



# Rehoming Packet

## Dear Pet Guardian:

Enclosed is a packet of information to help you rehome your pet(s). You should find the following:

### Information About Rehoming p. 2

Providing alternatives to surrendering your pet to a shelter is the goal of this packet. These include rehoming your pet from your home and obtaining behavior assistance from our trained staff, among other alternatives. If after exhausting these options you still need to find another home for your pet, this packet contains information to help you.

### Rehoming Service Information p. 4

Our rehoming service offers tools for you to find a responsible and loving family for your pet without causing him or her the stress of entering the shelter system. The service is designed to help people rehome their pet from their own home.

### Admissions Information p. 6

Once you have exhausted all the resources available through our rehoming service, you can submit an application to surrender your pet. You can request a surrender application by calling (707) 542-0882 x267 or emailing [intake@humanesocietysoco.org](mailto:intake@humanesocietysoco.org). Once a completed surrender application has been received, Admissions staff will review it and contact you to follow up. Please allow up to one week for a response.

Sincerely,

The Humane Society of Sonoma County Staff



## Information About Rehoming

The Humane Society of Sonoma County seeks to provide alternatives to pet relinquishment. Surrendering your pet to a shelter should be your last option. Here are some resources to resolve any issues you may be experiencing or to help you rehome your pet on your own.

The Humane Society of Sonoma County has the following resources to assist you with keeping your family pet:

### Rehoming

Ask around to see if you know anyone (friends, family, co-workers, etc.) who is looking for a new pet, or take advantage of free resources such as the Adoptions by Owner page on our website. It is better for your pet if you are able to re-home him or her yourself. The shelter can be a very stressful environment.

### Pet Behavior Help

For help with dog behavior issues and concerns, call our Public Dog Training staff at (707) 542-0882 ext. 247 or email [dogtraining@humanesocietysoco.org](mailto:dogtraining@humanesocietysoco.org).

For help with cat behavior issues and concerns, please email [catbehavior@humanesocietysoco.org](mailto:catbehavior@humanesocietysoco.org).

Trained staff will contact you as soon as possible. Please allow up to one week.

### Dog Training Classes

Ask how to sign up for a class specifically designed to help great dogs and their owners. Visit [humanesocietysoco.org/clever](http://humanesocietysoco.org/clever) for a listing of classes offered by our Public Dog Training Department!

### Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic

The Humane Society of Sonoma County's low-cost spay and neuter clinic is subsidized by donations and is available for residents of Sonoma County. Our low-cost services are reserved for cats and dogs. Priority is given to Pit bulls and Chihuahuas. To schedule an appointment for your four-legged loved one, contact us at (707) 284-FIXX (3499).

### Help With Medical Care

If you are considering surrendering your pet due to the inability to afford medical care, please contact our Community Veterinary Clinic at (707) 284-1198 or email at [cvc@humanesocietysoco.org](mailto:cvc@humanesocietysoco.org). Visit our website [humanesocietysoco.org/cvc](http://humanesocietysoco.org/cvc) for information about income qualifications.



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## Trap-Neuter-Return For Feral Cats

If you have feral (unsocial) cats in your neighborhood, visit Forgotten Felines online at [www.forgottenfelines.com](http://www.forgottenfelines.com) for information about trap-neuter-return. Forgotten Felines can answer all your questions about TNR and spay/neuter and will provide you with additional information and literature regarding trapping, caretaking, and the protocols for using their services. Call (707) 576-7999.

## Surrender

The Humane Society of Sonoma County accepts owned pets who are appropriate for our adoption program by appointment only.

You can request a surrender application by calling (707) 542-0882 x267 or emailing [intake@humanesocietysoco.org](mailto:intake@humanesocietysoco.org). Once a completed surrender application has been received, Admissions staff will review it and contact you to follow up. Please allow up to one week for a response.



## Rehoming Service

Consider finding your pet another home instead of surrendering them to a shelter. It will be less stressful for your animal, allows you to play a part in uniting them with a new family, and makes additional space available for animals whose lives are immediately at risk in surrounding municipal shelters.

Before you start looking for a new home for your pet, consider the following:

Get help with behavior concerns such as chewing, housebreaking challenges, excessive energy, etc. For resources on common concerns visit [humanesocietysoco.org/additional-resources](https://humanesocietysoco.org/additional-resources). For Dog Training classes please visit our website at [humanesocietysoco.org/clever](https://humanesocietysoco.org/clever) or email our Public Dog Training staff at [dogtraining@humanesocietysoco.org](mailto:dogtraining@humanesocietysoco.org) and our trained staff will give you the information or referrals you need to help resolve the issues.

You do not have to give up your pet just because you're moving. Moving is stressful even in the best of circumstances, so give yourself extra time to find a residence where pets are permitted. When talking to landlords, be honest and offer to introduce your pet(s) to the landlord. Many property owners will allow well-behaved pets, particularly if the owner behaves responsibly. Providing your pet's veterinary records, graduation certificate(s) from obedience classes and references from past landlords can help to show a prospective landlord you are a responsible pet owner.

### Help Find The Right Home Through Our Online Rehoming Service:

**Follow these guidelines.** Be thorough and patient — finding the right home takes time, but it's worth it for your sake and the sake of your pet.

**Take several color photos of your pet.** Show off your pet's cutest and most endearing qualities.

**Write a story about your pet.** Include the reason your pet needs a new home, the kind of home he or she needs and would do well in, and some "human interest" information — for example, your pet's funniest behaviors, his/her favorite things to do, or the thing you love most about your pet. Many people write the story from the animal's perspective, for example, "Hi, my name is Midnight..."

**Rehome your pet on our website through our "Adoptions by Owner" page.** Submit a photo and a brief story of your pet at [humanesocietysoco.org/adoptions-by-owner](https://humanesocietysoco.org/adoptions-by-owner). Interested persons will contact you to learn more about your animal. Pets will remain on the website for at least 90 days. You will be responsible for contacting us at [communications.shs@gmail.com](mailto:communications.shs@gmail.com) once your pet has been adopted.

**Email out to friends, family or co-workers.** Give your photos, story and email address to everyone you know asking for their help. Advertise through your workplace or your community bulletin board. Placing your pet with someone you know will ease the transition for everyone.

**Consider charging a fee.** This will help to ensure you are receiving serious inquiries only. If you feel you have found the right home for your pet you can choose to waive the rehoming fee.

**Advertise.** Place an ad in your local newspaper or post on your social media pages. Advertisements with photos get more attention. You can also ask to post flyers at your local vet offices or pet stores. Many other shelters and rescues will also post your animal as available for adoption so reach out to them, too!

### Helpful Hints On Evaluating Potential Adopters:

Interview potential adopters carefully. Make sure your pet fits into the lifestyle of the applicant's family, and your pet is what they're really looking for. You might consider the following in order to ascertain additional information (please note that with respect to some of these items, an open and honest discussion will provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision regarding your pet's placement):

- Verify the name and address with a driver's license.
- Call the person's landlord and make sure they has permission to have a pet.
- Ask to see the person's vet records on all their current or past pets
- Get references and call to see if they can vouch for the person's ability to care for animals.
- Take the time to consider applicants. Don't allow yourself to be pressured into making a decision that you do not feel right about. Your judgment is your best guide.
- Follow up. Call to see how your pet is doing in their new home.

## Admissions Information

### Surrender Your Pet To HSSC:

You have a number of choices, the last of which should be surrendering your pet to a shelter. If you have exhausted alternatives to relinquishment (including trying to work through challenges, or trying to find a new home via our Adoptions by Owner page or your network of friends, neighbors, family or co-workers), here is how our admissions process works.

### What You Should Expect:

Please understand that as a no-kill shelter, the Humane Society of Sonoma County cannot accept every animal brought to our shelter. We treat every animal's life as precious, and will not resort to euthanasia to control the number of pets at our facility. Therefore, we will accept the surrender of owned pets by appointment only, as space allows, as appropriate for our adoption program. We do charge a modest surrender fee, which will be applied to the costs we will incur providing care for the pet.

### How The Process Works:

In order to surrender your pet to the Humane Society of Sonoma County you must first submit a surrender application for review. You can submit this via email to [intake@humanesocietysoco.org](mailto:intake@humanesocietysoco.org), by fax (707) 542-1317, or by dropping it off at either our Santa Rosa or Healdsburg location. Admissions staff reviews submitted surrender applications throughout each week. Based on available space and an animal's suitability for our program, admissions staff will contact you to schedule a behavior evaluation, surrender appointment, or to discuss other options available to you. We will also request your pet's vet records ahead of time to review.

### What To Bring With You To Your Surrender Appointment:

- Your pet on a leash or in a carrier
- Your pet's medications (if any)
- Completed surrender paperwork.
- You are welcome to bring any of your pet's belongings from home that you wish to donate. We will do our best to keep these items with your pet, however, these items will be considered general donations to our shelter animals.

### What To Do When You Arrive:

- A staff member will evaluate the behavior and health of your pet.
- An appointment for evaluation does not guarantee that the Humane Society will be in a position to take your pet into its care.



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- Once your pet has been evaluated and the Humane Society decides to take your pet into its care, your surrender fee will be collected. The surrender fee is usually \$40 (exceptions may apply for litters of infant animals). Accepted forms of payment are cash, check, or credit/debit card.

## Other Sonoma County Shelters Information

### By Jurisdiction:

- **Healdsburg:**  
The Humane Society of Sonoma County 542-0882
- **Rohnert Park and Cotati:**  
Rohnert Park Animal Shelter 584-1582
- **Sebastopol, Petaluma, Windsor, and Cloverdale:**  
North Bay Animal Services 762-6227
- **City of Sonoma:**  
Pets Lifeline 996-4577
- **Santa Rosa and all unincorporated areas of Sonoma County:**  
Sonoma County Animal Services 565-7100

