

## How to Find a Rescue Pet

There are many different types of shelters that have rescue pets looking for forever homes. In most cases, the adoption process is similar. Most shelters will want to meet with you at least once, if not several times, to determine if you are a good fit for the pet. Your shelter can also help you determine what type or breed of pet is best for you.

Locally, Heartland Humane Society and Dakota Animal Rescue both offer various pets for adoption. Fish-n-Stuff is also known for taking in abandoned pets looking for forever homes.

Searching the internet can also help you look at the different types of pets available for adoption. Sites such as [humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org) and [aspc.com](http://aspc.com) offer searchable national databases, as do [petsmart.com](http://petsmart.com) and [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com). All offer a variety of species, breeds, sizes and ages.

For those looking to adopt a purebred or pedigreed pet, there are options available. For dogs, the American Kennel Club ([akc.org](http://akc.org)) has a listing of reputable purebred adoption organizations.

[Purebredcatrescue.org](http://Purebredcatrescue.org) and [purebredplus.org](http://purebredplus.org) specialize in finding forever homes for purebreds.

Whether you decide to adopt a rescue pet or choose a pet from a reputable breeder or pet store, your pet will turn your house into a home filled with love. Unfortunately, for many animal lovers pet ownership is not feasible. Fortunately, there are other ways individuals can help find forever homes for abandoned pets.

Sharing information about local shelters among your group of friends or through social media is a way to bring information about animals and shelters in need to others. It takes mere seconds to share the plight of a shelter animal or forward a photo of animals currently living in shelters. Sharing can improve the animals' chances of finding homes.

Shelters have limited resources and are more than happy to take both financial donations and donations of supplies. Many shelters accept towels, linens and other items that can be used to keep animals clean and comfortable.

Though many shelters pay their staff, many still need and rely on volunteers. Perhaps a shelter could use assistance cleaning out cages or walking dogs? Professionals with certain skills, such as accountants or office managers, may volunteer their services to keep the shelter running smoothly. Individuals who excel at event planning may be needed to organize fundraising events that put animals on display and encourage adoption.

*"Help control the pet population. Have your pet spayed or neutered."*

- Bob Barker

## Our Stories...

the following are rescue stories from staff at Yankton Media, Inc.

After losing our 14 year old dog Murphy, we knew we needed to have another dog around the house. But not just any dog. I didn't want to go through all the puppy chewing and training, plus I wanted a dog that would be good with my grand daughter. One evening, I saw Jeanette from Heartland Humane Society and she told me all about a dog they had at the shelter. "Moe" was a 4 year old male Shitzu they took in with his 2 brothers. I was interested and said I might stop by. The next morning, my husband woke me up to show me the front page story in the paper about the dogs available at HHS. He told me to go adopt the one in the photo! I stopped in, fell in love with the little guy, and took him home that night. Now called Buddy, he is a great companion to us, and is great with our grand daughter.



— Jeannine Economy

My husband and I bought our dog Kalel about 5 years ago at the little pet store in Yankton, Fish-N-Stuff. He was a rescue puppy from a litter that the owner had brought in because they wanted the dogs to go to loving families and not be euthanized. We were not looking to adopt a dog that day, but he was so sweet and when we found out he was born on the day I married my husband I knew we would not be leaving the store without him. He was the last one of his litter, and no one wanted him because he was so rowdy.

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