

# Virtual Shelter Project

*You Can Save Your Pet's Life Without A Shelter.*



Thank you! You're reading this because you may not be able to keep your animal and are committed to finding your animal a loving home. If you need to bring your animal to one of our shelters, we will accept your animal. We never turn away an animal in need. But for some animals, a nonshelter option is the best choice. When you explore nonshelter options for your animal, you can:

- Create shelter space for other animals who don't have a loving person like you to help them
- Protect your animal from stress and possible illness in the shelter
- Protect animals already in the shelter from any illness your animal may have
- Find a great home for an animal we may not be able to place in our adoption program
- Maybe find a great way that you and your animal can stay together!

With a little work and patience, you can help your animal and many others, and know what it feels like to truly save a life.

Here in our "virtual shelter," you'll find the resources to help you if you would like to:

**FIND A WAY TO KEEP YOUR ANIMAL, p. 2**

**BEHAVIOR HELP**

**PET-FRIENDLY HOUSING GUIDE**

**LOW COST SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES**

**FURRY FRIENDS FREE PET FOOD PROGRAM**

**REFERENCES FOR LOW-COST VETERINARY CARE**

**HELP AN OUTDOOR CAT STAY SAFELY OUTSIDE (WITH NO MORE KITTENS!), p. 4**

**TRAP, NEUTER & RETURN PROGRAM**

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**FIND A LOVING, RESPONSIBLE HOME FOR YOUR ANIMAL**

**FINDING TEMPORARY CARE FOR YOUR ANIMAL**

**BREED RESCUE GROUPS**

**SURRENDERING YOUR ANIMAL TO THE WISCONSIN HUMANE SOCIETY MILWAUKEE CAMPUS**



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## IS THERE A WAY TO KEEP YOUR ANIMAL?

Many people think they *have* to surrender a beloved animal to a shelter, even though they don't want to. The problem might be a landlord who won't allow the animal, a behavior issue that is causing problems, or just being able to afford an animal's care in difficult times. We believe the best home for any animal is the home of someone who already loves them. So we have many resources to help you keep your animal in your home.

### STRUGGLING WITH YOUR ANIMAL'S BEHAVIOR?

*Is your dog barking too much? Is your cat not using her litterbox? You're not in this alone. We have a variety of resources available to you to help you better address animal's behavior issues.*



- **Talk To Our Behavior Staff (It's Free!)**  
For help with behavior issues or concerns, call 414-431-6173 to leave a message for our behavior staff. Or visit <http://wihumane.org/education/asktheexpert.aspx> to request that a trained staff member will contact you by the next business day.
- **Dog Manners Classes**  
Ask how to sign up for a class specifically designed to help great dogs learn basic manners and cues. Visit [http://wihumane.org/behavior/dog\\_training](http://wihumane.org/behavior/dog_training) for a listing of the classes offered by our humane society or call 414-431-6156 to speak with our Program Specialist.

### NEED PET-FRIENDLY HOUSING?

*Moving is stressful and the thought of giving up your animal because you're moving only adds stress, which is why we have options for you!*



- **Find a Pet-Friendly Place**  
Visit our website at <http://wihumane.org/services/animal-friendly-housing-list> for a list of apartments that permit companion animals. You do not have to surrender your companion just because you are moving. Give yourself extra time to find a residence where animals are allowed.
- **Talk to Your Landlord**  
Be honest and offer to introduce your animal(s). Many property owners will allow well-behaved animals; particularly if you behave responsibly. Providing your animal's veterinary records, graduation certificate(s) from training classes, and references from past landlords can help to show a prospective landlord you are a responsible animal guardian. For a list of many (but not all) landlords and apartment complexes that allow animals, please visit <http://wihumane.org/services/animal-friendly-housing-list> for the Pet-Friendly Housing guide. Once you have a new place, the Wisconsin Humane Society can give you advice on how to help you and your companion animal cope with the change.

### LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES

*Spaying or neutering your animal can actually help reduce unwanted behaviors.*



- **Spay/Neuter Clinic - West Allis, WI**  
The Wisconsin Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic is an affordable, high-quality spay/neuter clinic open to the public. Our goal is to reduce animal homelessness by reducing financial barriers to accessing spay/neuter surgery in Southeastern Wisconsin. To schedule an appointment at the Spay/Neuter Clinic in West Allis, WI please visit, <http://wihumane.org/clinic> or call us at 414-323-6163.

- **Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (available at Ozaukee and Racine Campuses)**  
The Wisconsin Humane Society offers a spay/neuter assistance program (SNAP) provides low-cost spay/neuter services to animals from low income households. The goal of this program is to decrease the number of unwanted animal litters by expanding sterilization services to clients with a demonstrated financial need. If you feel you want to learn more about this program, please visit <http://wihumane.org/veterinary/spay-neuter> for more information.

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### CAN'T AFFORD YOUR ANIMAL?

*If you think about the times when you struggled the most, maybe due to a sudden job loss, a medical emergency, or even losing a family member, the last thing you want to do is lose the companion who's stuck by your side through it all.*



- **Furry Friends Food Program**  
The Furry Friends Food program is dedicated to providing petfood for families struggling to provide for themselves and their animals. Here at the Wisconsin Humane Society, we understand the difficult decisions that individuals sometimes have to make in order to care for their animals. To complete an application for this program, visit <http://wihumane.org/services/pet-food-for-families-in-need>. If you need immediate assistance, please call 414-431-6102.
- **Low Cost Veterinary Care**  
Veterinary services can be expensive and vary greatly from clinic to clinic. So do your research, call around from clinic to clinic for a quote on the services you need. If you can't afford to pay at the time of your appointment, some veterinary clinics accept C.A.R.E Credit, which allows you to pay your balance at a later date. For more information on applying for C.A.R.E. Credit visit [www.carecredit.com](http://www.carecredit.com) or call 1-866-893-7864.



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## ARE YOU TRYING TO HELP AN OUTDOOR CAT?

Feral cats are often many generations removed from human guardianship. They are the offspring of outdoor cats who roam free. Feral cats cannot be safely handled by humans and cannot be placed into a typical home situation. To help feral cats in our area, the Wisconsin Humane Society works with caregivers in the community who humanely trap feral cats and bring them to WHS for medical examination, temperament evaluations, vaccinations, microchipping and sterilization surgery.



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### TRAP, NEUTER, & RETURN

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a method of humanely controlling feral cat populations. TNR involves several steps. First, the cats are trapped. The cats are then sterilized, vaccinated, and receive an ear tip to indicate he/she has been sterilized. Socialized cats are adopted into homes, and cats who are truly feral are returned to their original location. Please visit <http://wihumane.org/services/tnr> for more information on the TNR services.



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## HOW TO FIND A GREAT HOME FOR YOUR ANIMAL



### RE-HOMING RESOURCES

*Ask around to see if you know anyone who is looking for a new companion or take advantage of our [Pets Seeking People](#) section on our website.*

When it comes to meeting with potential adopters, be thorough and patient. Finding the right home takes time, but it's worth it for your sake and the sake of your animal. Ask good open-ended questions to determine if your companion and the potential adopters are a good match. Ensuring that your companion animal is up-to-date on his/her vaccinations and spayed/neutered will make it easier to find a new home.

- **Pets Seeking People**

This website is a free listing for animals in our community needing new homes. Visit <http://savinglives.wihumane.org/site/PageNavigator/Rehoming> to use our free, web-based re-homing service. This webpage will allow you to give information about your companion animal and the type of home he or she is looking for. You can even submit a picture! Be sure to include accurate contact information, so that individuals interested in adopting your animal can reach you. Please allow at least 48 hours for your submission to be posted to the website. If you find a match, please contact us to have your listing removed from the re-homing website.

- **Re-home on Your Own**

Ask around to see if you know anyone (friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, etc.) who is looking for a new companion. The shelter environment can be very stressful for some animals, so re-homing from a familiar environment can be a great option for many animals. Please do not give your animal away "Free to a Good Home" as there are unscrupulous individuals who could harm your animal. Asking a reasonable fee may help deter such people.

On the next few pages are materials you can use when you are talking to someone who is interested in adopting your animal. With questions like these, you will learn a lot about whether this person can provide the right home for the animal you know so well.

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### TEMPORARY CARE FOR YOUR ANIMAL

If you are looking for temporary care for your animal, talk with your friends, family members and veterinarian for recommendations on boarding or in-home pet sitting services. Make sure to leave detailed instructions for the care of your animal, including feeding and exercise schedules as well as emergency contact information.



### BREED RESCUES

If your companion animal is purebred, there may be a rescue group that is able to accept your animal into their organization for adoption. Each rescue's policies are different, so ask questions! Fetch magazine offers a listing of local rescue groups. Please visit: <http://www.fetchmag.com/to-the-rescue/> for more information.



**MAKING THE MATCH- FOR DOGS**

These questions encourage open, honest conversation with a potential adopter.

**ABOUT THE ADOPTER**

How many adults \_\_\_\_\_ and children \_\_\_\_\_ are in your home?

What are the ages of the children? \_\_\_\_\_

How many other animals have you had as an adult? \_\_\_\_\_

List: Name, Age, Breed, Spay/Neutered, Still Have

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where are they now?

\_\_\_\_\_

How long did you have them?

\_\_\_\_\_

How long will a new animal need to be left alone on a given day? \_\_\_\_\_

What behaviors do you not tolerate from your animals? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What behaviors did you find most challenging with your previous animal(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_

What happened that you had to find a new home for the animal?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PREFERENCES**

What interests you about this dog?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why are you looking to adopt a dog?

\_\_\_\_\_

How many hours will the dog be outside? \_\_\_\_\_

Where will you keep the dog:

1. When you are home? \_\_\_\_\_

2. When you are gone? \_\_\_\_\_

3. At night? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan on exercising your dog?

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan on socializing your dog?

\_\_\_\_\_

What are your thoughts on crate training?

\_\_\_\_\_

**DOG BEHAVIOR QUESTIONS**

What dog behaviors would you like more information on?

Chewing  Barking  Housetraining

Play Biting  Other \_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan on training your dog?

\_\_\_\_\_

How comfortable are you with housetraining?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MULTIPLE ANIMAL QUESTIONS**

How do you plan to introduce your new dog to your resident dog?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cat to dog?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How much time do you plan on allowing your resident animal and the new animal to adjust?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your plan if the animals do not get a long right away? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MAKING THE MATCH- FOR CATS**

These questions encourage open, honest conversation with a potential adopter.

**ABOUT THE ADOPTER**

How many adults \_\_\_\_\_ and children \_\_\_\_\_ are in your home?

What are the ages of the children? \_\_\_\_\_

How many other animals have you had as an adult? \_\_\_\_\_

List: Name, Age, Breed, Spay/Neutered, Still Have  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where are they now?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How long did you have them?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How long will a new animal need to be left alone on a given day? \_\_\_\_\_

What behaviors do you not tolerate from your animals? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What behaviors did you find most challenging with your previous animal(s)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What happened that you had to find a new home for the animal?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PREFERENCES**

What are you looking for in a cat?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What drew you to this cat?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer a cat that is declawed? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan on declawing? \_\_\_\_\_

**CAT BEHAVIOR QUESTIONS**

How long do you think it will take for your new cat to adjust to his/her new environment?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan to handle any litterbox problems?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do you feel about a cat who play bites?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MULTIPLE ANIMAL QUESTIONS**

How do you plan to introduce your new dog to your resident dog?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cat to dog?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How much time do you plan on allowing your resident animal and the new animal to adjust?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is your plan if the animals do not get a long right away? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ALLERGY QUESTIONS**

Do you have allergies to any animals? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan to manage your allergies and a new animal?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ADOPTER INFORMATION - HAVE POTENTIAL ADOPTER FILL THIS OUT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

- Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Current living arrangement:

- I own my own home.
- I live with my parents.
  - Do they know you are getting an animal? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- I rent.
  - Describe your landlord's pet policy:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

How much do you plan on spending annually for vet care? \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- I certify the above information is true and correct.

Signature of Adopter: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## SURRENDERING YOUR ANIMAL

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### SURRENDERING AT THE WISCONSIN HUMANE SOCIETY MILWAUKEE CAMPUS



The Wisconsin Humane Society offers resources and education to help you maintain the treasured bond that you have with your animal companions. But, we do understand that there are circumstances that prevent you from being able to keep your animal and we are willing to help.

When you bring your animal in to the Wisconsin Humane Society for surrender, he or she will receive a health and behavior assessment. The following conditions may result in your animal's inability to be placed into our adoption program:

- Animals who display or have a history of overt aggression
- Animals who cannot be safely handled by staff
- Animals who have chronic or long-term medical conditions that will require extensive or ongoing treatment

If you need to surrender your animal, please call our Animal Arrivals department to schedule an appointment. Trained staff will be able to answer any questions you might have.

- Milwaukee Campus: 414-431-6102
- Ozaukee Campus: 262-377-7580
- Racine Campus: 262-554-6699

After setting up a surrender appointment, please fill out a surrender profile on our website at <http://wihumane.org/services/surrender.aspx>. Completing this profile before coming into the shelter will save you time during your visit and allow you to give more information about your animal's personality.

**What to Expect.** The Wisconsin Humane Society accepts the surrender of cats and dogs by appointment in order to provide the best possible care for your animal. WHS does not euthanize animals due to constraints of space or time. Once you have contacted us with your need to surrender, we will be added to our placement list.

**How the Process Works.** A staff member will call you to schedule a surrender appointment for your animal within 72 hours of being added to the placement list. During that conversation, we will ask you questions regarding your companion's behavior and medical history. After learning more about your animal's needs, our staff will schedule an appointment for surrender as appropriate. A maximum of three attempts to contact you will be made. If we do not hear back from you after the third attempt, you will be removed from the placement list. Appointments may take 30-45 minutes depending on the other animals present at that time.

#### **What to Bring With You.**

- Any veterinary records you have.
- A photo ID such as a driver's license.
- Any other items you'd like to donate for shelter use. (Please note that if you donate any items at the time of surrender, these items will be distributed for shelter use. In the event you change your mind and choose to redeem your animal, WHS will be unable to return these in-kind donations.)

**For everyone's safety, all dogs must be leashed and all cats in carriers.** If you do not have a leash or a carrier, leave your animal in your vehicle and request one in Animal Arrivals.

**Fees.** We do ask for a surrender fee to help offset the cost of caring for your animal; however, if you cannot afford the fee please let the Animal Arrivals Counselor know and he/she will work with you to reduce or waive the fee. The Wisconsin Humane Society is a nonprofit organization that receives no government funding and is not affiliated with any national animal welfare organizations.

<u>Species</u>	<u>One Animal</u>	<u>Two or More Animals (fee for group)</u>
Dog	\$35.00	\$70.00
Cats	\$35.00	\$70.00
Rabbits	\$25.00	\$40.00
Small Animals	\$10.00	\$25.00
Exotics	\$50.00	\$75.00

***\*\*\*If you cannot afford to pay the total fee, please let a staff member know and we will reduce or waive the fee as needed.***

**What To Do If You Need to Surrender Your Animal Today.** Call the Wisconsin Humane Society's at:

- Milwaukee Campus: 414-431-6102
- Ozaukee Campus: 262-377-7580
- Racine Campus: 262-554-6699

