

Transferring Ownership: Things to Consider

Life can be unexpected, and for some, situations that can't be helped may arise where there is a need to have someone else assume care of a pet. Finding a responsible friend or relative who would agree to serve as an emergency caregiver or take over guardianship in the event of something unexpected happening can be an extremely valuable safeguard to have in place.

Entrusting the care of your pet to a guardian versus an organization.

Sometimes rescues and humane organizations do not have the space, resources or funding available to care for a certain pet, or perhaps they cannot guarantee that someone will adopt the animal in question. Furthermore the shelter environment can be very stressful! For instance, dogs in a shelter are exposed to a variety of stressful events: the place is novel and often extremely noisy; the feeding and walking routine is likely to be quite different from what the dog is accustomed to; the dog has no control over what happens to them; and moreover, the dog is probably experiencing distress over being separated from those with whom they were attached. Some animals experience separation anxiety within minutes of the departure of their handler, manifesting in excessive vocalization, destructive behaviour and even house soiling issues. A stressed pet is more prone to becoming ill and acquiring infectious diseases that might be present at the shelter. Additionally behavioural and psychological issues can also arise.

Placing a pet directly into a home removes many of those stressful factors.

When arranging care of your pet here are some things to consider in order to ensure that the arrangement is a successful one for you, your pet and the guardian.

- If possible, keep pets who are bonded with each other together.
- Arrange how to stay in touch with the caregiver for instance through emails, phone calls, webcam.
- Provide copies of the pet's veterinary records and information about the behavior traits and dietary preferences.
- Provide the animals' veterinarian, pet insurance company and microchip company with the new guardian's contact information.
- Discuss with your guardian how financial care will be provided for your pets.
- Use our Pet Guardian form on the following pages, which was put together to help walk pet parents through several things they need to think about when rehoming an animal themselves.



PET-PARENT INFORMATION

Pet-Parent #1: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Emergency Contact information

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Relationship: _____

ABOUT YOUR PET(s)

Pet's name: _____

Age: _____

Gender: _____

Spayed/Neutered:

- Yes
- No

What does your pet like most:

What does your pet like least:



DIET

What brand and type of food is your pet is fed? _____

How much? _____

How often? _____

Anything else that should be known about its diet? _____

BEHAVIOR & SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

How often would you like updates? (Phone, email, pictures, video chat):

Describe your pet's personality:

Has your pet ever nipped or bit anyone? If yes, please explain:

Does your pet have separation anxiety?

- Yes
- No

Is there any person, other animal, or environment that makes your pet uncomfortable? If yes, please explain:

How often does your pet need to go outside? What times and for how long?



Which commands does your pet know?

- Sit
- Down
- Stay
- Come
- Leave it
- Go to crate

Tick all that apply for your pet:

- Crate trained
- Escaped a crate/door (if checked, explain):

- Climbed/Jumped fences (if checked, explain):

- Eaten foreign objects (if checked, explain):

HEALTH HISTORY

Is your pet on any medications? If yes, list the name, how much to give, how often and for how long:

Does your pet have any known allergies (include food, other)? If so, list:



Do you have pet insurance for your pet? If yes provide pet insurance information:

Has financial care for your pet been arranged? _____

Is your pet up-to-date on vaccinations? _____

When are they next due? _____

What else do you think your pet's guardian should know?

CHECKLIST

- Has your veterinarian been provided with your pet's guardian information
- Food
- Toys
- Pet carrier
- Vaccine records
- Clothing
- Bedding
- Treats
- Medications
- Bowls

