

Rehoming your Dog – Ideas to help with this process.

Rehoming a dog is never easy. This can happen for lots of reasons, moving overseas, an inability to care for the dog anymore due to personal or financial circumstances, or the need to find someone else's dog a home after a family member or friend goes into higher care or passes away. We hope that this information sheet will provide you with some tips on how to find a new forever home for your dog:

1. **DECIDE** – the decision to rehome your dog is one that should not be taken lightly. Once you do rehome your dog it is very unlikely that you will get them back again so you need to make sure that this is the decision you are comfortable with. Also think about your reasons for rehoming this dog. Don't rush into getting another pet until you determine which pet would be best for you given your personal circumstances.
2. **BE REALISTIC** – about your dog's nature and health issues. Its important that the information you give to the potential new owners is realistic so that the dog can have the best chance of being rehomed from the start. Be realistic about how the dog interacts with children, men, other dogs, other pets such as cats and rabbits. The last thing you want to do is rehome your dog with an unsuitable new family.
3. **CREATE AN INFO SHEET** – put together an info sheet with a picture of your dog and a few of their good traits. Also include what would not suit your dog eg not great with small children but loves teenagers – or something along those lines. Don't forget to put contact details for how people can get in touch with you eg email or phone number. **DON'T** put your home address on the flier.
4. **WORD OF MOUTH** – tell your friends and family that you are looking to rehome your dog. They may be interested or they may know someone who is interested. Word of mouth is a great way to start the process of finding a new forever home for your dog. Give out your Info Sheet on your dog as a way of helping to get the word out.
5. **SPEAK TO THE VET NURSES AT THE CLINIC YOU GO TO** – those of us who work in the industry get to speak to lots of people everyday about all kinds of creatures. If you share your info sheet on your dog with your Vet Clinic they may know someone who could be interested in your dog. Also ask if they have a notice board to put up your dog's info sheet.
6. **SPEAK TO OTHE ANIMAL RELATED BUSINESSES** – from the dog groomer to the pet shop to the boarding kennel / doggy day care – again all these people may just be able to help you help your dog into a new forever home.
7. **LIST YOUR DOG WITH THE ANIMAL REHOMING SERVICE** – check out www.tars.org.au This a fabulous volunteer group that list animals that are looking for new homes – see their website for more information.
8. **BE CAUTIOUS USING GUMTREE etc TO REHOME** – there are many not very nice people in the world and TARS have a great info sheet on what to look for when choosing someone to adopt your dog. Generic websites are not a great place for this
9. **BREED CLUBS AND RESCUE GROUPS** – many of these volunteer groups will have the capacity to help you rehome your dog. If you have a specific breed of dog then the Breed Club will be able to put you in touch with the breed rescue group – contact Dogs Victoria for help with finding your breed club. There are also rescue groups that help dogs of certain groupings eg working dogs or small dogs – they may also be able to help you – just google them to find who might be best.
10. **CROSS ALL YOUR FINGERS AND TOES** – there are many animals out there needing homes but anyone of the 6 options we have listed above should help you to find your dog a new forever home.

We wish you the best of luck