

# Welfare Considerations in Rehoming Breeding Dogs

## Why rehome?

It is the responsible, ethical choice that the public expects

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## Challenges to Rehoming Success

- Unanticipated health care costs
- Global fearfulness
  - \* Lack of socialization
- Lack of training
- Housebreaking challenges
- Finicky eating

**Socialization= gradual, controlled, gentle exposure to various environmental stimuli (people, things, animals, places, and experiences) that results in a positive experience**

Teaches what is safe and unsafe, appropriate behavioral responses, and social skills.

Lifelong socialization is the key to preventing problems related to fear, arousal or anxiety.

## Setting Dogs up for Rehoming Success: Do they have what they need?

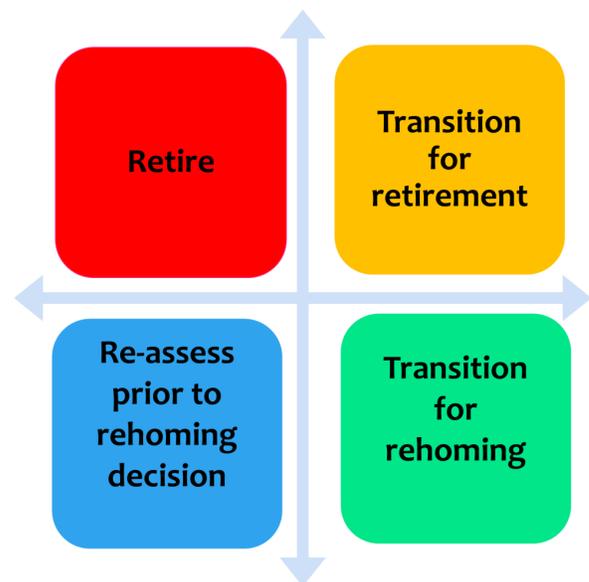
- Space
  - \* Complex, indoor/outdoor
- Social interactions
  - \* People, other dogs
- Exercise
  - \* Outdoor yard, leash walks, sports
- Enrichment
  - \* Toys, chew items, scents, sounds
- Training
  - \* Leash walk
  - \* Basic commands (sit, come)
- Ongoing socialization
  - \* People, places, objects, sounds

## Is this dog a candidate for rehoming?

### Factors to Consider:

- Age
- Welfare status
  - \* Is the dog healthy?
  - \* Does the dog have any genetic issues?
  - \* Does the dog have any behavioral issues?
- What training and transitioning is needed?
  - \* Low stress handling
  - \* Acclimation to home environment
  - \* Positive, reward-based training
  - \* Social facilitation via other dogs

Consider individual preference for other dogs



## Special Needs of Retired Breeding Dogs

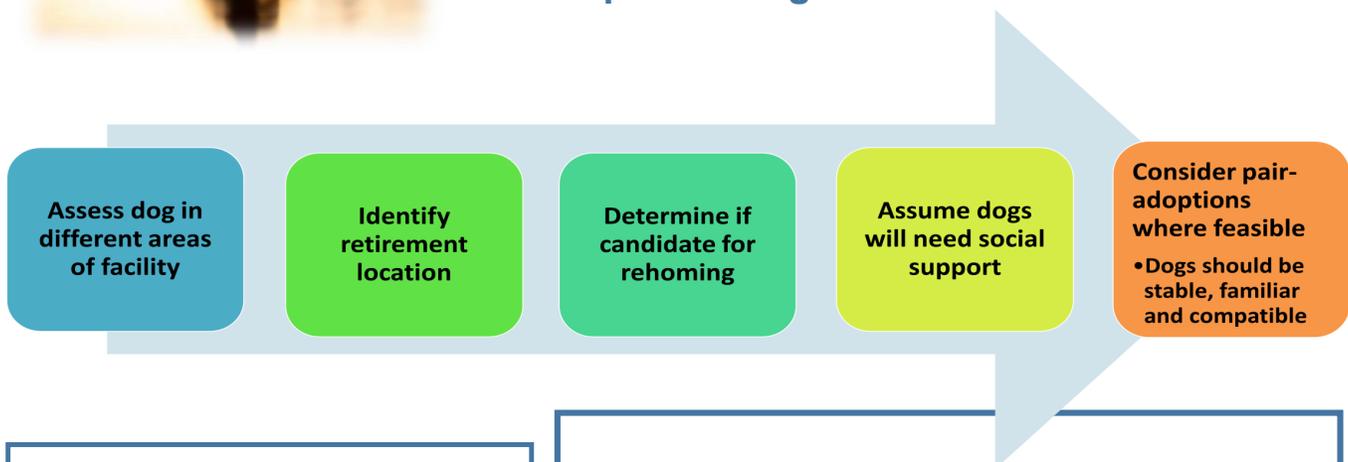
- Physical health monitoring
- Behavioral support
- One on one positive caretaker interactions
- Secure resting area
- Positive, reward-based training



## Transitioning to Homes

- Social facilitation/stress buffering via other dogs
  - \* Consider individual preference for other dogs
- Knowledgeable, prepared rehabilitators and owners
- Low stress handling
- Acclimation to home environment
  - \* Ideal to simulate in kennel design

## Implementing a Retirement Plan



***Euthanasia decisions should not be made on the basis of convenience.***

Establish criteria:

- Severe, poor prognosis for physical or behavioral health issues that result in ongoing poor quality of life

### Take Home Messages

- Successful retirement & rehoming is difficult
  - \* Requires planning and collaboration
- Set dogs up for success early
  - \* Assess dogs early and often using criteria for both retirement and rehoming