

## OWNER SURRENDER INFORMATION

Hi,

Thank you for contacting **Molly's Mutts & Meows** about the dog, cat, rabbit, etc. that you (sadly) want to surrender. Unfortunately we do not have our own boarding facility where we can take in animals. Honestly, even if we did, we would be full with the thousands of animals that from the LA City Shelters. The numbers they euthanize each day (up to 500) are staggering. Since so many people contact us for help, we have written this letter to provide you some helpful tips and an idea of what **Molly's Mutts & Meows** can and can't do for you.

### **For owner-surrenders:**

If you can keep the animal until a home is found or board him/her, we can list the animal on the [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) website, under **Molly's Mutts & Meows Animal Rescue**. These are courtesy listings. People may contact you directly or sometimes they still go through us in which case I'll forward the information. If you need help screening applicants we are glad to help. We can also recommend very good, reasonably priced boarding facilities as well. We prefer to use "cage-free" boarding as it is better for the animal, but we will suggest different options. It is BEST for the animal if you can keep him/her in a HOME environment. Cages cause significant stress for these animals which can lead to behavior problems.

You may have already given us this information but if not, we need to know if the age and breed of the animal, and if it is up to date on vaccines, spayed or neutered, and micro-chipped. Unless we are told otherwise, we check that the animal is ok with other dogs or cats and children. If the animal is not spayed or neutered **we need to know why and if there are plans to have it done**. We run a 501c3 non-profit group and will NOT have a hand in placing an un-altered animal in a home (barring medical reasons). We can suggest places to get affordable or even free spaying and neutering.

If you have not sent us a picture of the dog or cat you are relinquishing, please do so. A great picture is CRITICAL as we will put them on our website and petfinder.com. We like to lovingly call these photos "money shots." Please send the photos as a jpeg attachment. **A picture can make all the difference in finding a home.** Do not send a flyer or collage; we need individual photographs from a digital camera.

*(However, if you do have a flyer or collage printed, **POST THEM EVERYWHERE!** The more people see the animal that needs a home, the more likely you are to find the animal a new forever home.)*

Some tips for taking good pictures are:

- Take the shot at the dog or cat's eye level
- Do not use a flash
- Try to get a good background (a solid colored wall, grass, etc.)
- Try not to have people in the picture
- Try and have the dog smiling – a happy dog is always cuter!
- Take a few jpeg photos so we have a choice to use more than one photo on our site.

We require that you ask an adoption fee. This is non-negotiable. If you have incurred out-of-pocket expenses in caring for the dog or cat you may choose to keep it to off-set your expenses. If not, you can donate it to our non-profit group (**Molly's Mutts & Meows**). But this is a must. Again, **DO NOT GIVE AWAY YOUR ANIMAL FOR FREE, AND DO NOT SAY YOU ARE SELLING THE ANIMAL.** There are creeps who look for free dogs and cats to sell to research labs or fighting rings. Paying an adoption fee shows the people care enough to pay, and can afford to care for the animal. We suggest \$200 flat donation. I can also forward you a standard

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and thorough adoption contract you are free to use. I can also forward you an application form we use for screening purposes.

Every week I will send out an email to see if your animal still needs a home. If you don't reply, we will take the animal off the website. So please keep us updated as it will help immensely.

In some cases, we will allow you to show the animal with us at our adoption days too. We do require that the animal is friendly and won't bite. The risk of liability is too great for us if there is a chance your dog/cat is not good with people, other animals, etc. We ask that you take responsibility for showing the animal. We have volunteers to help you, but remember this is an animal that YOU committed to and our now relinquishing. You owe it to the animal to spend a few hours each weekend showing him/her to potential new, loving and FOREVER homes.

Please understand that we do this all the time, we've done it for years and we know what we are doing. We are offering our help and support and hope that you will take us up on it; if you've never placed an animal before there are so many things you could innocently miss in spite of everyone's best intentions. In the end, we all want the same thing: to see the animal in a wonderful **forever** home.

We hope this helps.

Best-  
**Molly's Mutts & Meows**



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