HASS Resource: Supported Self-Rehoming

What is Supported Self-Rehoming? For various reasons, many people need or choose to rehome their pets. Often, people will bring their pets to the local animal shelter where they are 'surrendered' into their custody. The goal of supported self-rehoming is to provide pet owners with resources, connections and assistance to rehome their own pet, without that animal having to enter the custody of the animal services agency.

What is the (proven) hypothesis of this working group? Supported self-rehoming will keep animals out of the shelter system by providing assistance to owners who are in need of rehoming their pet.

What problem is SRH trying to solve? Around [36% of animals](#) entering shelters are owner surrenders. Many pet owners are willing to rehome their pets directly to another home, but may be unaware of the resources and tools available to rehome safely and successfully.. Self rehoming will also reduce shelter population therefore reducing illness, mental health decline, and space crisis.

Getting started: Assess your organization's rehoming goals, budget, priorities and staffing. There are existing rehoming tools available online, and evaluating those tools should be the first step in developing a supported self-rehoming program.

Resources and tools you need within your organization (people, things, documents)
Refer to [Rehoming Technology At-a-Glance](#) for a full comparison of tools available.
If choosing to implement Home to Home, a case manager will be needed to moderate the profiles. Partnerships with grooming services, low cost spay/neuter, and low cost wellness clinics can be helpful for an in-shelter supported self-rehoming program.

What does a successful supported self-rehoming program look like?
It depends on your budget and staffing resources. Ideally, your organization should see a reduction in owner surrenders through the use of this program. Promoting and increasing the visibility of pets that are in homes and available for adoption in your community will also ensure the success of your program.This can be done through your organization's website, social media platforms, community bulletin boards, etc

What are common challenges or obstacles to starting and running a supported self-rehoming program?
Increasing your community awareness is critical in the success of your program and it is important to include information about your program on your website, social media platforms, as well as through flyers posted on community bulletin boards for community members that may not always have access to the internet. For more information on how to increase awareness about your supported self-rehoming program, check out the Keeping Families Together

[Support Services Resource Guide](#). Many pet owners will search the internet and look through your website for helpful information on how to rehome their pet, so having online resources available is critical in reaching pet owners early in their rehoming journey.

What are the technology platforms that can be used to support this element?
GetYourPet.com
Home To Home
Rehome by Adopt-a-Pet.com
Social media including Facebook, Craigslist, NextDoor

FAQs

[REHOMING TOOL AT-A-GLANCE](#)

If I'm helping someone rehome a pet, should I ever intake the animal or does it always stay in the custody of the owner?
Ideally, you will not intake the animal. Providing supportive services to make it easier for community members to keep their pet during the rehoming process and/or showcasing how desirable their pets can be to new owners will make a huge difference and lead to more successful rehoming.

What if someone needs to surrender their pet and have it housed at the shelter during the rehoming process? Should I still let the original owner be part of the rehoming process?
This can vary depending on organizational structure, resources and local/state level laws.

How long does supported self-rehoming usually take?
There are many variables that will impact how long it takes for a pet to be rehomed. Some of those variables include the species and age of the pet, as well as how responsive the pet owner is to inquiries. The more time the pet owner can devote to rehoming their pet, the more likely it is that the pet can be successfully self rehomed. **Pet owners should start the self-rehoming process as soon as they know they need to rehome their pet. On average, it takes about 30 days to rehome a pet.**

Should the original owner use an adoption application or screening process?
We encourage pet owners to screen potential adopters by asking questions that will help them determine if the new home is a proper fit for their pet. Sample screening questions are available in the [PASS templates.](#) Additionally, you can refer to examples from the ***[KC Pet Project Rehoming Playbook](#)***
- ***[Cat Adoption Application](#)***
- ***[Dog Adoption Application](#)***
- ***[Transfer of Ownership Agreement](#)***

How should I handle a pet owner that is charging a rehoming fee?

Pet owners often charge a rehoming fee as a method to screen applicants. An opportunity exists to provide pet owners with information on how to screen adopters without a rehoming fee, and instead use quality conversations as the tool for finding a successful new home for their pet.

Available tools do not allow pet owners to charge a rehoming fee.

Can the shelter help the original owner do a meet and greet with the potential owner's pets or children?
This can vary depending on organizational structure, resources and local/state level laws.

Success Story:
Pima Animal Care Center Success Stories
https://docs.google.com/document/d/144jKn16luNCYdDDRBIXVLS5a-mkQK78kiuUcOTItOtQ/edit?usp=sharing

Greenville County Animal Care Services Success Stories
https://docs.google.com/document/d/167mDCkj0JcWRxPKBzcvJwwU0EWp42FpLnK-y1ynauCg/edit?usp=sharing

SAMPLE DOCUMENTS

- **Greenville Self-Rehoming using Home-Home - For Shelter Staff Use**
- **Positive Alternatives to Shelter Surrender (APA!'s PASS Program) Templates - For Shelter Staff Use (includes description and screening question examples)**
- *Rehome.adoptapet.com video tutorial - For Public*
- *Getyourpet.com Step-By-Step Guide - For Public*
- *KC Pet Project Rehoming Playbook*
- *Resources that should be provided to original owner*
    - *Cat Adoption Application*
    - *Dog Adoption Application*
    - *Transfer of Ownership Agreement*