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Pet Resources

Be Your Pet's Biggest Advocate | Alternatives to Shelter Intake

At the Wisconsin Humane Society, we know that the shelter is not always the best choice for some animals. When you explore alternatives to surrendering for your animal, you can:

- Create shelter space for other animals who do not have an advocate like you to help them
- Protect your animal from stress and possible illness in the shelter
- Help keep the shelter population low so we can provide optimal care for all animals
- Protect animals already in the shelter from any illness your animal may have
- Find a great home for your animal
- Explore potential ways you and your animal can stay together

This information is designed to give you the tools you need to find your animal a new home or perhaps keep them in your family.

Thank you for exploring alternatives to surrendering your animal to the shelter. If you do need to bring your animal to the shelter, we ask that you make an appointment in advance to ensure we have the resources available to care for them. Please call the campus nearest you for more information:

- Door County Campus 920-746-1111
- Green Bay Campus 920-469-3110
- Milwaukee Campus 414-431-6115
- Ozaukee Campus 262-377-7580
- Racine Campus 262-554-6699

If you have questions about the surrender process, please email petresources@wihumane.org and we'll connect you with the appropriate resource relative to your inquiry.

Please note that WHS does not have any geographical boundaries for intake of owned animals, but we ask that you first contact the shelter in your area, if applicable, before setting up an appointment for surrender.



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IS THERE A WAY TO KEEP YOUR ANIMAL?

Below are some resources on animal behavior to help keep your animal healthy, happy, and in your home.

STRUGGLING WITH YOUR ANIMAL'S BEHAVIOR?

We have a variety of resources available to you to help you better address animal's behavior issues.

- **Talk to Our Behavior Staff for Free!**
For help with behavior issues or concerns, please visit www.wihumane.org/behavior/ask-the-experts for answers to a wide variety of frequently asked behavioral questions. If you need further support, please call 414-431-6173 or email asktheexpert@wihumane.org for advice from our behavior team. You can expect a response within one business day.
- **Dog Manners Classes**
The Wisconsin Humane Society offers a number of classes designed to help dogs learn basic manners and cues. We also have specialized classes for shy dogs or dogs who pull on leash. Visit www.wihumane.org/behavior/canine-manners-classes for a listing of the classes offered or call 414-431-4156 to speak with our Behavior and Training Specialist.
- **In-Home Training**
If you're looking for more specialized advice, WHS offers Behavior Consultations (more information here: www.wihumane.org/behavior/consultation). If you are looking for additional resources, we recommend searching for a force-free trainer at www.forcefreewisconsin.com

NEED ANIMAL-FRIENDLY HOUSING?

- **Find an Animal-Friendly Place**
Visit our website at www.wihumane.org/services/animal-friendly-housing-list for a list of rental properties that permit companion animals. 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 can provide proof of veterinary care, training, and/or references from past landlords or neighbors. 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.

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH HELPING YOUR ANIMAL MOVE WITH YOU?

Moving is stressful for people and animals; having a plan for your animals can help!

- **Free Tips on Making the Move**
Planning can make a big difference; visit our website for insight on traveling with your animal: www.wihumane.org/behavior/ask-the-experts/dogs/traveling-with-your-companion.



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IS THERE A WAY TO KEEP YOUR ANIMAL?

Below are some veterinary resources to help keep your animal healthy, happy, and in your home.

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH SPAYING OR NEUTERING YOUR PET?

Spaying or neutering your animal can help reduce some problematic behaviors.

- **Spay/Neuter Clinic – West Allis, WI**
The Wisconsin Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic is an affordable, high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter clinic. To schedule an appointment at the Spay/Neuter Clinic in West Allis, WI please visit www.wihumane.org/clinic or call us at 414-323-6163.
- **Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)**
The Wisconsin Humane Society offers a spay/neuter assistance program (SNAP) to provide low-cost spay/neuter services. To learn more, please visit www.wihumane.org/snap

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH VACCINATIONS?

- **Low-Cost Vaccination Clinics**
The Wisconsin Humane Society provides low-cost vaccine clinics throughout the year. These clinics provide several services including core vaccinations and microchipping. For more information, visit www.wihumane.org/veterinary/vaccine-clinics - services vary by location.
- **MADACC Low-cost Drop-In Clinics**
Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) located in Milwaukee offers drop-in vaccine clinics for Milwaukee County residents. You can find more information on those services here: <https://madacc.org/vaccine-drop-in-clinic/>
- **Other Low-Cost Options**
Another low-cost option in the area is Vetco (www.vetcoclinics.com/). Please note: WHS has no affiliation with Vetco and cannot speak to their practices.

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH VETERINARY CARE?

- **Assistance with Veterinary Care Costs**
Veterinary services can be costly and vary greatly from clinic to clinic. It's important to do your research, find a clinic you're comfortable with, and don't be shy about calling around to get a price estimate. Some clinics may accept CareCredit which allows you to pay your balance at a later date. For more information on applying for CareCredit visit www.carecredit.com or call 1-866-893-7864.
- **Crowdfunding Platforms**
There are a host of crowdfunding platforms available from GoFundMe and Facebook fundraisers to Waggle. These pages allow friends and family to donate toward the care of your animal. Waggle is geared toward veterinary care and can only be initiated by your veterinarian, so consumer fraud is deterred, and trust is built among donors. With Waggle you get a personalized page for your animal which you can share, and the donations you collect go directly to your veterinarian for the care of your animal. <https://waggle.org/>



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NEED ASSISTANCE WITH FEEDING YOUR ANIMAL?

- **Furry Friends Pet Food Pantry**

The Furry Friends Pet Food Pantry provides pet food for families who need the support. We understand the difficult decisions that individuals must sometimes make to care for their family and animals. Our food pantries are donation-driven, so supply levels fluctuate greatly; please call the participating campus nearest you prior to your visit to ensure supplies are available.

- Milwaukee Campus 414-264-6257
- Ozaukee Campus 262-377-7580
- Racine Campus 262-544-6699
- Green Bay Campus 920-469-3110
- Door County Campus 920-746-1111

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH AN OUTDOOR CAT? The Wisconsin Humane Society offers trap, neuter, and return (TNR) services to clients who wish to have outdoor cats altered. Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is a method of humanely controlling feral cat populations and may also stop many nuisance behaviors like spraying, yowling, and fighting. Please visit www.wihumane.org/services/tnr or more information on the TNR service.



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HOW TO FIND A GREAT HOME FOR YOUR ANIMAL

RE-HOMING RESOURCES

When it comes to finding a new home for your animal, their best resource is often you! Since you know all their preferences, habits, and routines, your insight can be incredibly helpful in finding them a great match. As an added bonus, your animal gets to stay in a familiar environment (your home) while you search for an adopter, rather than coming to a shelter. It may also help to ensure your pet is up to date on his/her vaccinations and spayed/neutered before you start the re-homing process.

- **Start with Your Network!** Ask your friends, family, colleagues, neighbors, etc. to spread the word – you never know who is looking for a new companion.

- **Virtual Rehoming**

The Wisconsin Humane Society offers two website platforms for virtual rehoming – both are free of charge to use.

- The first is run by **AdoptAPet.com**, a free listing for animals in our community needing new homes: <https://rehome.adoptapet.com/r/74387>. Using this site allows you to:
 1. Create a profile for your dog or cat so they can be seen by millions of potential adopters.
 2. Review applications from interested adopters with support from the Adopt-a-Pet Rehome team.
 3. Get guidance on how to initiate safe, pressure-free meetings with applicants.
 4. Receive a customized adoption contract to protect the transfer of your pet's ownership.

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. Note: This is a third-party site that is not affiliated with nor operated by WHS. WHS is not responsible for the outcomes of your conversations with potential adopters.

- The second is **Home-to-Home**, also a free listing for animals in our community needing new homes: www.whs.home-home.org. Using this site allows you to:
 1. Create a profile for your pet so they can be seen by local adopters.
 2. Review applications from interested adopters on your own.
 3. This site also allows posting for small pets, unlike the Adopt-a-Pet link.

Be sure to include a photo and accurate contract information, so the individuals interested in adopting your animal can reach you. Please allow at least 48 hours for your submission to be posted to the website. All listings are reviewed and approved by a Wisconsin Humane Society staff member to dissuade any misuse of the site, then you will work one-on-one with potential adopters to determine who is the best match for your animal and completing the adoption yourself. WHS is not responsible for the outcomes of your conversations with potential adopters.

- **Re-home on Your Own**

On the next few pages are materials you can use when you are talking to someone who is interested in adopting your animal. These open-ended questions can help you get a sense of whether the interested party is a good match for your animal.



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TEMPORARY CARE AND BOARDING

If you are looking for temporary care for your animal, WHS recommends talking with your friends, family, and/or 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. Online research of available boarding facilities and pet-sitting services are also options. If you decide to board your animal, visit any boarding kennel before making the decision to leave your pet there. If using a pet-sitting service, spend some time individually interviewing the person who will be caring for your animal.

BREED RESCUES

If your companion animal is a purebred or exotic type of pet, there may be a breed- or species-specific rescue group that is able to help. An online search with your location and your animal's breed is all you need to get started (example search: "Great Dane rescue Milwaukee." Each rescue's policies are different, so be sure to ask questions before surrendering your animal to the rescue.



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MAKING THE MATCH FOR DOGS – OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS

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

When it comes to meeting with potential adopters, be thorough and patient. Initiate a conversation with potential adopters and ask open-ended questions rather than those that yield a yes or no response. Finding the right home may take time, but it's worth it!

ABOUT THE ADOPTER

- Tell me about your household – how many adults/children are in the home?
- What experience do you have with dogs?
- Are there animals in the home now? If so, tell me about them (spayed/neutered, age, behavior, etc).
 - If the client has rehomed any animals, ask questions about why/how.
- What interests you about this dog?
- Why are you looking to adopt a dog?

COMPANION PREFERENCES

- Where will you keep the dog when you are home? Away?
- How do you plan on exercising your dog?
- What behaviors did you find most challenging with your last dog?
- What is your experience with crate training?
- How do you plan on socializing your dog?
- How important is it that your dog get along with other animals?
- What behaviors are you looking for most from a new companion?

DOG BEHAVIOR QUESTIONS

- How comfortable are you with houstraining? (Even houstrained dogs are going to take time to adapt to new environments and schedules.)
- How do you plan on training your dog?
- How do you plan to introduce your new dog to your resident animals?
- What's your plan if the animals do not get along right away?

For information on dog behavior, check out this link to common behavior problems and other tips WHS has to offer: www.wihumane.org/behavior/ask-the-experts/dogs



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MAKING THE MATCH FOR CATS – OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS

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

When it comes to meeting with potential adopters, be thorough and patient. Initiate a conversation with potential adopters and ask open-ended questions rather than those that yield a yes or no response. Finding the right home may take time, but it's worth it!

ABOUT THE ADOPTER

- Tell me about your household – how many adults/children are in the home?
- What experience do you have with cats?
- Are there animals in the home now? If so, tell me about them (spayed/neutered, age, behavior, etc).
 - If the client has rehomed any animals, ask questions about why/how.
- What interests you about this cat?
- Why are you looking to adopt a cat?
- Do you have any allergies that you are aware of? If yes, how do you plan to manage them?

COMPANION PREFERENCES

- Where will you keep the cat when you are home? Away?
- How do you plan on exercising your cat?
- What behaviors did you find most challenging with your last cat, if applicable?
- How do you plan on socializing your cat?
- How important is it that your cat get along with other animals?
- What behaviors are you looking for most from a new companion?

CAT BEHAVIOR QUESTIONS

- What are you looking for in a cat?
- Do you prefer a cat who is declawed? Do you plan on declawing?
- How long do you plan to give your new pet to adjust to their new environment?
- How do you plan to handle any litterbox problems?
- How would you handle unwanted scratching or play biting?
- How do you plan to introduce your new cat to your resident animals?
- What's your plan if the animals do not get along right away?

For information on cat behavior, check out this link to common behavior problems and other tips WHS has to offer: www.wihumane.org/behavior/ask-the-experts/cat-behavior



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ADOPTER INFORMATION

For potential adopters to fill out.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Information:

- Phone: _____
- Email Address: _____

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:

Veterinary Clinic & Phone Number: _____

Alternate Contact: _____ Relation: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

I certify the above information is true and correct.

Signature of Adopter:

Date: _____



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SURRENDERING YOUR ANIMAL

If you've determined that the best option for your animal is to surrender them to the Wisconsin Humane Society, we are here to help.

Scheduling an Appointment

We ask that you set up an appointment to surrender your animal to ensure we have the resources to provide the best possible when they arrive.

When you contact WHS to surrender your animal, we will ask for some basic information about you and your pet, as well as offer resources to ensure you are aware of alternatives to bringing your animal to the shelter. Once you are on the list to surrender your animal, we'll do our best to schedule an appointment quickly.

Please call the campus nearest you for more information:

- Door County Campus 920-746-1111
- Green Bay Campus 920-469-3110
- Milwaukee Campus 414-431-6115
- Ozaukee Campus 262-377-7580
- Racine Campus 262-554-6699

Day of the Appointment

Bring the following items with you to your appointment:

- Any veterinary records you have for the animal
- A list of any medications or supplements your pet may be on
- A photo ID, such as a driver's license, state ID, or passport
- Any other items you would like to donate for shelter use.
 - Please note, that if you donate any items at the time of surrender, these items are distributed for shelter use. In the event you change your mind and choose to redeem your animal, WHS is unable to return these items.

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



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Service Fees

We do ask for a fee at the time of surrender to help offset the cost of caring for your animal; however, if you cannot afford the fee, please let the team member you're working with know and they will work with you to reduce or waive the fee.

<u>Species</u>	<u>One Animal</u>	<u>Two or More Animals (fee for group)</u>
Dog	\$40.00	\$75.00
Cats	\$40.00	\$75.00
Rabbits	\$30.00	\$55.00
Small Animals	\$20.00	\$35.00
Exotics	\$75.00	No group discount

Shelter Pathing

During your animal's stay, they will receive medical and behavioral support as warranted by the individual animal.

While WHS works hard to meet the needs of all animals, there are situations when we may be unable to support an animal in our adoption program. Anyone who surrenders their pet to WHS will be notified (unless you request otherwise) if we are unable to place them into our adoption program, giving you the opportunity to reclaim your animal and try alternative methods for finding them a new home. WHS never euthanizes animals due to time constraints nor space limitations. You can find more information about our outcome decision making process here: www.wihumane.org/about-us/faqs