





#### Benefits of Successful Rehoming

Successful rehoming can benefit all involved:

- Rehomed dog: Results in lower stress and improved welfare for dogs not coping well in a kennel environment
- New family: Creates the potential for a lifelong relationship between a retired dog and their new family
- Breeder: Is the responsible and ethical practice for fulfilling obligations to retired breeding dogs
- Dogs remaining in kennel: Retains available resources



## Management Practices that Support Successful Rehoming

**Space**: Complex, indoor/outdoor

**Social interactions**: People, other dogs

**Exercise**: Outdoor yard, leash walks, sports

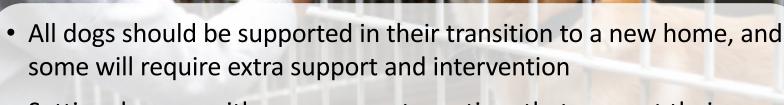
**Enrichment**: Toys, chew items, scents, sounds

Training: Leash walk & basic skills (e.g., sit, come)

Ongoing socialization: People, places, objects, sounds







 Setting dogs up with management practices that support their physical and behavioral welfare helps insure an easier transition and results in reduced need for extensive preparation for rehoming



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#### Who Can Potentially be Rehomed?

#### All retired dogs deserve the potential opportunity for rehoming!

- Rehoming potential is not determined by age, sex, or breed
- All dogs and puppies should be prepared for potential rehoming
- Rehoming candidates must be both physically and behaviorally healthy
- At the time of rehoming, evaluations can be used to assess a dog's match for rehoming

#### Dogs Who Are Not a Fit for Rehoming

- Not all dogs will be candidates for rehoming
- Consider potential for retiring in place at the kennel
- When interventions are not successful in preparing a dog for rehoming or retiring in place, identifying humane endpoints is also key in the protection of dog welfare
- Having dogs that are not good rehoming candidates indicates a need to re-evaluate management practices (e.g., genetic selection, maternal care, socialization of hold-back females, enrichment)



### What Can Inhibit Successful Rehoming?

- 1. Rehoming dogs without first evaluating their rehoming suitability
- 2. Not addressing minor or major behavior or health problems in dogs that could impact rehoming success
- 3. Waiting to prepare dogs for lives as companions until they are adults about to be rehomed
- 4. Ignoring the physical and psychological needs of dogs in the kennel
- 5. Inadequately screening rehoming organizations or new owners to ensure good welfare through the rehoming process



#### What Can Inhibit Successful Rehoming?

- 6. Not ensuring the successful matching between dogs and new families
- 7. Not preparing new families for what to expect in the rehoming process
- 8. Withholding information from new caretakers about a dog's physical health or behavioral history
- 9. Neglecting to educate new caretakers on creating behavioral wellness including the positive impacts of participation in training classes
- 10.Not protecting dog welfare throughout their lifetime (not ensuring they may always return to the kennel)

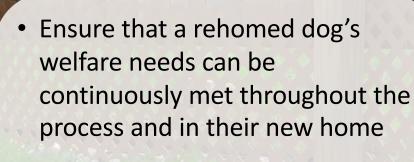




- Preparation for rehoming later in life should begin during puppyhood for all dogs and continue until rehoming
- Socialization, low stress handling, training, enrichment, interventions, acclimation to home environment through kennel design and management, and evaluations are key







 Share dog health and behavior records, along with supportive educational materials to set new families up for success



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### The Rehoming Process – Follow-Up

- Follow-up with new homes to evaluate rehoming success and make adjustments when needed
- Prepare to welcome dogs back to the kennel or find a new home match as needed when initial rehoming is not successful









## Seven Steps Towards Supporting Successful Rehoming

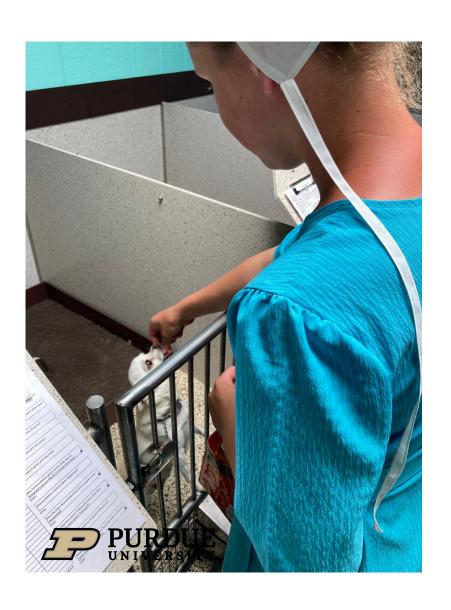
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Identify clear behavior and health criteria for evaluating successful rehoming candidates





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# Seven Steps Towards Supporting Successful Rehoming



Design interventions for dogs that may have developed minor or major problems that could impact rehoming success

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