

Other Tips

- Prepare the pet by grooming him and taking him to the veterinarian. People tend to be drawn to clean and well-cared for pets.
- If there is equipment needed for the pet such as terrariums or heat lamps for reptiles, make sure all equipment is clean and ready to go.
- Get together the vet records to give to the new owner.



How to Find a Rescue

- There are many rescues operating in the New Jersey area that are species-specific.
- You can also do your own research, search engines such as Google are fantastic tools. For example, type in "Ferret Rescue, NJ" and go to the websites of the rescues that are listed. Petfinder.com also lists local rescues.

What to look for when selecting a rescue:

- The rescue should let you see where the animals are kept, be it in a facility or foster home.
- They should be willing to discuss the care that your pet will receive.
- They should answer any questions about how their adoption program works.

AWA can take in rabbits and small animals, but we are not equipped for reptiles and birds.

Why Support the Animal Welfare Association?

We serve our community through:

- Public pet clinic services — Low-cost spay/neuter and pet wellness. Over 13,000 in 2011.
- Saving thousands of homeless animals each year and adopting out 2,016 animals in 2011.
- Humane education activities for schools and youth groups.
- A Pet Assisted Therapy program that brings the comfort of animals to nursing home residents.
- An outreach for veterinary services, pet food, supplies and pet care for our county's towns.
- A No-Kill Shelter

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benefiting people.*



Looking to Find a New Home for Your Exotic Pet?



*Useful Resources
to Help Re-Home Your
Exotic Pet*



Animal Welfare Association



How to Find a New Home for Your Exotic Pet

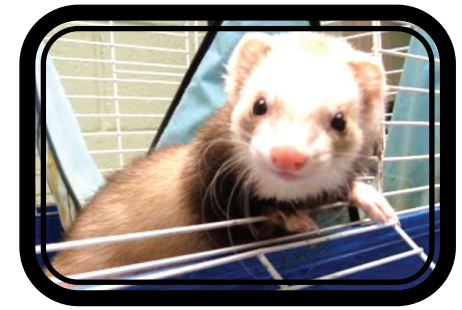
Shelters take in thousands of animals annually for people. Many exotic animals, such as reptiles, small mammals and birds, have very specific care needs that many shelters cannot meet. For many exotic animals, the best solution is having people work to rehome their pet on their own. Below is a list of ideas on how to find your pet a new home:

- **Friends & Family:** Contact everyone and ask them to help you find a home for your pet. The #1 way pets enter peoples' lives is from being given to them from friends/family.
- **Print Flyers & Take Out an Ad:** Include some information such as the pet's age, appearance, size, a photo and his personality. Include your contact information. Make the ad fun to read.
- **Contact Resources to See if They are Able to Help you:** These species-specific groups tend to house pets in foster homes while they look for adopters and are able to deal with the specific needs of your exotic pet.
- **Try Online Classified Sites:** (Craigslist.com, PetFinder.com) Make sure you are clear about the needs of your pet, in terms of care and necessary equipment.

Find a Good Home, Not Just Any Home

You care that your pet makes it to a good permanent home, so now you must "screen" the potential new owners. Asking some key questions will help in this. Be sure you have a conversation with the person and not an "interview" because you will get more from the exchange. Ask things like this:

- *Is this pet for you or someone else?*
- *Is it ok to have pets in your home/ apartment/condo?*
- *Does your area require a permit to own this species of pet?*
- *Have you researched this species of pet?*
Many exotic pets need special veterinarian care that is more specialized and therefore, may be more expensive. In-home care may be complicated as well. For example, reptiles have temperature and humidity requirements.
- *Do you feel able to meet his particular needs for care?*
Exotic pets may need food bought from specialty stores or from the produce section of the grocery store.
- *Are you willing to have me visit?*
- *What are you planning to do if the pet does not work out for you?*



Now Meet the People

You can go to their home or have them come to your home, but the safest way to meet is in a "neutral" spot and bring the pet with you. What you want out of this step is to see: How does the person interact with the pet? Did they bring additional people? Is everyone there who needs to be? Ask additional questions, be comfortable they will be able to provide a good home for your pet.

If you are not ok with the interaction, have doubts or feel pressured, do not proceed! Keep looking for someone.

Complete the Rehome

Once you have decided, then prepare the pet and gather what you need. Meet at an agreed upon time and turn over the pet. You are giving up ownership; provide the person with all veterinarian records, take toys and any food or medication, and provide good behavioral information.

Time to Devote

- Try to devote a month to finding a new home. It will take a bit of work. Continue to try your friends and family as you place ads and seek out the right new owner.
- If you are unable to find a new home for your pet, do not abandon him in a parking lot, woods, or anywhere. Go to your local animal shelter.