.mycuriouscanine.com). 865-407-0057
- **All Dogs Go To Kevin** – 330-474-9170 [info@dogstokevin.com](mailto:info@dogstokevin.com) Offers affordable private and group training for dogs. <http://www.dogstokevin.com/>

### Rescues

- [Big Fluffy Dog Rescue](#) in Nashville, TN for big breeds.
- [Small Breed Rescue of East Tennessee](#) in Knoxville, TN for small breed dogs.
- [Roscoe Rescues](#) for purebred dogs.
- [Troopers Treasures Dog Rescue](#) in Chattanooga, TN for dogs.
- [Noah's Ark Animal Rescue](#) in Morristown, TN for dogs
- [Recycled Best Friends](#) in Knoxville, TN for dogs.
- [Bunny Rescue of Nashville](#) in Nashville, TN for rabbits.



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- [Georgia Rabbit Society](#) in Kennesaw, GA for rabbits.
- [Jelly Bean Rescue](#) in Chattanooga, TN for rabbits.
- [Knoxville Guinea Pig Rescue](#).

### **Family-to-Family Adoption**

- <https://rehome.adoptapet.com/r/78601> - Adopt-A-Pet is one of the nation's largest adoption websites, your post reaches millions of visitors every month.
- [Getyourpet.com](#) - An online community that connects people who want to adopt a pet with people who need to find their pet a new home.

[Adoptapet.com](#) and [Getyourpet.com](#) also have helpful apps that enable you to:

- Create your pet's personal profile
- Safely meet interested parties and finalize the adoption
- Post your pet's profile where potential adopters can see and contact you to arrange a meeting to get to know your pet.
- Complete the adoption and legally transfer ownership.

Other benefits to programs like these are:

- It's a safe, no-cost way to rehome a pet.
- The adoption fee can go directly to Young-Williams Animal Center or any other shelter, if you choose, to benefit other homeless animals in the area.
- It gives pet owners the ability to hand-select their pet's new home.

Other rehoming resources include:

- Post an ad on [Craigslist Pets](#) (We can give you a list of some good questions to ask potential adopters to make sure you find the best possible home for your pet!)
- Join and post an ad on one of several local Facebook groups o [Animal Lovers Group of Tennessee](#) o [East Tennessee Pets](#) o [Homeward Bound Animal Rescue](#) o [Knoxville Animal Rehome/Lost and Found](#) o [Knoxville Pet Lovers Adopt/Rehome/Chat](#) o [Tennessee Animal Rescue/Rehoming/Support](#)
- Join and post an ad on Nextdoor, a website that's like Facebook but limited to people in your area.
- Post fliers at your church, coffee shop, community center, and parks
- Network with friends and family
- Get your pet out there! Using an "adopt me" vet or scarf while visiting pet friendly venues is one of the best ways to rehome!



## Young-Williams Animal Center

### Surrendering Your Pet to Young-Williams Animal Center

Taking your pet to any animal shelter should be your last resort. Shelters, including ours, are temporary holding facilities designed to house a large number of stray/lost pets at one time. While our goal is to provide quality care for every animal we house, it will always be loud and scary for any animal, especially one that has been in a consistent home his/her whole life. This is a big reason we encourage re-homing outside of the shelter if at all possible. It helps the transition for the animal go a lot smoother, and it also helps us keep more space in the shelter open allowing us to help as many animals as possible.

If you have exhausted all of your options, and the shelter is truly the last resort, we want you to know a few things:

- We will try to help you keep your pet, first and foremost. We have a lot of different resources to share with you that can help resolve your problem, so you don't have to give up your pet.
- If your reason for giving up your pet is "no time," please know that our adopters are average people, just like you. We're happy to talk with you about things you can do to enrich your animal's life so they can stay with you and be happy.
- **Due to the high volume of surrender requests we receive as well as our limited space, we schedule appointments on a first-come first served basis for owner surrenders. It can take a few weeks to get in for a surrender which is why we encourage re-homing outside of the shelter. Our managed intake system is one way we have been able to be able to be classified as a no-kill shelter, as we only take in animals we have space and resources to care for.**
- There is an owner surrender fee of \$50 per pet, and \$100.00 per litter payable on intake. Litters include unweaned pets with or without their mother. This fee goes toward the animal's care while in our facility.
- We are considered a no-kill shelter. This means our save rate for animals has reached over 90%! Euthanasia is reserved strictly for animals that are highly aggressive and are a safety risk to adopt out, as well as for animals suffering from critical injury and critical illness which cannot be treated. If your animal falls under either of these categories, we might have other resources that can help! Just ask!

**Young-Williams Animal Center (Pet Resource Center) [865.433.9922 \(option 4\)](tel:865.433.9922)**

**10 AM- 6 PM**

***Closed 1- 2 PM for animal quiet time & staff lunches***

**[Pethelp@young-williams.org](mailto:Pethelp@young-williams.org)**



## **EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS TO ASK POTENTIAL ADOPTERS**

1. Are you aware of and prepared to assume the financial and physical responsibilities of caring for this animal? Including but not limited to: Vaccinations, regular veterinary care and check-ups, appropriate quality food, time and attention.
2. Is everyone in the household agreeable to adopting this animal?
3. Have you had any pets before?
4. What happened to your previous pet(s)?
5. Do you currently have any pets? What are they?
6. Are you aware of the need and prepared to introduce the animals gradually?
7. What will you do if they do not get along?
8. What preparations have you made for the animal? For example, where will it sleep, what foods have you bought, etc.?
9. What type of property do you live in?
10. Do you have children at home?
11. Who will be the primary caregiver of the animal?
12. Will there be someone at home during the day? If not, how many hours will the animal be left alone?
13. Are you planning to move in the near future? If yes, are you prepared to bring the animal with you?
14. What will you do if someone in the family develops an allergy?

### **For cats:**

1. Will you be keeping the cat indoors? How will you ensure it does not roam?
2. Are you aware of the average life-span of a cat (up to 20 years) and are you prepared to give it a home for the rest of its life?

### **For dogs:**

1. Why are you adopting a dog?
2. Are you prepared to train the dog?
3. Is your home suitably prepared for the dog (fencing adequate, etc.)?
4. Are you aware of the average life-span of a dog (10-15 years) and are you prepared to give it a home for the rest of its life?



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### Breed Specific Rescues

#### Basset Hounds

- [Belly Rubs Basset Rescue](#) - An all-volunteer organization working to find good homes for abandoned, abused and unwanted Basset Hounds and Basset mixes in Tennessee, Northern Mississippi, and Eastern Arkansas.

#### Beagles

- [SOS Beagle Rescue](#) - The SOS (Save Our Snoopies) Beagle Rescue is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving the lives of beagles by sheltering homeless or abandoned dogs and adopting them to loving homes.

#### Bloodhounds

- [East Tennessee Bloodhound Rescue](#) - East Tennessee Bloodhound Rescue is located deep in the backwoods of Powell, Tennessee. They Rescue Bloodhounds simply because of their love of the breed.

#### Boston Terrier

- [Boston Terrier Rescue of East Tennessee](#) - The Boston Terrier Rescue of East Tennessee is an established non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming Boston Terriers.

#### Boxer

- [East Coast Boxer Rescue](#) - East Coast Boxer Rescue is a nonprofit rescue that helps all abandoned and abused boxers on the East Coast of the US.
- [Middle Tennessee Boxer Rescue](#) - A non-profit animal rescue focused on rescue, re-home and education of the boxer breed in Middle Tennessee since 1990.

#### Colliers

- [TriState Collie Rescue](#) - TSCR is a non-profit that is a volunteer and foster-based rescue headquartered in Ohio. They provide all veterinary care, housing, assessment and general training for owner-surrendered, breeder released, stray or neglected dogs.





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### **Dachshunds**

- [Tennessee Dachshund Rescue](#) - An all-volunteer rescue based in middle Tennessee with foster homes throughout the state. They are dedicated to saving Dachshunds in Tennessee & the surrounding area.

### **Doberman**

- [Tennessee Doberman Rescue](#) - VSDR was founded April 1, 2018 by a dedicated group of volunteers wanting to create a harmonious rescue to assist Dobermans in need from Tennessee and surrounding states.

### **Golden Retrievers**

- [Tennessee Valley Golden Retriever Rescue](#) - TVGRR is a non-profit organization which relies totally on donations from adopters, friends, family, and all Golden lovers.

### **Great Danes**

- [Southern Style Great Dane Rescue](#) - SSGDR is owned and operated by a Board of Directors and a dedicated group of volunteers. We are a foster home based rescue.

### **Great Pyrenees**

- [Mid-South Great Pyrenees Rescue](#) - A 1490 Stayton Rd, Cumberland Furnace, TN 37051 rescue helping to find loving homes for dogs.

### **Pit Bulls**

- [East TN Pit Bull Rescue](#) – It is the mission of East TN Pit Bull Rescue to educate on the true nature of the dogs labeled Pit Bulls in an effort to restore their reputation - as they offer a safe place to the homeless and abandoned while searching for loving and responsible homes.

### **Weimaraner**

- [The Grayter Good Weimaraner Rescue](#) - Make a lifetime commitment to every Weimaraner that comes through their rescue.

### **West Highland White Terriers**

- [Westie Rescue of Tennessee](#) - In existence since 2007, Westie Rescue of Tennessee, Inc. (WRT) restructured and was incorporated in 2010.