



## REHOMING PACKET

Dear Pet Owner,

We know that the decision to rehome your pet is not an easy one to make. We are here to help you succeed at finding a great new home for your pet. He/She can go to a new home right from the home they have been used to, and not have to come into the shelter which can be extremely stressful for some pets. We do understand that sometimes it is impossible to keep your pet, however we urge you to exhaust all options prior to bringing your pet to the shelter.

If you are considering relinquishing your companion, our animal admissions team is here to help you navigate that difficult decision. Before you make the final decision to surrender your pet, please consider all other options. Is there a friend or family member that would accept your pet? Is there a rescue group that would accept your pet? Shelters can be very stressful on animals and the resources and information provided in this packet can help you rehome or even keep your pet with you! The admission team can provide additional information regarding services mentioned in this packet. Our goal is to help you resolve the problems you are having, while providing the best care possible for the animals. The procedures for admission appointments are also explained in this packet.

Thank you for helping us help your pet find the best home!

Sincerely,

Arlington Animal Services Team



## Pet Food Assistance

PET FOOD BANK, Inc.

[www.dontforgettofeedme.org](http://www.dontforgettofeedme.org)

Don't Forget to Feed Me is all about helping you, the pet owner, keep your furry friend at home, no matter what your circumstances. This organization collects food from donations and supplies it to distribution partners. To view a list of distribution partners visit: [www.dontforgettofeedme.org/get-help](http://www.dontforgettofeedme.org/get-help)

## Resources for your Pet's Health, Behavior, & Care

*You are meant to be together.* Support to keep your pet.

<https://spca.org/resources/pet-needs/support-to-keep-your-pet/>

Additional Resources:

Cat:

<https://network.bestfriends.org/lifesaving-library/cat-resources>

<https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/cat-care/common-cat-behavior-issues>

Dog:

<https://network.bestfriends.org/lifesaving-library/dog-resources>

<https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/dog-care/common-dog-behavior-issues>



## Low Cost Veterinary Care

### SPCA of Texas

<https://spca.org/resources/clinic/clinic-locations/>

### Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP)

<https://texasforthem.org/>

[www.arlingtontx.gov/TCAP](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/TCAP)

### Texas Foundation for Animal Care

<https://texasfoundationac.org/>

### Humane Society of North Texas

<https://www.hsnt.org/services>

### Arlington Humane Society

<https://arlingtonhumanesociety.org/>

### Trap-Neuter-Return for Community Cats (TNR)

If you have community cats (also referred to as feral and unsocialized cats) in your neighborhood, visit [www.arlingtontx.gov/tnr](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/tnr) for information regarding programs and Feral Cat Clinics provided in Arlington.

### Pet Financial Aid Resources

<https://dealspotr.com/article/pet-financial-aid-resources>



## Rescue Partners

Is there a rescue group that can take your pet?

The organizations below accept animals regardless of your city or residence. The rescue organizations accept animals by appointment only.

- DFW Humane Society – 972-919-8770 | <https://www.dfwhumane.com/resources/surrender/>
- Humane Society of North Texas – 817-332.4768 | <https://www.hsnt.org/fortworth-intake-services>
- Operation Kindness – Dog Surrender: <https://www.operationkindness.org/dog-surrender/> | Cat Surrender: <https://www.operationkindness.org/cat-surrender/>
- SPCA of Texas – <https://spca.org/resources/pet-needs/rehome/>

Visit the Arlington Animal Services website for a list of rescue groups AAS partners with. Most organizations have a website and a Facebook page with information about surrendering a pet.

[https://www.arlingtontx.gov/city\\_hall/departments/animal\\_services/pet\\_information/rescue\\_partners](https://www.arlingtontx.gov/city_hall/departments/animal_services/pet_information/rescue_partners)

## Moving?

Moving is stressful even in the best of circumstances. You do not have to give up your pet just because you are moving. Give yourself extra time to find a residence



where pets are permitted. When talking to landlords, be honest and offer to introduce your pets to the landlord. Many property owners will allow well behaved pets, particularly if the owner behaves responsibly. Providing your pets' veterinary records, graduation certificated from obedience classes and references from past landlords can help show a prospective landlord that you are a responsible pet owner.

**Information for renters with pets from the Humane Society of the United States:**

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/information-renters-pets>

## Help with rehoming your pet

Use a free pet rehoming service called Rehome. Learn more here:

[https://www.arlingtontx.gov/city\\_hall/departments/animal\\_services/pet\\_information/rehoming\\_dogs\\_and\\_cats](https://www.arlingtontx.gov/city_hall/departments/animal_services/pet_information/rehoming_dogs_and_cats)

***Follow these steps to find the right home for your pet!***

*\*If your pet is spayed or neutered and up to date on his or her vaccinations, it will make it easier for you to find a new home for your pet.*

- **Take several color photos of your pet.** If possible, work with a partner- it can be helpful to have a second person engaging your pet so you can take photos. Focus on your pet's personality- Since you already know your pet's personality, think about what they love — whether that's sleeping, eating, or playing, or focus on a quirk or characteristic that makes them special. That way you'll capture a moment that represents what your pet is really like
- **Write a story about your pet.** Here are some tips of writing a great description that will catch a potential adopter's decision:
  - Make the first sentence interesting and portray the pet in a positive light.

- Example- If your pet is a dog who does not like cats, you do not want to start the sentence out with that. Start it out with his happy attributes... maybe he loves to snuggle or play ball.
- Focus on the pet's personality - his quirks, the twinkle in her eye, the way he rests his head on your knee etc.
- When adding in more “negative” information make sure to watch the way you word it.
  - Example- back to the dog who doesn’t like cats. After you have said all the positive things, you could write “He loves to play with other dogs, but cats are just not for him”
- Make sure to include name and age.
- At the end make sure to let the potential adopter know how they can meet your pet. Include your phone number or email address.

Here is an example of great photos and description:



Hello! My name is Sugar! I am a happy-go-lucky girl who enjoys running, belly rubs and playing fetch! Tennis balls are my FAVORITE toy and I will play fetch forever, as long as my person throws the ball for me. Are you an active person looking for a fun best friend? I am the dog for you! I am 4 years old, housebroken, good with kids and other dogs. Please call 555-555-5555 and set up a time to meet me!



- **Network.** Use your own social media. Give your photos and story to everyone you know asking for their help. You may have friends and family who would love to give your pet a new home. Ask your friends and family to share your post. Advertise on NextDoor and neighborhood Facebook groups. You never know, use those great photos and description to help find your pet a new home.

#### **WHEN YOU'VE FOUND THEM THE RIGHT HOME:**

- Transfer vet records
- If your pet is microchipped, contact the database where the chip is registered. If you are unsure, visit [www.petmicrochiplookup.org](http://www.petmicrochiplookup.org).

## **Surrendering Your Pet to Arlington Animal Services**

### **What to do if you need to surrender your pet:**

You have several choices, the last of which should be surrendering your pet to the shelter. If you have exhausted all other alternatives to find your pet a new forever home, here is how the admissions process works.

### **What you should expect:**

Arlington Animal Services takes in approximately 10,000 animals per year and tries to find homes for every suitable animal entering our shelter. As an open admission shelter, we cannot guarantee the placement of any animal. The transfer of ownership to the City of Arlington is final and irrevocable once the animal has been surrendered. A surrendered animal becomes the property of Arlington Animal Services immediately and may be placed up for adoption, transferred to a rescue partner, or humanely euthanized.



## REQUIRED FOR SURRENDER AT ARLINGTON ANIMAL SERVICES:

- Email [Intake@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Intake@Arlingtontx.gov) to schedule an appointment to surrender your pet.
- Submit the Owner Surrender Form (attached in the email with this packet) to [Intake@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Intake@Arlingtontx.gov).
  - Please include all vet/medical records for your pet.
  - Did you adopt your pet from another shelter or organization? Please include these records as well.
  - Please include at least one clear image picture of your pet.
- You must be over the age of 18 years to surrender a pet.
- You must be the sole owner of the pet.
- Proof of Arlington residency (driver's license, utility bill, housing rental contract, etc.)
- A valid driver license or government issued ID is required to surrender your pet.

Arlington Animal Services will be in contact within 24 hours of the owner surrender form being submitted to discuss your pet's admission appointment.

Any other questions or concerns should be emailed to: [Intake@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Intake@Arlingtontx.gov)