

Pacific Animal Foundation

www.PacificAnimal.org

Home Sweet (Rental) Home By Lana Simon

When searching for any information on progressive welfare agencies and policies back in the early 1990's, two names from the USA continually popped up. Richard Avanzino was the President of the San Francisco SPCA and Nathan Winograd was the Director of Advocacy. Both were innovative and at the forefront of a new era that considered compassionate welfare a basic right for shelter animals. Their blueprint of life-saving strategies for impounded or surrendered animals became a guideline for other cities and communities across the nation.

Their ideas steered away from the decades old, traditional "animal control" mentality and focused on the more caring "welfare" viewpoint. One of the first steps was divesting the San Francisco SPCA of its long held city animal control contract, which required enforcement of city bylaws and the dogcatcher role. Instead, Richard Avanzino decided to focus solely on welfare and end the city-paid function of "control and enforcement", thereby focusing 100% attention on the animals' well-being. Although divesting its control and impound contract happened in 1989, not all animal "welfare" agencies in Canada or the USA have followed its lead.

Other pioneering programs were enacted. A Feral Cat Program (Trap/Neuter/Return) was implemented in 1993, and has proved tremendously effective in humanely reducing the number of feral cat births in that city. The establishment of a "Cinderella Fund" that accepted donations and bequests created a safety net for shelter animals who were injured or sick by providing funds for extra veterinary care for broken legs, dental work, x-rays, lab work, and other necessary medical care to help bring them back to health and adoptable status.

Its "Open Door" policy program provided suggestions to help renters looking for pet friendly accommodation and gave advice to landlords seeking to allow the four footed companions of their renters but protect their property in the process.

An innovative idea at that time helped tenants looking to rent with their fur companions by recommending preparation of a **PET RESUMÉ** to show prospective landlords how responsible and accountable they were as pet guardians.

Here are some suggestions to include in the resum :

- Provide a photo of your pet and then list all the positive steps you have taken to ensure, not only proper care of your animal, but how you plan to respect any property you rent
- State that your animal has been spayed or neutered and has a regular veterinarian
- Attach a copy of the spay/neuter certificate to your pet's resum 
- Attach a copy of any behavioural training certificate
- Provide information on how often your animal is groomed and treated for fleas
- Provide information about how you plan to provide adequate exercise time for your dog or a climbing perch and scratching

board for your cat

- Assure your landlord that your dog is housebroken or your cat uses a litter box
- Offer to pay an extra pet security deposit

If at all possible, provide any potential landlord with references from past landlords and you may find that more pet friendly rental doors are "open" to you and your beloved companion.

Here are a couple of our sample pet resum s:

MAX...



MEET MAX -

He is a cherished member of our family and we adopted him from a rescue group 3 years ago.

We are willing to pay a pet security deposit.

References from previous Landlord attached.

If you would like to meet Max, we can arrange to visit you.

- Labrador, 5 years old, neutered male; happy, quiet dog
- Has graduated behavior classes, fully housebroken
- Up to date health records at ABC Vet Hospital
- Groomed 2x a year at Dog spa; nails trimmed monthly
- Coat brushed daily and flea treatment applied regularly
- Walked - early morning, evening playtime
- Mid-day walk by ABC Dog walking company and/or Doggie Daycare

We are responsible pet owners and will respond to any concern immediately.

BELLA...



MEET BELLA -

She is a cherished member of our family and we adopted her from a shelter 8 years ago.

We are willing to pay a pet security deposit.

References from previous Landlord attached.

If you would like to meet Bella, we can arrange for you to visit us.

- She is a petite, spayed cat, now about 12 years old
- She is a clean cat and always uses her litter box which is scooped 2x a day
- Up to date health records at ABC Vet Hospital
- We brush her coat every day and flea treatment applied regularly
- We have both a scratching post and a scratch pad and we trim her claws regularly. She does not scratch our furniture.

We are responsible pet owners and will respond to any concern immediately.

Hemlock Animal Hospital
1314 W 4th Ave, Vancouver BC
Open 7 days till 10pm
Exam \$25 • House Call \$80
Int'l Health Cert \$25
Call for Emergency
604-558-1400
www.hemlockvet.com