

## Returning a Pet to OMHS

OMHS will always take back an animal that was adopted from us. Please contact us if you can no longer care for your pet.

We take animals in by appointment only, as we have limited space and resources. Please call 905-845-1551 ext. 156 or email us, [ar@omhs.ca](mailto:ar@omhs.ca), to speak with our staff about returning your pet, and to make an appointment.

We make the appointments for weekdays, between 10am and 7pm. Exceptions are made on a case by case basis.

There is an adoption receiving fee. This is based on your animal's species, whether it is spayed or neutered and vaccination status. You will be informed of the fee when you contact us to make an appointment. This fee goes toward caring for your pet while they are with us. You should make sure that your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date before surrendering, since we do house so many stray and lost animals. There is always a risk of illness in a shelter environment.

All animals brought to the OMHS must be properly restrained (that is, on a leash or in a carrier).

The decision to surrender your pet is a permanent one. Once you have surrendered your animal, it becomes the property of the OMHS. We realize that surrendering your pet is an emotional decision which you have made for a good reason. It would not be responsible of us to return an animal to someone who has told us that they are unable or unwilling, for whatever reason, to provide care for their animal.



## Questions to ask yourself...

The decision to give up a companion animal is a difficult one. At the Oakville & Milton Humane Society we are here to help you explore all possible options so that you can keep your animal, but we recognize that sometimes, giving up your companion is the best option — for you and for your pet.

Before you decide to give up an animal, ask yourself:

### Training?

If the challenge you are experiencing is related to your pet's behaviour, is it something that possibly could be helped with training or by speaking with a trainer? The OMHS can be a resource to understanding your pets behaviour problems.

### Medical care?

If the problem is health-related, is it something that your veterinarian may be able to help you with? Sometimes behaviour problems have a medical origin you can't easily see. An exam by your vet can be very helpful.

### Allergies?

If you are suffering from animal allergies, are there steps that you can take to help control your allergies?

### No time?

If you are concerned that you simply don't have enough time to spend with your companion animal, could you hire a pet sitter to (or dog walker if it's a dog) to help out? Most mature pets are happy to stay at home if you can get a little help with your busy schedule.

### Be honest...

If your pet has a chronic health problem or one or more serious behaviour issues, is it realistic to expect that another person will be more willing or able to deal with these problems? Is it fair or safe to re-home your pet to another family?



## Re-homing your Pet



*Tips on how to properly re-home your animal and how to prevent this from happening in the future.*

**Adoption Receiving**  
**[intake@omhs.ca](mailto:intake@omhs.ca)**  
**905-845-1551 ext 156**



## Giving up your Pet



The decision to give up your pet is a difficult one. The Oakville & Milton Humane

Society is here to help you explore all possible options so that you can keep your animal, but we recognize that sometimes, giving up your companion is the best option – for you and your pet.

Our shelter has a finite number of cages and we cannot safely house more animals than we have cages. Due to limited space, we give priority to animals from the Oakville and Milton area. If you live outside our service area please contact the shelter in your municipality.



If you are from our area and we are currently full you may be added to our wait list. We take each individual situation into account and try to help find solutions as fast as we can.

Please contact our Adoption Receiving department at 905-845-1551 ext 156 or [intake@omhs.ca](mailto:intake@omhs.ca) to discuss

*your options and the next steps.*



## Finding a Responsible Home for your Pet

We encourage pet owners to try and find a responsible new home for their pet themselves, before they consider surrendering their animal to our shelter (unless adopted from OMHS).

If you are able to place your animal into a new home on your own, the OMHS recommends you take the following steps:

- If a purebred cat or dog contact the breeder to see if they are able to take the animal back
- Advertise through friends, family, social media, neighbours and local veterinarians
- Create a poster with a picture and positive write up. Post at OMHS, grocery stores, pet stores and vet clinics
- Post an ad in your local newspaper
- If you can no longer live with your pet but still need to find him/her a home there is always the option of boarding the animal temporarily at your vet clinic or boarding facility
- If your pet has a chronic serious health problem or is quite elderly be realistic about the chances of finding him/her a home. Talk to your vet about the advisability of re-homing your pet.

Things to consider when finding your pet a new home:

Be honest about your pet, and why you must re-home him/her. It is not fair to your pet to send him/her to a new home with false expectations of its behaviour or medical requirements.

Ask questions:

- *What are the new family's expectations of your pet?*
- *Has the family had pets before? What happened to them?*
- *Are their current pets vaccinated and fixed?*
- *How often will the cat's litterbox be cleaned?*
- *Are the parents willing to supervise the children to make sure small animal (hamster, rabbit, etc) receive appropriate care?*
- *Does anyone in the household have allergies?*
- *Are the new owners thinking of moving soon? If so, will they take their new pet with them?*
- *Will the pet be kept inside or outside?*

Visit the prospective home. As the caregiver of an animal, it is up to you to ensure your pet goes to a responsible, caring home that is able to meet it's needs.

Ask for valid identification and adoption fee. Keep a record, along with a contract signed by both of you, outlining the requirements you both agreed upon and transfer of ownership. Be available if the new home needs help in the first few weeks and be realistic that if it isn't working out they may ask you to take the pet back.

Spay or neuter your pet before sending it to the new home. This makes your pet more adoptable and increases the chances of staying in the new home.

**Do not be afraid to say no. You have a responsibility to your pet to find him or her a good home.**

