



We have a saying here that "re-homing a dog is easy, re-homing a dog WELL is very difficult"

There is a common misconception when it comes to finding a good home or a rescue space for your dog(s) that, if and when the time comes, it will be quick and easy. Unfortunately due to the overwhelming amount of dogs currently in circulation in this country, this only applies to the very few. For the majority, the task becomes a much more challenging one than is often envisaged.

As a small rescue, we are usually too full with strays that we collect to be able to help with any private re-homes but we find ourselves giving advice on an almost daily basis for people that need to find somewhere new for their pet(s) for whatever reason.



The first piece of advice that I often give is to review your own situation and if there is any conceivable way that you can keep your dog, even if you have to change certain aspects of your life to do so, do it. If the reason is behaviour based, seek at least one consult from a professional to get their opinion, you will often find that it is a lack of understanding with regards to our dogs that see a communication breakdown. A professional with a balanced view may see obvious reasons for any issues that you may have been experiencing or equally may advise you that the animal is not suitable to be re-homed. If this is a route you choose to pursue and want some advice on finding the right help, please get in touch as getting the wrong help is as bad, sometimes even worse, than getting no help at all.

If there is no conceivable way in which you can keep the dog and re-homing is the only way forward then here is my advice;

When approaching this task, come at it like a project, something akin to selling your house and adjust your mind set to what could possibly be a very long process and one you may have to work very hard at to achieve the end goal. If you do not, you will find yourself compromising and putting the future health of your dog(s) in jeopardy though equally I understand that sometimes, speed is of the essence.

Create a portfolio/folder of your dog(s), do a write-up about your dog(s) and take lots of good quality, flattering pictures and video footage capturing the dogs good sides – sitting, giving paw, giving puppy dog eyes etc. and enhance these with a decorative border or add some music etc. to make them stand

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out when using them to promote your dog(s). When re-homing a dog, you often need to look for a unique 'selling point', this can be a dogs age, going for cuteness when young or sympathy when old, it can be the dogs fur or face or a wall eye, something that makes the dog(s) stand out from the masses. Try and encompass this 'selling point' in your pictures, video and write-ups.

A dog that is up to date with all vaccinations, kennel cough inoculated, micro-chipped, neutered, flea treated and wormed will both be more beneficial to the dogs health and more attractive to a potential GOOD owner. Offering peripheral products such as leads, beds, toys etc. will also help a little. To ensure a good, lasting home, you MUST be honest with a perspective owner about any flaws the dogs is deemed to have BUT you do not need to include these in any promotion work you do for your dog, as these are merely for drawing interest in your dog(s).

With PORTFOLIO at the ready you can now start the promotion. I would advise a two-pronged approach, seeking a rescue space whilst also promoting the dog privately.

Rescues

For non-cross breed dogs, you will have the advantage of approaching breed-specific rescues, a search in your internet browser will often bring up pages and pages of results though for me, the best place to start looking is on the 'Kennel Club Rescue Directory' which can also be viewed online as well as in print. If cross bred then a search in the same directory under mixed breed/miscellaneous rescues will bring up a good number to approach before throwing it open to the rest of the internet. What I would say is do not be put off making contact with any of the rescues if they are not local, people and organisations in the dog-world will often have a network of contacts all over the place.

If you are lucky enough to have found/been offered a space at a rescue, do not accept it at face value, do your research on the organisations/individuals and make sure you are comfortable that they are legit and that their working practices are ethical and that you are happy to be placing your dog with them. Prepare a list of questions prior that will help you get answers to these points for instance, do they own kennels or use foster homes, how long will they keep a dog for and what are their re-homing procedures? etc. You know what they say about ASSUMPTION.

Private Re-Homes

Using the promotional material that you now have on your dog, as well as seeking a rescue space you can simultaneously promote your dog(s) as available for re-homing by whatever means are available to you. The internet is your best friend for this with all social media and other dog related sites as well as the old fashioned ways such as cards in shops, paper ads etc.

Logic tells us that the more you promote, the more interest you will get back. We offer a service ourselves where we can promote your dog on our own pages and website for a small fee and direct interest straight to you to complete the re-home process.

Once you start getting interest, it is the work that you are now prepared to put in that will weed out all the unsuitable offers of a home. I would initially only offer an email address for contact purposes until you are down to the decent, genuine and suitable offers. Any fee that you are asking will only prove to be a deterrent if you are not putting in place any other safety measures, you must not rely on this solely as a deterrent to unscrupulous folk. You can find equally as good a home offering the dog free of any charge IF YOU HAVE PUT IN ALTERNATIVE SAFETY NETS.



REHOMING YOUR OWN DOG(S)

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An entire dog can be used for breeding and I would not re-home a dog that is not neutered as you want to eliminate people seeking a dog for these ends after all this is your beloved pet not a 'cash-cow'. However, the dog should be fully recovered, mentally as much as physically from any operation BEFORE being re-homed – usually 3-4 months in my opinion. I would recommend that the dog IF NOT ALREADY SO is micro-chipped by yourselves and that of any monies you ask, you make it clear that a relevant sum of that fee will go to updating the chip into the new owners details including name, address, contact numbers, email address etc.

Whether you do this prior to the dog leaving or after a trial period, is your own choice though if the latter, ensure that all current details are yours and all up to date. I would also seek to do either a home-check or at the very minimum, ask for a reference off their local vets that they are fit and proper pet owner(s). An unscrupulous individual will often be put off by these measures whereas a decent home will have nothing to hide. It may greatly reduce the amount of proper interest in your dog but it's all about quality not quantity at this stage.

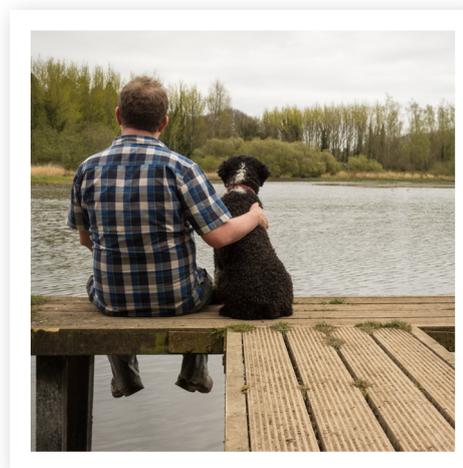
If you are lucky enough to find a suitable home, then offering a back-up system to the prospective owner(s) will help your cause and make them feel at ease also should anything go wrong for instance a set period of time where they are able to return the dog.

This is a guide only based on ALL BREEDS of dog. Unfortunately, we live in times where certain maligned breeds of dog, even applying all of the above, are nigh on impossible to re-home or find a rescue space for in a short to medium time frame BUT if you have allowed yourself plenty of time and are prepared, you can make it happen without compromising. I'm afraid that there is currently no answer for those who are pushed for time that doesn't include lots of time and effort, ringing around, searching the internet and ultimately compromising on where your pet ends up... this is just a sad reflection of the times we live in.

We can not stop the unscrupulous, but we can help those we want to do what's best by their dog(s).

Wishing you all the very best of luck and hope that this has helped a little in your quest to place your dog successfully.

Ian Webb // Proprietor
Dun-Roamin' Dog Rehoming



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