

# REHOMING THROUGH PHS

Placing your pet for rehoming is difficult, but it may be the best option. **If possible, try to place the pet on your own using our Rehoming Resources.** Shelters are scary and stressful for animals, even under the best circumstances. If you need to place your pet urgently, contact us to set a surrender appointment.



## WHAT TO EXPECT

- 1. Making the appointment:** Like a doctor's office, we ask that you make an appointment so that we can provide the best care possible to you and your pet. Expect a wait time between several days and two weeks. The wait depends on staffing and the number of animals in our shelter. Our appointment system allows us to serve pets in need without compromising the pets we already have in care. Emergency appointments are available.
- 2. Preparing for the appointment:** Gather vet records for your pet and fill out the Rehoming Profile. Continue to look for a new home for your pet.
- 3. At the appointment:** We will ask a lot of questions, and it may feel like we are being nosy. Remember that we want what you want - a safe, loving new home for your animal! The more we know, the better we can help. There is a rehoming fee which helps cover the cost of your pet's care. If you need a fee waiver, please ask.
- 4. After the appointment:** We may ask you to help place your pet in a kennel. Often, pets are scared in new places and feel better if they are accompanied by someone familiar. It is normal to feel sad, angry, frustrated, or even guilty about leaving your pet. This is a very hard thing to do! Remember that your choice came from love and concern for yourself, your pet, and your family.

# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

1. **Intake Exam:** Your pet will receive a basic exam, vaccinations, dewormer, heartworm or FIV/FeLV testing, and a microchip.
2. **Vet Exam:** Our veterinarian visits the shelter to examine and treat pets who are sick, injured, or in need of a rabies vaccine. Pets who are not yet spayed/neutered will have this done before going home.
3. **Behavioral Assessment:** Each pet's behavior is constantly evaluated. Dogs receive a formal behavior assessment that aids in determining the best potential new home.
4. **Placement for Adoption:** Once a pet is ready, he or she becomes available to the public. Your pet will appear on our website at this time. This can take a few hours, days, or even weeks depending on your pet's health, behavior, and availability of spay/neuter appointments.
5. **Adoption Application:** Families fill out an application, speak with an adoption counselor, and have a meet-and-greet before bringing the pet home. This helps ensure a safe, lasting match.

## How can I help my pet get adopted?

Provide as much information as possible at the rehoming appointment and send cute, quality photos of your pet for the adoption profile to [info@portsmouthhumanesociety.org](mailto:info@portsmouthhumanesociety.org).

## What if my pet isn't adopted?

Animals that are adoptable will stay with us until the right family finds them. PHS euthanizes pets with severe medical or behavioral challenges. The decision to euthanize a pet is made by a team of trained staff and taken very seriously. Annually, less than 10% of our intakes are euthanized.

QUESTIONS?

CALL 757-397-6004



**adPT**  
portsmouth humane society