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NEED A NEW HOME FOR YOUR EXOTIC PET?

RESOURCES TO HELP RE-HOME YOUR EXOTIC PET.

OTHER TIPS

- Prepare the pet by grooming it and taking it to a veterinarian. People tend to be drawn to clean and well-cared-for pets.
- If there is equipment needed for the pet such as terrariums or heat lamps for reptiles or pens for rabbits, make sure the cage is clean and ready to go.
- Get together the vet records that you have for the pet to give to the new owner.

HOW TO FIND A RESCUE:

- There are many rescues operating in the Maryland area that are species specific.
- **The Maryland Pet Gazette** lists many local rescues; you can look in their publication or on their website at: mdpetgazette.com.
- **Adopt-A-Pet in Maryland** has an extensive list of rescues in the Maryland area on their website: <http://www.adoptablepets.net/mdpets.html>
- You can also do your own research; search engines such as google are fantastic tools. For example, you can enter "rabbit rescues, md" and go to the websites of the rescues that search gives you. There are also many rescues listed on petfinder.com.
- What to watch for when selecting a rescue:
 - The rescue should be willing to let you see where the animals are kept, be it in a facility or a foster home.
 - They should be willing to discuss the care that your pet will receive, including vet care.
 - They should answer questions about how their adoption program works: the way they screen applicants, etc.
 - Do they provide educational materials? Do they provide follow-up support post-adoption?



Spending a few days can make a difference.

HOW TO FIND A NEW HOME...

Urban adoption centers and shelters take in thousands of pets annually for people. Many exotic animals such as reptiles, small mammals and birds have very specific care needs that many shelters cannot meet. For many exotic animals, the best solution is having people work to “re-home” their pet on their own.

Below is a list of ideas on how to find your pet a new home.

- 1. Friends & Family** – Contact everyone and ask them to help you find a home for the pet. The #1 way pets enter peoples’ lives is from being found or given to them from friends/family.
- 2. Print Flyers and take out an ad** – The handout should include information about the animal – its age, size, appearance, and a PHOTO. Describe his/her personality by listing traits you like. Then include your name and phone number so someone can call you. Make the ad fun to read.
- 3. Contact rescues, and see if they are able to help you and your pet.** These species specific groups tend to house pets in foster homes while they look for adopters and are more able to deal with the specific needs of your exotic pet. (see backside of this flyer for tips on finding a rescue.)
- 4. Try Online Classified sites** (ex. Craig’s List - <http://baltimore.craigslist.org/pet/>.) Make sure you are clear about any needs that your pet has in terms of care or necessary equipment. The Maryland SPCA has a rehoming website that you can utilize at: mdspca.org.

FIND A GOOD HOME/NOT JUST ANY HOME

You care that your pet makes it to a good permanent home, so now you must “screen” the callers. Asking some key questions will help in this, but be sure you have a conversation with the person and not an “interview” because you will get more from the exchange. Ask things like this...

- *Is this pet for you or someone else?*
- *Is it ok to have pets in your home/apartment/condo?*
- *Does your area require a permit to own this species of pet?*
- *Have you had pets before?*
- *Have you researched this species of pet? Many exotic pets need special vet care that is more specialized and therefore may be more expensive. In home care may be complicated as well. For example, reptiles have temperature and humidity requirements.*
- *Do you feel able to meet its particular needs for care? Exotic pets may need food bought from specialty stores or from the produce sections of the grocery store.*
- *Do you have any children? Exotics, such as birds and snakes, can be delicate and need careful handling.*
- *Are you willing to have me visit?*
- *What do you plan to do if the pet doesn’t work out for you?*

NOW MEET THE PEOPLE

You can go to their home or have them come to your home, but the safest way is to meet in a “neutral” spot and bring the pet with you. What you want out of this step is to see: How does the person interact with your pet? Did they bring additional people? Is everyone there who needs to be? Ask additional questions – be sure they aren’t going to sell your pet!

If you are not okay with the interaction, feel pressured, or have doubts, don’t proceed! Keep looking for someone!

COMPLETE THE “RE-HOME”

Once you have decided, then prepare the pet and gather what you need. Meet at an agreed-upon time and turn over the pet. You are giving up ownership: provide the person with all veterinary records, take toys and any food or medications, and provide good behavioral information.

TIME TO DEVOTE

- Try to devote a month to finding a new home...it will take a bit of work. Continue to try your friends and family as you place ads and seek out the right new owner.
- If you are unable to find a new home for your pet, do not abandon him/her in the woods, parking lot, or anywhere. This is illegal and can lead to horrific outcomes; go to your local animal shelter.

