

Rehoming an animal from the RSPCA

Thank you for thinking about adopting an animal from the RSPCA. Adopting an animal can change their life and make room for another in need.

We have lots of animals looking for a home. We want to find them one where they can enjoy a happy and healthy life. To do this, we aim to make sure pets and owners are well matched. We consider every potential adoption individually and have the animal's welfare at the heart of every decision.

You'll find plenty of guidance on our adoption process at: rspca.org.uk/findapet/adopt
Here's some more information you may find useful:

- Most of the animals in our care have been rescued by our inspectors. We don't import animals from other countries for rehoming in England and Wales.
- To adopt an RSPCA animal, you'll need to be over 18 years old.
- If you live in rented or tied accommodation, you'll need permission from your landlord to keep an animal.
- Once you've seen an animal you like on our Find A Pet page, you've submitted an application, and our staff have contacted you to say you're a potential good match, you'll need to meet the animal in person. This will usually be at the animal centre or foster home where the animal is being cared for.
- We'll also need to check that your house is suitable for the animal, so we'll usually ask for photographs or a video. We may suggest adjustments to your house, garden or lifestyle that will help you and your new pet settle into a happy life together.
- Animals receive a clinical examination by a vet before adoption. And we provide copies of the veterinary and behavioural history of animals while they've been in our care as well as recommended feeding/exercise regimes. We also offer post-adoption support to help animals settle into their new home.
- Before rehoming, we neuter and vaccinate all our dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits and male equines (horses, etc.), as is right for the individual animal. If for any reason this isn't possible, they won't be adopted into a home with other animals of the same species who are also unneutered or unvaccinated.



- We microchip all our cats, dogs and equines before they're rehomed. Horses also have an equine passport, which will be transferred to the new owner after six months.
- Kittens and puppies will need to be at least eight weeks old before they can be adopted. Foals will be weaned before rehoming.
- Rabbits need company to be happy, so they'll be rehomed in, or into, compatible neutered pairs/groups, unless a vet or clinical animal behaviourist has advised us otherwise.
- The welfare of our animals is our top priority. This means we won't rehome animals if:
 - They are likely to be used as guard dogs or to hunt live animals.
 - They are to be used in experimentation.
 - They would be kept in a school.
 - They would live in a country lacking adequate animal welfare legislation, or face a journey that compromises their wellbeing.
 - The rehoming is illegal or poses undue risks to people or other animals.

