

# IT'S NOT OKAY TO DUMP YOUR PET

## *Pet dumping is inhumane and against the LAW*



Both city and state law expressly PROHIBIT the dumping or abandonment of animals. (Texas Penal Code, Title 9, Section 42.09)

In Texas, it is a state jail felony if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly abandons unreasonably an animal in the person's custody. This law applies to crimes like the horrifying practice of throwing unwanted pets out of moving vehicles.



### **You will be prosecuted!**

Violating the law against dumping animals could result in numerous citations, court appearances, hefty fines, and penalties. Violating the Texas state law could land you in jail for up to two years, with fines up to \$10,000.

### **Do the right thing for your pet**

Make sure that your pet is completely vaccinated, heartworm negative and on a preventative, and spayed/neutered.

### **1. Training**

If your dog has a behavior that you want corrected, training is a viable and affordable option. Professional trainers, Petsmart, Petco and your local pet food store can provide you with training services. All pets need training – they are not born with the ability to follow human commands.

### **2. Rehome**

Talk to your veterinarian, family, and friends. Check-in with your network of family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, or others who can provide responsible care for your pet. Make flyers and post your pet on facebook, [www.mypetretriever.com](http://www.mypetretriever.com) and [www.woodlandsonline.com](http://www.woodlandsonline.com). Make sure you post a good picture of your pet, and describe his or her personality as well as why

you have to give up your pet. Many times, people want a pet that has history.

### **3. Rescue**

Contact a rescue group to help place your dog. Rescue groups are very full and they are trying to save animals in shelters who are facing euthanization. While they will not physically take your pet, they will post your pet on their websites or sites like [www.petfinder.org](http://www.petfinder.org). Many animals get placed this way.

### **Do not act impulsively!**

If you were initially an unintentional or non-consenting pet owner who offered to house and care for a pet that now depends upon you, do not react to those difficulties by surrendering your pet to a stranger, our shelter, or a rescue group. Consider the implications for your family, pet, and the community. If at all possible, seek alternatives and resist external pressures to relinquish your pet, which will increase the community's burden to care for an unwanted pet. In addition, it is very traumatic for a family pet to suddenly be in a kennel without human contact.

If you have tried everything in your power to find a good home for your unwanted pet, please call Montgomery County Animal Shelter. While we do not pick up unwanted pets, we will accept them during regular business hours. We cannot and will not guarantee that your pet will be adopted.

**MCAS will prosecute if you are caught dumping animals at MCAS or anywhere.**



Montgomery County Animal Shelter  
8535 Hwy 242, Conroe, TX 77385  
936.442.7738

[www.mcaspets.org](http://www.mcaspets.org) • [www.facebook.com/mcastx](http://www.facebook.com/mcastx)