

Before you surrender your dog, please understand that there are several reasons why a dog may not be suitable for adoption.

- A dog that behaved well in your home may react very differently in a large dog shelter. It is not unusual for dogs to experience high stress levels upon entering a shelter. For some dogs this heightened stress persists or even increases over time.
- If during the behavioral evaluation given at intake, the dog displays dog or human aggression, it may be unsuitable for adoption or rescue. Humane euthanasia may be the only other option.
- A medical evaluation of your dog may turn up a condition that requires ongoing veterinary care beyond what the shelter can provide.

Please call **614-525-5581** to make an appointment to surrender your dog.

Franklin County Dog Shelter strongly encourages owners to directly re-home their dogs if they can no longer keep them. No one knows your dog as well as you. Who better than you to determine the best new home for your dog? Please help us save more dogs. Keep your dog, or if you can't, find it the best home possible.

Some suggestions for re-homing your dog:

- family
- church congregation
- coworkers and other business associates
- Reach out to nonprofit rescues (the Franklin County Dog Shelter can help with some ideas)
- Contact other shelters in the community to see if they can accept your dog at this time
- friends
- neighbors
- post at your veterinarian's office

Some suggestions when speaking with potential adopters:

- Ask for a veterinary reference and call to confirm.
- Be aware of not only your dog's safety, but your own safety as well, especially, if the perspective new adopter is a stranger.
- Get as much information about the perspective new adopter's home as possible regarding family members, ages, other pets, family activities, how many hours a day the dog will be alone, where the dog will live, in the house, in the yard, etc.
- Provide as much information about your dog, both good and bad, to the potential new adopter(s) as possible. Hiding poor behavior that you are aware of can be dangerous to both the new adopter and the dog, as the period of adjustment during re-homing can be stressful enough without surprises.

Additional helpful ideas can also be found at <https://hssm.org/owner-support/re-homing-a-pet/>.

If you wish to keep your dog, but need temporary assistance, the Franklin County Dog Shelter operates a dog food bank and the following organizations might be able to provide additional assistance:

- <http://www.centralohiopitsavers.org/>
- <https://ffbf-columbus.org/>
- <http://www.hospets.org/>

