**Responsible Rehoming Tips**

**Take a good color photo of Fluffy or Fido*.*** If you already have a good photo, make it readily available for use. If not, [take one which shows your pet’s best side](http://digital-photography-school.com/9-pet-photography-tips), as soon as possible. Shelter intake pictures are usually taken hastily and may show a fearful, depressed or highly stressed animal in a less-than-ideal setting.

**Prepare a brief description/biography*.*** List any training your dog or cat has had: house-, crate-, and/or obedience training, if applicable. How does she get along with other animals or children? Describe her medical history and any current medical conditions, including any medication she may be currently taking. What are her favorite and least favorite foods, treats and activities?

**Be honest**. Full disclosure will help you find a new home that is a good fit for your beloved dog or cat, and ease the transition to a new home. Disclosing up front that your four-legged family member needs more training may spare him from being dismissed from his next home for being unruly.

**Prepare your pet.** Make sure your dog or cat is groomed, up-to-date on her vaccinations and is flea- and tick-free. If you haven’t done so already, [have your pet spayed or neutered](http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/adoption-pet-care/caring-for-your-pet/spaying-neutering.html).Talbot and Dorchester County residents can have their dogs and cats spayed and neutered for low to no cost. Low-cost vaccination clinics are offered at Pet Health Clinic in Easton weekly.

**Avoid personal ads.** As tempting as it may seem, [re-homing a pet through Craigslist may place your pet in significant peril](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/09/craigslist-posts-animal-abuse-report_n_1659811.html). Sadly, animals advertised on Craigslist have wound up victims of abuse and neglect, re-homed unknowingly with backyard breeders, hoarders, and dog-fighting rings.

Ask family, friends, coworkers and others you know whether they are interested – or know of anyone who may be interested – in adopting your dog or cat. Speak with other pet owners in your area, veterinarians, groomers, pet store staff, boarding or daycare staff, and others in the local pet care industry.

Once a prospective adopter contacts you, consider interviewing the individual and [conducting a home visit](http://www.ehow.com/how_4514139_pet-adoption-home-check.html) to make sure your pet’s next home is his forever home. Does the adopter have prior experience caring for pets? A home and/or yard big enough to accommodate your animal? Do they have the financial means to care for a pet like yours?

Most importantly, do they have realistic expectations about living with your pet? For instance, placing an active dog where she is home alone for 8-12 hours a day will not likely end well.