

*Be Cautious...*

*Free Doesn't Necessarily  
Mean the Same as Rescue*



*Do Some  
Investigating*



Rightly or wrongly, there come times when it may be necessary to consider “giving away” your pet. But “giving away” your pet should be one of the last resorts because this act is far from being the same as placing the animal with a rescue organization or even an animal shelter.

Consider the following in terms of offering your “free pet”:

You Mean:

Go to a better home; no time for the pet  
Didn't do homework; got wrong breed; moving; no room  
Divorce; no animals in rental; new baby on the way

You're Perceived To Be Saying:

Get rid of quick; wonderful pet, but something's wrong  
No time/money for trainer

People See a Chance To:

Make an impulse decision; no thought as it's free!  
No commitment; no money required  
Mistreat in ways you wouldn't dream of...



Getting animals should be a life-long commitment. Getting an animal should not be a “fad” decision to “give up” in a few months or years. Dogs and cats are family members. Do you have room and time? Are you committed? Do you have the financial means to care for them if they become ill? If you buy instead of adopt, will you be able to afford to neuter and vaccinate?

**F**orget, frivolous

**R**emove, relinquish, rid

**E**xtrême, easy

**E**vade, escape, exit

**R**ehome, relish, responsible

**E**ncourage, emergency

**S**ave, safe

**C**aring, committed for animal's life

**U**nderstand, unselfish, undaunted

**E**fficient, endear, evaluate

The WBHR would encourage you to consider a rescue organization first if you must part ways with your animal. However, if you must give your pet away ask for a “rehoming fee” of \$75-100. You don't have to take the money when the new home is chosen, but make sure the home is serious. Check with area shelters to make sure the new family isn't on their *Do Not Adopt* list. Visit the new home; is it as they said it would be? Ask to contact their veterinarian to find out if they are a good family.

*Animal Shelters Not Always the Best Alternative*

Euthanasia: The act or practice of killing a suffering individual; esp. painlessly; relieve suffering from an incurable illness, for reasons considered merciful.



Look for 'No Kill' Shelters

More times than not, euthanizing in shelters isn't because of the above definition. It's because there's no room and the animal isn't receiving much adoption interest. They can even be a pure-bred breed, it doesn't matter. If their time is up, their time is up. That is not being unmerciful, but rather it is being forced to make a decision because others chose the wrong decision earlier in the animal's life. Pets are not disposable, even though many people see them as such. Make a difference, save a life, make a change by being one to “Opt to Adopt” and help by spreading the word to others to do the same.