**Houston Pets Alive! offers these tips to help re-home your cat/dog:**

Here is what you need to post your cat/dog. Please follow these directions to the best of your ability. These questions should be used in your post to be able to market your pet online. (Also think about making flyers to hang up in coffee shops.) It is important to be honest with the potential new owners.

* What city are you in?
* Phone number
* Pet's name?
* Two very good photos (the cuter the better...clear pics, no red eye, not blurry!)
* How old?
* spayed/neutered?
* vaccinated?
* Any health or litter box issues?
* Social lap cat/dog or independent cat/dog?
* Personality info: Tell the public something cute or interesting about your cat/dog.

When you do posts, you will be the person that is contacted. You need to screen people carefully. Here's how:

Please make sure you get a vet reference, call to verify it and ask the vet's office if the people are responsible pet owners. The vet will not mind telling you!  If you get a good vet reference then that's a great sign, but if not.... RUN.  After that do a home check. Actually go to the person's home and see where your cat will be living. Make sure 40 other cats/dogs aren't already in residence, etc.  Ask questions: Will your cat/dog be indoors all the time or outdoors?

**Start close to home! Send out an email blast to literally everyone in your address book and then ask them to forward it and share. Send pics and beg for help! Google for No Kill rescues and contact them…send pics!**

**Nextdoor:** Join the Nextdoor app and post a plea with cute pictures there! Maybe some of your neighbors will be able to help.

**Facebook:** Post on your facebook page. Make your post public view and not set to friends only. State what city you are in. Insert your email address for contact. State if your cat is social with other cats and people.  Ask people to share your post and also place on any cat rescue facebook pages you can find. Just google for "Texas cat rescue facebook" and you will come up with several. You can also use [rescueme.org](http://rescueme.org/)  but DON'T use craigslist unless you plan to screen very thoroughly...it is VERY risky.

Most importantly, ALWAYS make sure you get a reference from anyone wanting your cat! Ask for a vet reference then call to verify it and ask the vet’s office if the people are responsible pet owners. Also do a home check! Go see exactly where your cat will be living and make sure it's a safe and responsible home. If people object to giving you a vet reference or you doing a home check DO NOT let them adopt your cat.

**GET CREATIVE!!** Got a sad or desperate situation? Use it in your title! Make your ad stand out! Cats are hard because there are so many of them so the more creative you are the better chance you give your cat. Example: “MY OWNER HAS TO TRAVEL BUT WON’T BUY ME A TICKET! HELP A KITTY OUT!!!” Inside the ad put cute pics and the behavior info on your cat, including whether or not it has been spayed/neutered and up to date on vaccines.

**USE GOOD PHOTOS!!**  Cat re-homing takes persistence and the first thing people see are the photos. Use clear photos...no red eye or blurry pics. Also, try one with your cat dressed up. It doesn't have to be fancy...a simple bandana or maybe a boa (bought at any party store for about $3) will add creativity and make your kitty stand out!

If you don't have time to do any of these things, and if you are in Harris County you can surrender to BARC at 3300 Carr St. BARC is a kill shelter and your animal may be at risk but they are working hard at adopting out as many of the animals as they can. You can also contact Friends for Life, which is a no kill shelter, but they have limited space and may or may not be able to help. The SPCA has a stringent screening process and euthanizes any animal that does not meet all their requirements. The Human Society and CAP4Pets both also euthanize, but you can explore the options to determine where you believe your pet will have the best chance.