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Why Rehoming? It is the responsible, ethical choice that the public expects

Setting Dogs up for Rehoming Success: Do they have what they need?

- **Space:** Complex, indoor/outdoor
- **Social interactions:** People, other dogs
- **Exercise:** Outdoor yard, leash walks, sports
- **Enrichment:** Toys, chew items, scents, sounds
- **Training:** Leash walk & basic commands (e.g. sit, come)
- **Ongoing socialization:** People, places, objects, sounds

Socialization = gradual, controlled, gentle exposure to various environmental stimuli (people, things, animals, places, and experiences) that results in a positive experience

Teaches what is safe and unsafe, appropriate behavioral responses, and social skills.

Lifelong socialization is the key to preventing problems related to fear, arousal or anxiety (see handout **BH-01**).

Challenges to Rehoming Success

- Unanticipated health care costs
- Global fearfulness due to new sounds, people, environment
- Lack of training
- Housebreaking challenges
- Finicky eating

Is this retired dog a candidate for rehoming?

Factors to consider:

1. **Age**
2. **Welfare status**
 - Is the dog healthy?
 - Does the dog have any genetic issues?
 - Does the dog have any behavioral issues?
3. **What training and transition support is needed?**
 - Low stress handling
 - Acclimation to home environment
 - Positive, reward-based training
 - Social facilitation via other friendly dogs

Note: must consider individual preference for other dogs

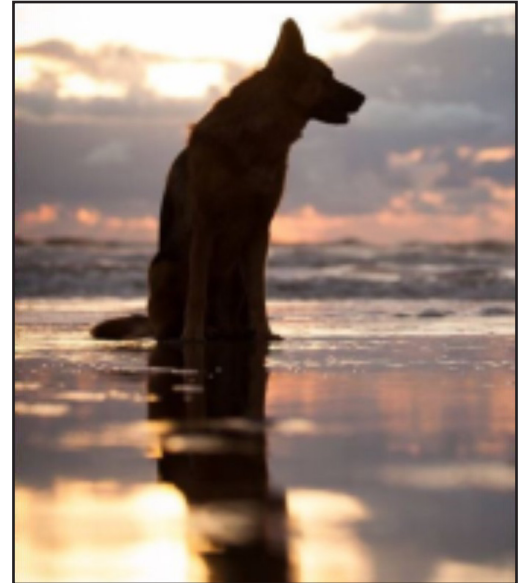


Transitioning from Kennel to Home

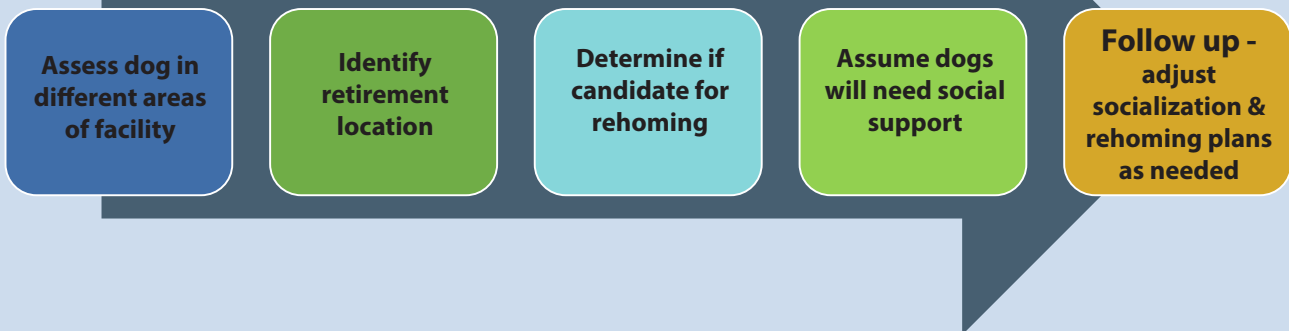
- Knowledgeable, prepared rehabilitators and owners
- Low stress handling
- Acclimation to home environment. Ideal to simulate in kennel design.
- Social facilitation/stress buffering via other dogs. An outgoing, well adjusted, friendly dog can help a dog that is fearful or unsure - must first consider individual preferences for other dogs.

Special Needs of Retired Breeding Dogs

- Physical health monitoring
- Behavioral support
- One on one positive caretaker interactions
- Secure resting area
- Positive, reward-based training



Implementing a Retirement Plan



EUTHANASIA DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF CONVENIENCE.

Establish criteria:

Severe, poor prognosis for physical or behavioral health issues that result in ongoing poor quality of life

Take Home Messages

Successful retirement & rehoming is challenging
Requires planning and collaboration

Set dogs up for success early
Assess dogs early and often using criteria for both retirement and rehoming