Rehoming Your Dog?

A GUIDE TO DOING IT SAFELY AND RESPONSIBLY

Your dog's next chapter matters.

THE COMEBACK PACK
Where every dog fits in.

1 MAKE SURE IT'S REALLY NECESSARY

- Rehoming should be a last resort.
- Explore all options first (training, veterinary care, behavior support, help from family or friends).
- Bringing a dog into your family is a commitment.
- Rehoming can be stressful and doesn't always turn out well for the dog.

2 GET GREAT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

- Use clear, well-lit photos (home environment is best).
- Show your dog's personality in photos and short videos.
- Include photos of them playing, cuddling, walking and interacting with people or other pets.

3 CREATE AN HONEST, DETAILED POST

- Share your dog's location.
- Include age, gender, estimated breed and weight.
- Note spay/neuter status and vaccination history.
- Tell people about their personality, energy level, training (house/crate), leash skills, and if they're good with kids, dogs and cats.
- Be honest about behavioral issues or medical needs. Many people don't need a perfect dog — they just need the right fit.

4 REQUIRE A REHOMING FEE

- Unless the dog is going to a family member or close friend you know and trust, always charge a rehoming fee (e.g. $50–$100).
- This helps deter people who may want a free dog for harmful reasons.
- Do not be swayed by sob stories — scammers will tell you exactly what you want to hear.

5 TALK TO POTENTIAL ADOPTERS

- Get their name and phone number and have a real conversation (not just texting).
- Ask: "What are you hoping for in a dog?"
- Ask about other pets, children, work schedule, where the dog will sleep, and how long they'll be alone.
- For puppies: Make sure they understand puppies should not be left alone for long periods (generally no more than 4 hours at a time).

6 VERIFY THE HOME & DO A MEET & GREET

- Ideally, visit the home or ask for a live video walkthrough.
- Confirm the environment is safe and that any yard is secure.
- Get their full address and phone number.
- Have a meet & greet to see how the dog interacts.
- Ask if they're willing to send update photos after adoption.
- You have every right to say no if it doesn't feel right.

7 SPAY OR NEUTER BEFORE REHOMING

- **Never rehome an unaltered dog.**
- There are low-cost resources available.
- Local to us? Contact Animal Friends of the Valleys in Wildomar for a list of low-cost spay/neuter clinics.
- Not local? Contact your local shelter for resources.
- Don't rely on someone else's promise to do it later.

GREEN FLAGS

- Asks thoughtful questions
- Lifestyle matches your dog's needs
- Comfortable showing their home
- Everyone in the household is on board
- Accepts disclosed issues
- Willing to provide updates
- Doesn't pressure you
- Sees your dog as a family member

RED FLAGS

- Wants the dog immediately
- Refuses a phone call or home check
- Won't provide an address
- Pressures you to waive the fee
- Is vague or gives changing answers
- Doesn't ask about your dog
- Wants an intact dog or to breed
- Gets defensive abou't screening
- Their lifestyle doesn't match your dog

The goal isn't to find someone who will TAKE your dog. It's to find someone you trust to KEEP your dog.

The Comeback Pack generally does not accept owner-surrendered pets except in exigent circumstances, such as the death or serious illness of an owner. We created this guide because when rehoming truly is necessary, we want families to have the tools to do it as safely and responsibly as possible.