

Had the Animal Less Than 10 Days?

If this animal is one you have found as a stray within the last 10 days, ensure that you have scanned the animal for a microchip and posted them on any of your local lost and found pets Facebook pages. Microchips can be scanned at most vet offices, shelter locations, or your local animal control.

Had the Animal More Than 10 Days?

If this is an animal you have been caring for longer than 10-14 days the animal will be considered owned by you by most animal control officers. In this case we highly recommend looking to rehome the animal before inserting them into a shelter environment, especially if the animal you are looking to surrender has any medical or behavioral concerns. Medical and behavioral concerns tend to worsen when the animal is put into the shelter environment, this will make the animal more difficult to adopt out, increasing their length of stay, and further exasperating those concerns. For rehoming sites, rehoming Facebook pages, and found animal sites please refer to the right side of the sheet attached.

The following information will be beneficial in finding your animal a home, please consider reading through it and using the information you find to optimize the potential outcome for the animal in your care. Whether you are rehoming the animal, or it is a stray you found, the information will be effective in creating flier and posts.

Marketing Your Animal and Where to Market Them:

Ask family, friends, and co-workers if they know of anyone who is looking for a new pet. Ask people in person, but also leave a flier so they can contact you if they know of someone or decide to adopt your pet themselves.

Create flyers and post them to; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Next Door, and Craig's List. You can also hang flyers around town, at your local church, veterinarian's office, pet stores, as well as coffee and restaurant bulletin boards. Make the flyers as colorful and creative as you can, highlighting special information about your animal.

Feature your animal on websites like www.adoptapet.com, www.home-home.org, and www.petfinder.com

Use Quality Photos - This step is crucial. The best profiles have a variety of pictures where you can clearly see the pet. We suggest at least four - one of the pet's face, one of the pet with a family member or other pets, one that shows the pet's size, and a video if possible. Pictures should be in focus, colorful, and without a filter.

Descriptions - When writing a profile for your animal who needs a new home, you might be tempted to share all of the reasons why you are rehoming your pet or share all the "negative" information up front. Don't! Always be honest but be sure to remain positive.

Be as descriptive as possible (name, weight, breed, gender, pet's health, play habits, likes and dislikes)

Tell a story - many write the story from the animal's perspective

Include recent photo(s) - so everyone knows how cute your pet is

Include your name and contact information (phone number/email address).

Include the date you posted and the date you need find a home by

It's important to remember that what might be negative to you may not matter to others. For example, a dog who does not like cats might make a perfect pet for someone with a cat allergy! Also, remember that

the world “children” has a different meaning to everyone. Someone might consider an 18-year-old a “child” and see “no children” as a reason they cannot adopt, but your pet might only need a home without toddlers. Use the profile you’ve written to showcase your pet.

Instead of ...

Needs a lot of exercise

Is aggressive towards children

Needs a lot of attention

Doesn't get along with cats/dogs

Try:

Will make a great running buddy

Needs a home without small children

Loves people

Would prefer to be the only fur child

An Example - Luna needs a new home because she is not getting along with the three young children in the home. Her mom writes:

Luna is a sweet and friendly dog who has lived with another dog and even a cat! She is very smart and would love an owner who can take her for walks and teach her tricks. She is housebroken and kennel-trained. Luna is a very loyal dog. She is not pushy and will seek your affection on her own terms. Luna would prefer not to live in a home with small children. She is spayed, microchipped and up to date on her vaccines.

Things to keep in mind

Don't rule out adopters before they can contact you - You may think your dog would do best in a house with a yard, but what if someone lives in a condo with a dog park? Or someone who runs on the beach every day? Your cat might prefer someone who works from home - but what about someone who works part-time, or a house with lots of family members with someone usually at home? Be open minded, and encourage potential families to contact you.

Make sure you use an email address that you check regularly - If you've listed an email on flyers or posted the pet to some of the rehoming sites listed above, they will notify you via email. Don't let questions go unanswered!

A healthy pet is easier to rehome - Make certain your pet is up-to-date on all vaccinations. Provide copies of the vet paperwork to the new owner. If your pet is not spayed or neutered, we highly recommend getting this done.

Extra tips - You can help potential adopters by also creating a pet resume for those living in rental housing.

If there are any additional resources you may need, please reach out and we will do our best to provide you with those.

Reach out to admin@hsharrisco.org or ops@hsharrisco.org