



Dane County Humane Society knows that the decision to relinquish a pet is a difficult one to make. This packet is designed to provide guidance and support for pet owners in search of options. If you have any questions not addressed in this material, you can review additional materials on our website www.giveshelter.org or give us a call at 608-838-0413 ext. 100 and leave a message, and our staff will call you back as soon as we're able.

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Is Giving up Your Pet the Only Option?

There are many reasons pet owners find themselves facing the decision to surrender or rehome a pet. The good news is, there are many resources within the Dane County community that may help address issues that pet owners are experiencing, and these resources may make it possible to keep the pet! Below are some options that may help with three of the most common reasons why people are forced to part with their beloved pets – financial concerns, moving/housing concerns, and behavioral concerns.

Financial Assistance:

We feel that lack of access to resources should never separate a pet from their loving family. If you are facing financial difficulties, rest assured there are organizations and resources that may be able to help provide for cost of general care or veterinary services that may make it easier for you to keep and care for your pet.

1. **Pets for Life, Dane County Humane Society** – Pets for Life is a program that operates on grant funding from the Humane Society of the United States. The Dane County branch of PFL specifically serves the 53713 zip code and Allied Drive neighborhood and can provide assistance with pet food, supplies, and routine medical care. Read more at <https://www.giveshelter.org/our-services/pets-for-life>
2. **Local pet food pantries** – The following link will show a number of Dane County pantry options <https://www.giveshelter.org/resources/pet-food-pantry>. Please note, this list only indicates that these organizations have been able to supply pet food in the past. We cannot guarantee that these pantries are still active, or when they will have pet food in stock. Please check with each pantry for their hours of operation and participation requirements.
3. **Low cost vet resources** – The following is a list of low-cost vet resources in the Madison area. DCHS does not specifically endorse any of these clinics. This is only a list of some of the known low-cost services in the area and is not all-encompassing.
 - a. WisCARES Pet Care Clinic: (608) 561-7387
 - i. <https://wiscares.wisc.edu/>
 - b. Wisconsin Community Vet Center: (608) 224-1400
 - i. <https://www.wicvc.org/>
 - c. Underdog Vet Services: (608) 268-7060
 - i. <https://www.underdogpetrescue.org/vet-clinic>
 - d. Animart: (608) 242-2140
 - i. <https://www.animartpet.com/pages/veterinary-services>
 - e. Precision Vet Clinic: (608) 405-3148
 - i. <https://precisionveterinary.com/>
4. **Other Resources** – Visit <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/are-you-having-trouble-affording-your-pet#Wisconsin> for a list of financial support resources compiled by the HSUS. Other such lists can be found elsewhere online.

Housing Assistance/Resources for Moving:

Concerns with pet housing can come in a variety of forms – Homelessness or another type of housing crisis, landlords threatening evicting, difficulty finding a home that will allow pets, etc. Rest assured there are resources that can assist with all of these.

1. **Finding housing that allows pets** – There are many online apartment search sites that allow you to specifically search apartments or residences based on whether or not they allow pets. Some of these sites are:
 - a. www.zillow.com
 - b. www.apartments.com
 - c. www.trulia.com
 - d. <https://peoplewithpets.com>
 - e. Keep in mind that a landlord that allows dogs may not allow all types of dogs. Pay attention to which breeds, if any, are not allowed.

2. **Service animals and emotional support animals** – If you have a disability and you have a specially trained service animal or approved emotional support animal, there are laws protecting your rights to housing with that animal. Read more about the rules:
 - a. <https://adata.org/guide/service-animals-and-emotional-support-animals>
 - b. https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/issue_briefs/2019/health_and_mental_health/ib_s_uportanimals_msk_2019_10_01
 - c. https://www.tenantresourcecenter.org/pets_and_service_animals

3. **Eviction** – Facing a landlord who is threatening eviction can be intimidating and make people feel lost. It's important to remember that tenants have rights, and eviction is not something a landlord can just decide overnight. There is a process, and you have options.
 - a. The Tenant Resource Center has a wealth of information on eviction processes. Landlords can issue different types of warnings and notices that can be addressed in different ways. Read more about these processes here: <https://core.tenantresourcecenter.org/eviction>

4. **Facing other housing emergencies** – We can't plan for every emergency. Thankfully, regardless of the reason preventing you from being able to look after your pet in your home there are resources in the community to support people during a crisis.
 - a. WisCARES (608-561-7387), wiscares@gmail.com: is a local service that, aside from low cost vet care can also offer boarding or foster care for pets while owners find established housing for themselves. Foster care or boarding can be offered up to 90 days, dependent on the temperament of the animal and the availability of foster homes. Service is based on the availability of fosters and capacity of WisCARES, and so cannot be guaranteed.
 - b. Home-Home is a national online service that can be used for rehoming your pet, but can also help pair interested pet owners with willing fosters in the community. The length and terms of foster care can be worked out between the pet owner and the willing foster. Read more about it here: <https://home-home.org/fostering/>

Animal Behavior Issues:

Concerning animal behaviors is one of the most common reasons why owners seek to surrender or relinquish their pet. If you're experiencing concerns and are not sure how to address them, you're not alone! Behavioral issues may come in the form of a cat urinating outside the litterbox or a dog growling at the mailman or worse, and can be anywhere from mildly inconvenient to legitimately dangerous. There are, thankfully, a number of resources where owners can gain more knowledge about the behavior concerns they are facing and learn to work toward training for the behavior concerns, if training is possible.

1. Pet care tips and behavior resources – The following links connect the Dane County Humane Society's website where we compile general pet care tips and behavior information covering a range of behavioral concerns. These links focus mostly on dogs and cats, but the "Pet Care Tips" page on our website also has information about rabbits, birds, and other animals.
 - a. <https://www.giveshelter.org/resources/pet-care-tips>
 - b. <https://www.giveshelter.org/resources/pet-care-tips/dog-care-behavior-resources>
 - c. <https://www.giveshelter.org/resources/pet-care-tips/cat-care-behavior-resources>

2. Behavior Training – The following links will lead to training resources (both local and virtual) that can be very helpful in addressing concerns and giving owners tools to manage behavior.
 - a. DCHS Dog Training Classes: DCHS hosts training classes at our shelter ranging from Puppy Preschool through Good Dog Fundamentals (for any dog 6mos or older). These are group training classes, so dogs enrolled in these courses must be tolerable to being around other dogs - <https://www.giveshelter.org/our-services/dog-training-classes>
 - b. Fear Free Happy Homes is a free virtual library of resources including articles and videos covering a number of behavioral topics for dogs and cats:
<https://www.fearfreehappyhomes.com/>
 - c. DCHS partners with a virtual training service called Good Pup for dog training. Using the following link will entitle anyone to one free virtual training session with a professional Good Pup trainer. After the first free session, users can choose to pay for additional sessions that could cover general topics, or be tailored specifically to your pet's concerning behaviors: <https://links.goodpup.com/shelter/DaneCHS>

3. Have a phone consultation with DCHS – Follow the link below for DCHS' Owner Support Questionnaire. After completing this questionnaire, you will be invited to schedule yourself a time for a phone consultation with a DCHS intake counselor. Our counselors can share tips and tricks for in-home management, or for more involved cases we may be able to schedule a follow up consult with our Canine Behavior Team, and feline behavior expert, or one of our veterinarians.
 - a. <https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5626451/DCHS-Owner-Support-Questionnaire>
 - b. Our counselors can also speak with owners about our surrender process if managing the behavior in the home does not seem like an option and an owner wishes to surrender ownership of their pet. In many cases, however, rehoming or placing with a rescue is usually a better option for the pet, and we will discuss why in the next sections of the document.

Why Rehoming Your Pet Can be the Best Option

We understand that even with a wealth of resources to manage to issues at hand, there are times when giving up ownership of a pet is the only option. There is no guilt or shame in the decision to think about what is in the best interests of the pet. Quality of life is a two-way street and pet ownership needs to fit for both the animal and the owner. If a situation does not fit, sometimes the best option is to find a new environment where the fit will be better for all. In these cases, we encourage pet owners to consider rehoming on their own rather than surrendering to a shelter. Below are some reasons why:

1. **Your pet will be happier at home** – DCHS staff work hard to make the shelter as comfortable as possible for our animals. Our staff and volunteers keep kennels clean and safe, provide socialization and enrichment, and genuinely care about the welfare of each pet. As hard as we try, the shelter does not compare to a home. It is stressful for an animal to stay in a new place, especially one full of strangers and unfamiliar animals. If your pet is able to stay with you while you look for a new home for them, they will avoid a lot of stress and fear. Animals in shelters also have a higher risk of contracting an infectious disease – the common upper respiratory infection “Kennel Cough” is a good example of how illness can spread quickly even in clean, well-managed shelters.
2. **You get more say in the adoption** – You know your pet better than anyone, and that means you know what type of home would be best for them. The best way to ensure they go that ideal home is to rehome on your own! You can meet potential new families directly, get to know them, and pass on any important information. You may even be able to stay in touch long-term after you find a new family for your pet!
3. **No risk of euthanasia** – While euthanasia is always a last resort at Dane County Humane Society, it is a possibility for animals with medical conditions or behavior concerns that cannot be treated or managed in the shelter. If your pet falls into either of those categories or you are uncomfortable with the euthanasia policy, then rehoming on your own may be the best option. If you’d like to learn more about DCHS’ euthanasia policy, contact our staff directly at reception@giveshelter.org
4. **Saves space and resources for other pets in need** – In addition to providing support to pet owners, Dane County Humane Society also serves as the stray holding facility for all of Dane County. This means that any lost animal or animals whose owners are experiencing an immediate crisis come to our shelter. We take in thousands of animals every year, and it is important that we have space and resources available to provide each one with care. If you choose to rehome your pet instead of bringing them to DCHS, you are saving a kennel for an animal that truly has nowhere else to go.

***Disclaimer regarding rehoming animals (particularly dogs) with severe behavior issues:*

Most aggressive or dangerous behaviors cannot be “trained” out of a dog. These behaviors can sometimes be managed in the right environment, but it’s important to consider any risks or implications of placing an animal that presents a safety risk. If a pet is a danger in your home, they will likely continue to be a danger in any other home. If you choose to rehome a pet with dangerous behavior concerns we ask that you please be thorough in making sure that the new home is fully aware of the behaviors that they are taking on, and that they are fully equipped to manage these behaviors. Not doing so can put innocent people or animals in harm’s way. For additional options, you can also consult with your veterinarian, a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (<https://www.animalbehaviorsociety.org/web/applied-behavior-caab-directory.php>), a Certified Professional Dog Trainer or Behavior Consultant (<https://www.ccpdt.org/dog-owners/certified-dog-trainer-directory/>), or with DCHS (<https://www.surveyaizmo.com/s3/5626451/DCHS-Owner-Support-Questionnaire>)

How to Find Adopters

The internet is usually the quickest and easiest way to get the word out to a large number of potential adopters, but there are also other methods that can be utilized that do not require much or any use of the internet.

1. **Rehoming websites** – There are a number of websites designed specifically to match people who want to rehome their pet with interested adopters. Below is a list of examples, but there are many others.
 - a. <https://www.giveshelter.org/our-services/rehome-a-pet> - DCHS hosts a rehoming page on our website through a partnership with a website called Home-to-Home. This site allows people to post their pets for rehoming in the community and have them appear on the Home-to-Home website, but also on the DCHS website
 - b. <https://rehome.adoptapet.com/>
 - c. <https://www.wihumane.org/virtual-rehoming>
 - d. <https://www.rescueme.org/>
 - e. <https://getyourpet.com/>
2. **Social Media** – Social media such as Facebook can be very helpful in rehoming a pet as well. Post photos and a bio for your pet and ask your friends and family members to share the post with their friends as well. You never know who may be looking for a new pet, and social media can help you find that friend of a friend that you may not have otherwise connected with.
3. **Offline rehoming** - Never underestimate the power of word of mouth – there are lots of folks looking for pets and you may know one of them! Talk to co-workers, friends, family, and neighbors and let them know you are looking for a good home. You can even put up fliers at community centers and public billboards, or post ads in the newspaper! You can also talk to your vet about posting a flier there or see if they know of any other resources for rehoming. You never know what your pet's future home is reading.

The Rehoming Process

1. **If possible, make sure your pet is spayed/neutered and up to date on vaccinations** – These things aren't necessary to find a pet a new home, but interested adopters may be more willing to take on a new pet that already has these medical things taken care of.
 - a. See page 2 of this document for affordable options for S/N and vaccines
2. **Give yourself time** – Rehoming can take days, weeks, or months. It isn't an overnight fix! Plan ahead and try to begin the process before you are at a point where you absolutely cannot care for your pet any longer.
 - a. Allow time for thorough back and forth communication between you and interested adopters
 - b. Sometimes rehoming can involve "trial runs" where an interested adopter will take on care of your pet for a specified period of time (a few days, a week, etc) to see how it goes before making a final decision

3. **Take pictures of your pet!** – Photographs can be one of the most important parts of the rehoming process as it is usually what draws in potential adopters. Try to take a clear, well-lit photo that shows most if not all of your pet’s body. Take the photo during the day, either outside or near a window with lots of light. You can use a treat to distract your pet to help them hold still! To make your photo unique, try to capture your pet’s personality. Include their favorite toys in the picture or try to get a shot of them doing something they love – playing outside, napping in the sun, etc. You don’t need a fancy camera to get a perfect picture – you can use a cell phone and let your pet’s personality shine through!

4. **Be prepared to share detailed personality information about your pet** – Another important part of the process is how you describe your pet to interested adopters. The way you describe your pet should be honest and thorough enough to cover all the necessary information – your pet’s medical history, dietary needs, and personality including their likes and dislikes. The more information you can provide about them, the easier it is for people to determine whether your pet would be a good fit in their home. If you’re writing a bio for your pet to be posted on social media or a rehoming site, here are a few things to consider and share:
 - a. **Personality:** What are their best qualities? Likes and dislikes? Are they active or a couch potato? Do they have favorite toys?
 - b. **Interactions with other animals:** If your pet has lived with other animals or has met other animals (maybe your friends have a dog or cat that your pet has met), it is helpful to include how they got along with the other animal. You can include the type of animal, whether they were interested in each other, nervous around each other, or if they seemed comfortable and wanted to interact or play.
 - c. **Interaction with children:** A common concern for families with children (or where children are often visiting) is whether a new pet would get along with them. It’s helpful to include whether your pet has ever met young kids and how they reacted (Were they nervous and hid or interested and playful?). Be specific about age. The way an animal acts around a newborn may be very different from how it acts around a toddler, or adolescent.
 - d. **Medical history:** If your pet is up to date on vaccines and already spayed or neutered, that is a definite plus for new potential families! If your pet has any known medical concerns, even things like allergies or intolerances to certain foods, is important for a new family to know ahead of time so that they know if they have the resources to provide the medical care that your pet needs.
 - e. **Be honest about bad qualities:** it can be easy to worry about sharing some not so great qualities about your pet, like if your dog likes to chew shoes or gets into the garbage or maybe has more serious medical or behavioral concerns, but being honest about these things means that the new owner will be prepared for what to expect and you will be setting up your pet for success. You should present it in way that describes the type of home your pet would do best in, given those concerns. Some examples could be:

Example 1: You have a dog that has a high prey drive and has maybe injured a cat or critter – explain that they will need to go to a home without cats or small animals.

Example 2: Your dog can be protective of their food/ toys/ bones – explain that they would do best in a home without small kids that wouldn’t know to not take things from the dog. If the dog was protective around other pet trying to take their things, include that maybe they need to be fed separately from other pets or they should be the only pet in the home.

Example 3: Your cat stopped using the litterbox when there was a big change in the home (recent move, home renovations, new baby, or new pet in the home) – explain that they should go to a quiet, low stress home without whatever triggered the issues.

Example Bio/Pet Profile:

Fluffy is an 8 year-old small breed dog who loves to play with her stuffed toys and take naps in the sunshine. We have had her for about 6 years and she has been a wonderful part of our family. Unfortunately, one of our kids has developed severe allergies and we need to find a new home for her. She is spayed and fully up to date on her vaccinations and is an overall healthy dog. She can get ear infections sometimes, but our vet has helped us manage that and it hasn't been a problem. Fluffy currently lives with a senior cat who is pretty calm, so they don't really hang out much, but she will snuggle with him if she gets the chance! She has met a few dogs and is usually friendly, but some bigger dogs make her nervous and she will avoid them. She loves all people though and has always done well with our kids! She would be perfect for any family looking for an affectionate lap dog!

5. **Rehoming fees** – Some people will set a fee for a new adopter; whether or not you choose to do so is up to you. Keep in mind, charging a fee can help ensure your pet goes to someone who is serious about their decision and will provide quality care. Then again, charging too high of a fee can turn away families that may be a great fit for your pet and cause you and your pet to miss opportunities. Some people choose to ask for no rehoming fee, and instead ensure a good home by interviewing and spending time with potential adopters.
6. **Interviewing Potential Adopters** – This does not need to be a formal or serious process, but it's important to get to know people who may be interested in taking on care for your pet. You know your pet best and so therefore you will also be able to make the best decision for what home will be a good fit. Have they had pets before? Do they have other pets currently? Etc. On **page 10** of this document you will find an example of an adoption questionnaire that you can use to guide your conversations with interested adopters.
7. **Rehoming Agreement** – Once a new home has been found and all the details set, it's a good idea to document the change in ownership for the pet. One good way to do this is by having a typed agreement that you and the new owner both sign to acknowledge that all parties consent to the change in ownership. This could help the new owner be able to obtain vet records for your pet or change the microchip registration, and can protect you if any kind of dispute occurs. On page 11 of this document you can find a sample "Change of Ownership" form. *Please note that this is not intended to be legal advice and DCHS cannot guarantee the legal validity of any document, including the sample provided. If you have concerns, please seek professional legal guidance.*
8. **Final things to consider** – Below is a list of the final things to consider and wrap up to make the transition smooth for your pet and their new owner.
 - a. Make sure your pet's new owner has a copy of all of your pet's medical records and proof of vaccinations. It's also a good idea to notify your vet that you have rehomed your pet. This will make sure they do not continue to send you reminders for medical care due, and it will also authorize them to speak with new owner about the medical records they have on file, if necessary.
 - b. If your pet is microchipped, you'll want to make sure the registration for the microchip is transferred to the new owner. The easiest way to do this is to call or contact the microchip

company directly. To find out what company your pet is registered to, you can look up the number at this database: <https://www.petmicrochiplookup.org/>.

- c. Does your pet have favorite toys that they can take with to their new home? Blankets or bedding that they've used will smell familiar and help make the transition to a new home less scary for them. You can even send the new owner with some of your pet's favorite treats and food – help them to build positive associations and feel safe!
- d. Stay in touch with your pet's new family, at least at first! In the first few weeks after a pet has been rehomed it's important that the old and new owners stay in touch in case there are any questions or issues with the transition to a new home. Not every rehome is successful and after a "trial run" you might learn that new home is not the best fit. If it does work out, though, the new owner may be willing to stay in touch and share updates so you can be assured your pet is doing well in their new environment.

If Rehoming Doesn't Work Out

1. **Surrendering to an animal shelter** - If rehoming isn't successful a pet owner may have no choice but to surrender to a shelter or rescue. If you find yourself in this position, know that the staff at Dane County Humane Society understand that this is a difficult decision and will support you every step of the way. To learn more about the surrender process, visit our webpage at: <https://www.giveshelter.org/our-services/surrender-a-pet>. We recommend reaching out as early as possible to discuss surrender so that you are not up against a short deadline. We take animals in by appointment and our surrender process can sometimes take several weeks, if not more. If you do have a deadline, you may want to call DCHS as soon as you know you have to rehome your pet so that you can have an appointment set up as a backup plan.
2. **Surrendering to a rescue** – Rescues can sometimes be a better option than a shelter simply because most rescues are foster based, which would allow your pet to await adoption in a foster home rather than a shelter kennel. Learn more about reaching out to rescues on **page 12** of this document.

Example Adoption Questionnaire

Adopter Information

First and Last Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Alt Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Home Environment:

Status: Rent / Own/ Other Type: Single family home / Duplex / Multi-Unit / Other

What are you looking for in a pet (ex. size, good with other pets, housetrained, age, etc)?

What drew you to this pet?

How many of the following will be sharing the home with the pet?

Children 0-7 yrs _____

Dogs _____

Children 8+ yrs _____

Cats _____

Adults _____

Other Pets _____

General Questions:

1. Have you owned this type of pet before?
2. If you have other pets – how do you plan on introducing them? Have they lived with other animals before?
3. What is your home and lifestyle like? (Active, social, quiet, etc?)
4. If you have children – Have they been around animals before? How do they interact with animals?
5. Do you currently have a veterinarian or do you plan to find a new one?
6. Do you have any “deal breakers” that would make a new pet a bad fit for you?
7. What would you do if this pet didn’t work out in your home?

For dogs:

1. What kind of play time and exercise will this dog have?
2. What kind of training will you provide for this dog?
3. Do you have a yard or space nearby for the dog to have activity?
4. How much time will the dog be alone on average each day?
5. Where do you plan on keeping the dog while you are gone? (Crate? Free roam? Etc)

For cats:

1. What kind of playtime/enrichment with this cat get?
2. Do you plan to have the cat indoor/outdoor or just indoor?
3. How many litterboxes will the cat have access to?

Sample Transfer of Ownership Agreement

I, _____, hereby acknowledge and agree that I am the legal
OWNER NAME
owner of _____, A _____ and that I have the authority to transfer
ANIMAL NAME ANIMAL NUMBER
ownership. By signing this agreement, I am giving ownership of the aforementioned animals to

NEW OWNER NAME effective immediately.

Signed,

Previous Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____

New Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____

Finding a Rescue for Your Pet

Animal Shelter vs. Animal Rescue

While the missions of most animal welfare professionals and organizations are similar, it's important to recognize the distinction between animal shelters versus animal rescues. Surrendering your pet to a credible rescue might be a better option for the pet for a number of reasons.

Rescues are more often foster-based, whereas shelters will typically house most animals in a single facility. The shelter setting can be quite stressful for pets, as there may be new staff or volunteers interacting with the animal daily, loud noises, smells of other animals, etc. To pets it can seem similar to going to the vet. Rescues that are able to place animals into foster homes can provide a less stressful environment while that animal waits to find its new home. Shelters like DCHS also have foster networks, though typically not as large, meaning we must be selective about which animals we're able to send into foster care.

If you are surrendering your pet for behavior challenges, fosters may be a better long-term option. The calm environment of a rescue foster home could give your pet a little more time to adjust or improve behaviorally while the rescue searches for the home that will be the best match for your pet. In the stressful environment of a shelter, however, certain behaviors tend to get worse the longer the animal stays there.

There is often a difference in what animals a rescue or shelter may be able to take in. Animal shelters like DCHS house a wide variety of animals, and must stretch our resources to accommodate each new species that comes in, and to meet each individual animal's unique needs. Rescues, on the other hand, tend to be species or breed specific, which allows them to focus their resources on these particular pets. This ensures that the employees or fosters associated with those rescues are very familiar with the needs of your pet.

Shelters may have the added responsibility of acting as a stray holding facility. This means that the availability of shelter kennel space may be at the mercy of stray animals found and brought in by animal service officers or members of the public. This does not necessarily mean that any given rescue will have more availability, but it does mean that a shelter is more likely to be reserving resources for lost or stray pets, unforeseen medical emergencies or for people experiencing a housing crisis.

What to Look for in a Rescue

It is important that you, the pet owner, do proper research to feel comfortable with where your pet is going. While you are reviewing the list of local options, and while you do any additional searching on your own, you may want to consider the following:

- Ideal rescue options should be foster-based. This will provide an environment that is less stressful during your pet's transition to a new home.
- Is the rescue a 501C (3)? This is a tax exempt status assigned to credible non-profit organizations dedicated to a specific purpose, such as animal welfare. This designation is a good standard to look for in your search.
- Does the rescue advertise what type of training techniques they use? (More specific to dog rescues). Dane County Humane Society strongly advocates for Positive Reinforcement Training, and we encourage you to seek organizations that do the same. Studies show that these training techniques are more effective than punishment or dominance based training.

- Look into the rescue's adoption process. How accessible is it for people to apply for the animals? Are potential adopters allowed to meet the pets before adopting?
- Look at how the organization is advertising the animals they currently have available for adoption. Are they using personable bios? Are they thorough in explaining the animal's medical and behavioral history? Are the adoptable animals easy to find via their website or social media? Based on what you are seeing, how do you think that rescue might advertise your pet for adoption?

*****Dane County Humane Society does not officially endorse any of the rescue options listed below, this list is simply comprised of some of the options you will find with a quick search online. We cannot guarantee that any of these options will have availability to take your pet, nor can we verify what their intake or adoption processes might include. Furthermore, we cannot speak for the training or rehoming methods used by any of the rescues listed. Our best advice – *do your research!******

Cat Rescues near the Madison Area

- **Madison Cat Project**
<https://www.madisoncatproject.org/>
- **Angel's Wish Pet Adoption and Resource Center**
<http://angelswish.org/>
- **9 Lives Rescue**
<https://www.9livesrescue.com/>
- **Specialty Purebred Cat Rescue**
<https://www.purebredcatrescue.org>

Dog Rescues in Wisconsin

- **Affinity Rescue**
www.affinityrescue.org
- **Friends of Noah All Breed Animal Rescue**
www.friendsofnoah-wi.org
- **NorthStar WI Dog Rescue and Advocacy**
<http://northstarwi.com/>
- **Underdog Pet Rescue**
<https://www.underdogpetrescue.org/>

Other Animals

- **Reptile Rapture**
<https://reptilerapture.net/>

- **Madison Area Herpetological Society**
<http://madisonherps.org/kickstart/en/>
- **Feathered Friends Sanctuary and Rescue**
<https://www.feathered-friends.com/>

You may have luck finding other options on your own as well – this list is not exhaustive. Many rescues may be breed specific, so it can help to do a separate search for your pet’s specific breed, such as “German Shepherd rescues in WI” or “Persian Cat rescues...”, etc.

Rehoming Aggressive Dogs

Many rescues will not accept dogs with a bite history. Be wary of rescues that advertise that they can “fix” behaviors for dogs that are aggressive toward other dogs or toward people. Most dogs with aggression issues cannot simply be “trained” to no longer be aggressive. Rather, these dogs will likely require an owner who is dedicated to life-long management techniques combined with ongoing training. We recommend doing your own research on the potential risks and liability involved with rehoming an aggressive dog. For additional options, you can also consult with your veterinarian, a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (<https://www.animalbehaviorsociety.org/web/applied-behavior-caab-directory.php>) or a Certified Professional Dog Trainer or Behavior Consultant (<https://www.ccpdt.org/dog-owners/certified-dog-trainer-directory/>)