

The Franklin County Department of Animal Care and Control
Shelter Diversion Program
614-525-5442

The Franklin County Department of Animal Care and Control will never turn a pet owner away if they truly have no other option than to surrender their dog to the shelter. However, it is important for all pet owners that are thinking about surrendering their pet to the shelter to understand this information:

- The Franklin County Department of Animal Care and Control takes in over 11,000 dogs a year.
- A shelter is a very stressful environment for any animal and they typically display behavior that is not indicative of their true temperament.
- A dog may be friendly and loving with their owner, but in a stressful environment the dog may show signs of aggression.
- The Franklin County Department of Animal Care and Control cannot re-home (adopt out) dogs that display any aggression.
- The Franklin County Department of Animal Care and Control has to euthanize thousands of dogs every year, some of which may have been perfectly adjusted in a non-stressful environment.
- You should only surrender your dog to the Franklin County Department of Animal Care and Control if you have exhausted every other safe and humane method of parting with your animal.

Listed below are some options to help you to either keep your pet or to safely re-home your pet without having to surrender your dog to a shelter. Please investigate all applicable options prior to surrendering your pet to the Franklin County Department of Animal Care and Control.

- Food:** If you are having trouble affording food, you checked with the shelter and CentralOhioPitSavers.org/food.htm (or call 614-525-5442) for free food.
- Moving:** If you need to move, you checked for pet-friendly housing here: CentralOhioPitSavers.org/housing.htm (or call 614-525-5442)
- Behavior problems:** If your pet is having behavior problems, you contacted the Shelter Diversion Program for help (call 614-525-5442).
- Financial issues:** If you have financial difficulties that are affecting your ability to care for your pet, you contacted the Shelter Diversion Program for help (call 614-525-5442).
- Tried to rehome the pet yourself:** You checked with all of your family and friends to see if anyone can temporarily or permanently house the pet.
- Contacted “no kill” rescues:** You checked with “no kill” rescues to request that they take your pet. The list of rescues you should check with include, but are not limited to, the rescues listed here: CentralOhioPitSavers.org/really.htm.

I understand that the Franklin County Department of Animal Care and Control cannot guarantee that my dog will be rescued or re-homed. I understand that once surrendered, if my dog displays aggressive or dangerous behavior while at the shelter, or has a medical or psychological condition that shelter staff determines would make the animal unfit for re-homing, my pet will be humanely euthanized.

Print Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____