



The decision to surrender an animal is a difficult experience. However, life is unpredictable and there may be times when a change in circumstance means you may no longer be able to care for your pet. Before surrendering your cat or dog, please consider the advice below.

## Exhausted all options?

The Lost Dogs' Home is an open shelter. This means we accept any cat or dog regardless of their health or temperament issues.

While we do our best to rehome all cats and dogs, there are times where this is not possible. The main considerations are the health and temperament of your pet.

**An appointment must be made to surrender your pet. Please email [reception@dogshome.com](mailto:reception@dogshome.com) or call 03 9329 2755**

## NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR A PET?

When home alone for extended periods, a dog can suffer from boredom and become destructive (e.g. digging holes, chewing objects, etc.). Consider:

- **Purchasing enrichment toys.** Interactive enrichment toys which provide mental stimulation for pets. *Kongs* and treat balls are great. Pets love playing with them to receive the treats placed inside the toy. Regularly rotate these toys to avoid boredom.
- **Encourage digging in a place you choose.** Buy a toddler wading pool and fill it with sand. Encourage your dog to dig here by hiding treats/toys in the sand.
- **Hire a dog walker.** Can a neighbour, family member or friend walk your dog? There are many local professional dog walkers who could provide the mental and physical stimulation your pet needs. *Some councils provide free dog walking service for pension and health care card holders.*
- **Take your dog for an off-lead run.** 15-20 minutes of free running can help your dog release energy. Squeeze in a trip to the local dog park or the beach before work. Your dog will be less likely to resort to destructive behaviour.

## BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS

Behavioural issues are inconvenient and challenging, but can usually be resolved with positive reinforcement training. Please consider the following:

- **See the vet.** Consult your vet or book a behavioural consultation with a member of our team. The team at Frank Samways Veterinary Clinic can give you further information on behavioural consultation. Please phone (03) 8379 4498.
- **Ask a behavioural expert.** If medical issues have been ruled out, get in contact with a qualified animal/veterinary behaviourist. Frank Samways Veterinary Clinic now holds specialist behavioural consultations. An individualised diagnosis and treatment plan can be prepared.

## TAKING AN EXTENDED HOLIDAY

If you are planning a holiday, check if pet-friendly accommodation is available.

If travelling with your pet is not possible, consider asking a trusted family member or friend to stay at your place while you are away, or look into using the services of a reputable boarding facility or pet sitter.



## TIP: PET RESUME

Include the following information on a pet resume:

- Name
- Breed
- Age
- Council registration details
- Vaccination status
- Any evidence of training
- Your pet's grooming requirements
- Mention if they are microchipped or desexed
- It might help to include if you have completed training for your pet and its health condition.

## MOVING OVERSEAS

It may be possible for you to take your pet if you move overseas. This depends on factors including the type of animal and country where you will be living. This will take considerable time and funds to organise, but is an option to keep the family together.

## RENTING AND PETS

In 2018, changes to the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 removed this as a limitation for the vast majority of renters.

Despite these changes coming into effect, it is worth asking the real estate agent or landlord directly, as it's best to get permission and avoid future issues.

Allow your potential landlord to meet your pet, create a pet 'resume' (see  tip), and provide a reference from a previous landlord, vet or dog trainer.

## PRIOR TO SURRENDER

Before surrendering your pet consider:

- **Have you reached out to all relevant rescue groups?**

A shelter can be a highly stressful environment for any pet. Before surrendering your pet to our shelter, we suggest you contact rescue groups and alternative animal welfare organisations. There are many rescue groups around, both general and breed specific. Attached is a list of rescue groups that we urge you contact before surrendering your pet to our shelter.

- **Can you rehome your pet to family, friends or co-workers?**

This option is beneficial for all involved as you know where your pet is going and you can help introduce your pet to their new home.

As The Lost Dogs' Home is an open admission shelter, we will never refuse to take a surrendered dog or cat into our care, however we are a not-for-profit organisation with limited resources.

It may be worthwhile conducting an internet search for animal rescue groups in your area. Petrescue.com.au has a national rescue directory.

## AT THE TIME OF SURRENDER

If you have exhausted all possibilities and still have to surrender your pet, please come prepared.

You can arrange an appointment by calling 03 9329 2755 during business hours. You will need to complete a surrender form prior to your appointment. Our staff will discuss the details you have provided on this form, so please allow a minimum of 30 minutes for your appointment. Please ensure you bring:

- Your pet (dogs on lead, cats in carry cage/box)
- Your completed surrender form
- All relevant medical certificates or forms, e.g. desexing, vaccination or microchip information

The more details you provide, the better chance your pet will have of rehoming your pet to a suitable family/owner. However, keep in mind that we cannot guarantee the rehoming of your pet.



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Since our official opening in 1913, we have been a voice for animals without owners caring for thousands of cats and dogs each year. Pioneers for fair animal laws, we continue to work on the front line to reduce the number of lost, abandoned and stray cats and dogs.

We rely on public support to run services and programs, including: proactive adoption, foster care, behaviour rehabilitation, low cost desexing and microchipping, and the promotion of better pet ownership through education.