

## INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE SEEKING HELP WITH AN ANIMAL

Are you needing help with a stray dog or cat and feeling like there is nowhere to turn? We know. Houston and the surrounding areas have a massive problem with overpopulation of homeless pets and not enough safe places for them to go.

In a dream world, there would be shelters with plenty of space, tons of adoptions and donations, and plenty of spots to hold great animals until an adopter can be found. That does not exist.

All shelters and rescues across Houston are full and most shelters have to make tough decisions based on space and being full.

You'll notice we do not offer a phone number to reach us. This is because we would get thousands of phone calls about animals that we cannot help.

We have found that we have the GREATEST impact for the most animals if we continue to serve these specific, very desperate shelters: Pasadena Animal Shelter, Brazoria County Animal Control, and Waller County Animal Control.

Two of these shelters do not allow adoptions and they depend on rescue groups as the only outlet for animals.

These shelters serve extremely vulnerable animals outside of the Houston limits and do not have the same level of exposure, networking, or funding as some of the Houston shelters.

You may also see on social media that our teammates will often save desperate street dogs and strays if they have a plan in place for that animal as a small privilege of being a staff member (getting to choose who they save). Staff members are contacted about dozens of desperate dogs per day and are only able to help when the time is right and plan is in place to best serve the animal.

Three Little Pitties Rescue does not have a shelter to bring animals in off the streets. We must have a plan in place to safely bring animals in. The rescue does not have a government funded facility to house animals as city and county shelters do. All rescues desperately need more families willing to commit to fostering dogs. Oftentimes the rescue supplies everything needed.

SO - if Three Little Pitties Rescue already has dedicated sources of animals in need and cannot help you with the animal you have, then what should you do??

### **Here is our best advice and we hope that this helps:**

First - do not feel discouraged. We know it can feel overwhelming when you save a dog and then cannot find a place for it to go. At least you are trying! You are likely that dog's only hope. Bless you for trying to help it. Please don't give up! Something is bound to work out. Skip down to the "found a stray" section.

If you are looking to surrender your personal pet, I hope you will take this information into consideration and find a way to keep your commitment to your personal pet. There are already too many that need help and not enough homes. If you are moving and you need pet friendly housing, there are plenty of resources online to find this. If your pet needs training, there are even online training options that are very affordable, as well as free Youtube videos to get basic training ideas.

If you are wanting to rehome your pet based on a medical need that you cannot afford, we recommend you call multiple veterinary practices across your region, explain your situation, and ask if they can help. You can also ask your local shelters if they have a program to help. Fleas are not a medical issue and can be killed by simply giving monthly flea prevention. Call your local animal shelter and ask if they have a community program to help you if you are needing assistance. They will know the resources in your area.

**RESOURCE FOR LOW COST VET CARE AND TRAINING:** <https://gopah.org/>

[pets.findhelp.com](https://pets.findhelp.com) - Run by HASS and APA, can search by zip code and provides dog food pantry, medical, training, financial assistance, rehoming, etc.

<https://home-home.org/rehome/> - Will help individuals safely rehome their pets or post for temp or permanent fosters while they are posted and adopted.

### **Found a stray that you need help with?:**

First - thank you for advocating for an animal that needs you! Doing the right thing for an animal in need can be challenging. We know. Hang in there, and try what you can.

1. Get it checked for a microchip for free at any vet or shelter
2. Post photos of the dog on all local neighborhood and pet Facebook pages you can possibly find saying "found, looking for the owner". Hanging posters in the area helps as well.
3. If you cannot hold the dog at your house, it will need to go to a local shelter (closest shelter where pet was found so most likely able to be reunited with family). It is true, all area shelters are full, and most are having to euthanize based on being full.
4. If you are able to hold the dog at your house, reach out to all rescues you can find online via email and lead with "willing to foster and fundraise". Rescues do not get government funding, so they need your partnership to raise money for the medical care the dog will need.
5. Keep networking the dog on social media until a rescue is secured if you don't want to take it to a shelter. Maybe a friend or family member will see your posts and want to adopt the dog! People need to see if the dog is friendly with people and other dogs in

order to decide if they want to adopt. You have to “market” the dog to the best of your ability to make people fall in love! You might be surprised who may be willing to foster.

Seeking a shelter where the dog will not be in danger?

There is no such thing in this region, sadly.

The shelters are having to euthanize because our community has an issue of neglect. It is not the shelter’s fault that dogs and cats are overpopulated. It is the community’s fault.

**BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION:**

- Foster for your local rescue or shelter
- Donate to your local rescues
- Volunteer at your local shelter or rescue
- Adopt instead of purchasing from a breeder

We hope and pray that your found pet will be reunited with its owner or reach a new loving family soon (which may be YOU! 😊)