



Unwanted Dogs and Cats



Dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens... possibly someone dumped them near your property, or perhaps your animals were not get spayed or neutered in time. Whatever the reason, the shelters are full and good people are struggling to find homes for animals.

Here are some ideas:

- First, try to ensure the animal is healthy or get them as healthy as your budget allows. Give them their shots (rabies and 4-1), worm them, and clean them up with a flea/tick bath using a product suitable for the animal's age.
- Check your local paper. Many will allow free ads to try to find homes.
- Use Craigslist.com. Put a picture on if you can and describe the animal(s) needing a home.
- Contact your local shelter and ask if they use petfinder.com and if they will do a courtesy listing for you.
- Put up a flyer with pictures in any places that have bulletin boards. Always ask permission.
- Request a small adoption fee, even 5 to 10 dollars. This will serve as a deterrent to people who sell animals to research companies. Do not worry that the small fee is going to keep you from finding a home—pets cost money to care for. If a person will not put anything into the animal now, it is likely they will not provide care for the pet later.

Do not threaten the shelter/rescue personnel that you will just “take care of the animal” (shoot, drown, etc.) if they do not take it. Most workers are volunteers. They love animals and give their time and resources. They would take the animals if they had any place to go with them. Volunteers burn out quickly enough – do not add to the stress with threats!

Do the best you can – it is not the animal's fault that a person did not care for it. We all do what we can to make a bad situation better!

Spay and Neuter

Yes, puppies and kittens are cute, but each litter adds to the overwhelming issue of homeless dogs and cats. Besides reducing the number of unwanted pets, spaying and neutering reduces risks of certain health problems for male and female pets. If you cannot afford it, there are many agencies who will subsidize all or part of the cost.