

FVHA’s Pet Retention and Rehoming Program

Giving up an animal is a serious decision. If you are considering surrendering your pet, please contact us for help first. We have many resources to help you, from behavioral advice to assistance due to financial constraints. If you need to bring your animal to our shelter, we will always accept your animal. But for some animals, a non-shelter option is the best choice. When you explore non-shelter options for your animal, you can:

- Protect your animal from stress and possible illness in the shelter
- 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!

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Keeping Your Pet

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 and can provide the necessary care. 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 litter box? You're not in this alone. We have a variety of resources available to you to help you better address animal's behavior issues.

Visit our website to view our online behavior resources.

Our website has tips for dealing with barking and separation anxiety, as well as litter box issues, at <http://foxvalleypets.org/resources/>.

Talk to our staff (It's free!)

For help with behavior issues or concerns, call 920-733-1717 ext 100 and leave a message for our staff. They will return your call as soon as possible.

Spay-Neuter Assistance Program

Spaying or neutering your animal can actually help reduce unwanted behaviors. FVHA offers a spay-neuter assistance program (S.N.A.P.) designed to meet the needs of low-income individual and families. 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. Visit <http://www.foxvalleypets.org/Services/Low-Cost-Vet-Services> for more information.

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

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. Find a short list of apartments allowing pets near Appleton here: <http://www.rent.com/wisconsin/appleton-apartments/pet-friendly-39-27905>. Your best option is to contact the rental office directly and ask for their policy on pets.

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.

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 has stuck by your side through it all.

Pet Food Pantry

FVHA's pet food pantry provides pet food for families struggling to provide for themselves and their animals. We understand the difficult decisions that individuals sometimes have to make in order to care for their animals. Individuals may receive pet food up to 10 times before we ask for a small donation in order to keep the food pantry running.

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. FVHA offers a Spay-Neuter Assistance Program for low-income households. Visit

<http://www.foxvalleypets.org/Services/low-cost-vet-services> for more information.

Re-homing Your Pet

Re-homing Resources

Ask around to see if you know anyone who is looking for a new companion or take advantage of our Rehoming Listings 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 as well as spayed/neutered will make it easier for you to find a new home.

Re-homing Listings on FVHA's website

FVHA offers a free listing for animals in our community needing new homes. Visit http://www.foxvalleypets.org/Services/Rehoming_Listings.aspx 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. 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.

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 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! Contact FVHA at 920-733-1717 ext 106 for more information on rescues we have partnered with.

Making the Match (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/Neuter, 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 along right way?

Making the Match (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/Neuter, 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 along 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 the 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: _____

*Disclaimer: This is not a binding document. FVHA cannot enforce violations of this agreement.

Surrendering Your Pet at FVHA

FVHA 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 FVHA 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:

- Aggression toward humans or other animals
- History of biting
- Cage or kennel regression
- Animal is a threat to itself or others
- Unable to safely house or handle
- Spraying
- Indiscriminate elimination
- Severe health problems

If we determine that your pet is not eligible for entrance into one of our placement programs, you will have the option of reclaiming your pet.

Please fill out a surrender profile on our website at <http://www.foxvalleypets.org/petservices/>. 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 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.

For everyone's safety, all dogs must be leashed and we recommend that all cats are in carriers.

We are able to take Surrendered pets by appointment only. Hours for incoming animals at our shelter are: Monday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m to 3 p.m

FVHA is a nonprofit organization that receives no government funding and is not affiliated with any national animal welfare organizations. To help us care for your animal until we can find him/her a new home, we charge a small fee based on the following specifications:

Fees:

- Single dog: \$50
- Multiple dogs: \$75
- Single cat: \$30
- Multiple adult cats: \$50
- Litter of 3 or more kittens: \$75

