



ADOPTION GUIDE FOR DOGS & CATS

BEFORE YOU START

Application form for dogs - <https://phoenixrehomeing.co.uk/forms/dog-application/>

Application form for cats - <https://phoenixrehomeing.co.uk/forms/cat-application/>

Please complete your form in as much detail as possible. A member of the team will process your form as soon as possible.

Our dogs and cats are in foster homes across England and Wales, with families and not in kennels or a centre. The location of the pet will be clearly stated on their adoption advert.

We do not adopt dogs to families with children under five years old.

We do not have an upper age limit for adopters as long as the pet's needs can be appropriately met. In the case of dogs this includes adequate exercise.

If you have resident dogs, they must travel to meet any prospective dog or cat that you're considering adopting. This is to ensure the safety of all animals involved.

Most dogs will require 6-foot fencing. To adopt a dog, you must have a SECURE garden with fencing of AT LEAST 4 feet in height to be considered.

We do consider SECURE communal gardens.

Please note that chicken wire, expanding trellis, non-rigid mesh or wire, interior wood, bamboo or willow screening and netting are not considered secure.

Adoption fees for dogs range from £225 - £425. On occasion certain dogs are rehomed without adoption fees. This includes all vaccines, microchipping, vet checks, 5 weeks free insurance with Agria Pet Insurance and neutering if the dog is old enough to be neutered. You also receive an in person or online training session with an IMDT accredited dog trainer. For dogs over 6 months old, we offer a seven-day cooling off period with adoptions.

Adoption fees for cats range from £145 - £195. This includes all vaccines,

microchipping, vet checks, 5 weeks free insurance with Agria Pet Insurance and neutering if the cat is old enough to be neutered.

All adopters have lifelong support via our “Life After Rescue” Facebook support group.

We often receive multiple applications for each dog or cat. We do our best to match each dog with the most suitable adopter. Completing an application form, having a successful home check or travelling to meet a dog or cat does NOT guarantee an adoption.

We do not hold dogs or cats in foster care due to applicant holidays or other plans. Please ensure that you are ready to adopt at the time of applying.

You can subscribe by donating £3.49 by direct debit each month. This will give you preview access to all newly arrived dogs and cats before they are shown to the public.

You can subscribe here - <https://facebook.com/becomesupporter/phoenixrehomeing/>

Once you have a dog or cat in mind and we agree that he or she is a suitable match for you we will arrange for a home check to be carried out. Home checks are carried out by volunteers who will contact you directly to arrange an appointment. Please be mindful that this can take up to several weeks to arrange.

Our dogs and cats are adopted under our terms and conditions. They remain the legal property of Phoenix Rehoming for their entire lives, and we reserve the right to remove any dog or cat if the terms and conditions are breached.

Your adoption fee goes directly towards the work of the charity and directly to helping our dogs and cats.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

You will need provisions for your new dog or cat

FOR DOGS WE RECOMMEND

Harness & Lead - **never an extending lead.**

Adjustable collar and ID tag

Crate (always go bigger if unsure)

A bed.

Two bowls, one for food and one for water.

Food of your choice (see feeding advice below)

Toys/chews

Shampoo (any dog shampoo)

There is no need to buy anything fancy. Especially not a bed which could end up chewed, peed on or destroyed. Plastic dog beds are durable, resistant to chewing and easy to clean

Identity tags can be found cheaply on the internet. We get ours from eBay. They must contain your house number, your postcode and your last name. We always add phone numbers.

FOR CATS WE RECOMMEND

Adjustable collar and ID tag

Bed

Two bowls, one for food and one for water.

Food of your choice (see feeding advice below)

Toys

Litter box and litter.

Scratching post.

There is no need to buy anything fancy. Especially not a bed which your cat may not sleep on. Most cats enjoy a cardboard box with a blanket in to begin with.

Identity tags can be found cheaply on the internet. We get ours from eBay. They should contain your house number, your postcode and your last name. We always add phone numbers. For cats you can use collar pendants which hold this information on paper stored safely inside.

SETTLING IN – DOGS

LEAVE A LEAD ON WHEN YOU ARRIVE HOME

Leave a short lightweight lead trailing when you first arrive home in case you need to move your new rescue dog to or from anywhere. This will eliminate the need for you to grab for their collar, which could be scary to an already stressed dog that doesn't know you.

FOOD & WATER

Make sure they have access to fresh water in a place where ideally, they don't have to turn their back on a room to drink, so not in a corner. If they feel anxious about their surroundings, they may be reluctant to drink if they can't see where everyone is while doing so.

Offer them food shortly after they arrive but for the first few days at least, maybe longer, feed little and often rather than big meals. Ideally scatter their food over a small area to prevent them wolfing it down and to encourage them to engage in naturally calming behaviours like snuffling and sniffing. Feed them separately to resident dogs.

TIME, SPACE & PATIENCE

When your dog arrives, they may be very stressed. They will need at least a few days for these to even begin to come down so please do make these first few days very calm.

Most dogs sleep a lot during the first 24 hours and it's important to give them the opportunity and a safe place to allow them to do that. This alone can prevent all sorts of problem behaviours in the first few days. Make sure they have a place they can be that is away from lots of noise and if necessary, give them separate time from resident dogs to have a break and process all that has happened to them.

If they are fearful when they arrive and don't wish to interact then leave them to choose their space and don't keep encouraging them to make friends. They will come around in their own time but if you keep trying to make them do things you could increase their anxiety and make the process of them settling take much longer.

PREVENT OVERWHELM

Avoid having lots of visitors to the house during the first few weeks. Let your new

arrival settle, get used to their new environment and get used to you before you start introducing more new people.

Visitors tend to want to excessively fuss because they will know you rescued this dog. All this attention from so many strangers can cause dogs to feel anxious. Let your dog choose to interact with any visitors when they do come, but if they don't want to then leave them be and ask your visitors to ignore them. You should be able to tell how comfortable they're feeling from their body language. If they're happily leaping around your new visitors, then it's more likely they will enjoy a fuss, but if they're hesitant and unsure, it is REALLY IMPORTANT that you let your dog set the pace for new introductions. If you try to encourage them to make friends, you can MAKE them scared of new people, and this can take months to change once established.

SAFETY

Keep them on a lead, preferably a long line in the garden for the first few days, some dogs can be very panicked by all they've been through & their new surroundings and you want to be sure they have no intention of trying to escape. Some dogs have been reported to jump 6-foot fences and if you have any gaps in your fencing, you can be sure your dog will find them!

BELT & BRACES ON YOUR FIRST WALKS

Double lead your rescue dog when you first start walking them outside, in case they panic and slip a collar or harness. The best combination is harness and lead with a second lead attached to the collar.

Choose a quiet location for initial walks.

TRAVEL

Please make sure that your dog is safely secured in any vehicle. Either by using a seat belt attachment clipped to their harness, a crate or having them secured and tethered behind a dog guard. Please make sure that your dog is restrained regardless of where they are positioned and cannot bolt from the vehicle when you open the door or boot.

SETTLING IN – CATS

MAKE THE HOUSE FORT KNOX WHEN YOU ARRIVE HOME!

Make sure all doors and window are locked and secured. The first few days are the most likely for a cat to escape a new home. Please be extra careful when entering or exiting the house. We recommend placing your cat into a closed room when opening any doors or windows to prevent escape.

FOOD & WATER

Make sure they have access to fresh water in a place where ideally, they don't have to turn their back on a room to drink, so not in a corner. If they feel anxious about their surroundings, they may be reluctant to drink if they can't see where everyone is while doing so.

Offer them food shortly after they arrive but for the first few days at least, maybe longer, feed little and often rather than big meals. Ideally scatter their food over a small area to prevent them wolfing it down and to encourage them to engage in naturally calming behaviours like snuffing and sniffing. Feed them separately to

resident dogs and cats.

TIME, SPACE & PATIENCE

When your cat arrives, they may be very stressed. They will need at least a few days for these to even begin to come down so please do make these first few days very calm.

Most cats sleep a lot during the first 24 hours and it's important to give them the opportunity and a safe place to allow them to do that. This alone can prevent all sorts of problem behaviours in the first few days. Make sure they have a place they can be that is away from lots of noise and if necessary, give them separate time from resident dogs to have a break and process all that has happened to them. If they are fearful when they arrive and don't wish to interact then leave them to choose their space and don't keep encouraging them to make friends. They will come around in their own time but if you keep trying to make them do things you could increase their anxiety and make the process of them settling take much longer.

PREVENT OVERWHELM

Avoid having lots of visitors to the house during the first few weeks. Let your new arrival settle, get used to their new environment and get used to you before you start introducing more new people. Visitors tend to want to excessively fuss because they will know you rescued this cat. All this attention from so many strangers can cause cats to feel anxious. Let your cat choose to interact with any visitors when they do come, but if they don't want to then leave them be and ask your visitors to ignore them. You should be able to tell how comfortable they're feeling from their body language. If they're happily leaping around your new visitors, then it's more likely they will enjoy a fuss, but if they're hesitant and unsure, it is REALLY IMPORTANT that you let your cat set the pace for new introductions. If you try to encourage them to make friends, you can MAKE them scared of new people, and this can take months to change once established.

TRAVEL

Please make sure that your cat is safely secured in any vehicle. Use a secure cat carrying basket. Plastic baskets with metal or mesh doors have a habit of popping open. Cats have escaped from baskets like these. We recommend baskets like this:



TOILET TRAINING

Your rescue dog may not be toilet trained. Even if they were toilet trained in their previous home, this could change due to stress or a new environment.

Take your rescue dog out to the garden when they arrive (on a lead) to see if they want to toilet. Following on from this take them out to go to the toilet as soon as they wake up, after each meal and every couple of hours for the first week (every hour if a puppy) this will lessen the risk of accidents in the house and give you the opportunity to praise and reinforce all toileting outside. This will increase the likelihood they will quickly learn where they are supposed to go to the toilet and reduce the degree of accidents in the house.

For rescue cats, make sure that there is access to a suitably sized litter box. We recommend having more than one in the home. You may find that your cat prefers a certain type of litter box or litter.

VET CARE/HUSBANDRY

Your pet will be up to date with treatment for fleas and worms.

Your pet may not be fully vaccinated. You will have been given information if second vaccines are required.

Your pet will be microchipped.

Your pet may not be neutered. You will have been given information about this.

The charity will not cover costs for veterinary care post-adoption unless this is agreed in advance. An agreement will be provided to you in writing and will determine the limitations of what will or will not be covered.

DIARRHOEA

Diarrhoea may be expected for up to 7 days. Even if you see a bit of blood do not be alarmed. This can be due to stress and a change of diet. Please keep the diet consistent and avoid too many treats.

DOGS - KENNEL COUGH

Even dogs vaccinated for kennel cough can catch kennel cough. Kennel cough is VIRAL and CANNOT be treated with antibiotics. There is no need to visit the vet for kennel cough. Kennel cough almost always resolves itself within 10 days. If your dog has kennel cough, please keep him away from other dogs as it is contagious like a human cold.

The first signs of kennel cough are a hacking, persistent cough. Your dog may bring up some white foam.

MICROCHIPS

Your dog or cat's microchip will have been registered to the charity. There are more than 15 different microchip databases in the U.K. We will ensure that when adopted, your dog or cat's microchip is re-registered to their new owners. Most databases enable us to do this free of charge, however with some there may be an additional fee for you to pay to create your own account.

If your pet is registered with **PETSCANNER** you will be given their microchip card which contains details of how to transfer the microchip into your details. This can be done by visiting www.petsscanner.com and clicking "create account". Once logged in you click on "register pet" and complete the required pet details. There is a small fee of £2.99 to transfer the microchip. Pet Scanner kindly donates a free microchip back to the charity for every registration.

FOOD

You are free to feed your dog or cat whatever you choose. We do ask that you take the time to look at food reviews at www.allaboutdogfood.co.uk because there are some very poor-quality foods which should be avoided.

We ask that you avoid Bakers, Wagg, Pedigree, Frolic and own brand supermarket foods where possible. We do not recommend rice or pasta being fed.

The team consists of several qualified pet nutrition specialists who are more than happy to give you help and advice.

A comprehensive raw feeding guide for dogs can be found on our website.

Water should always be available.

DOGS - RECOMMENDED DON'TS

Don't keep fussing over your new arrival, they will most likely not be used to it. Although you may feel you are showering them with all the love they have missed out on and comforting them during their stress of being in a new home, they can actually, find this quite stressful. Give them time and space.

Don't allow them to follow you everywhere and have access to all areas of the house for the first few days/weeks. Often dogs will not be used to all the home comforts we

offer them and if you allow them free reign over everything, you could find them developing resource guarding behaviours over all the new & wonderful 'stuff' they find at their paw tips. Plus, it can help prevent the development of separation anxiety by providing them with their own room that you leave now and again just to go to other areas of the house. In addition to this, an anxious dog or cat can feel more anxious if they have too much space.

Don't reinforce ALL attention seeking behaviours. This can often be an insecurity-based behaviour and you could enhance the possibility of separation anxiety and owner possessiveness being created by always giving in to their demands for attention. Give them plenty of attention once they're settled in but try to avoid **always** responding to their demands for it.

Don't mess about with your rescue pet's feet – this is a very sensitive area (instinctively) for dogs and cats, leave grooming, bathing and rubbing with a towel until they are a bit more familiar with you and a relationship of trust has been Established.

Don't take your rescue dog for walks for a few days.

They need time to decompress from everything that has happened to them before overwhelming them further with all the sights, sounds and smells of the outside world. We feel they need walks every day to be happy, but many dogs will not be used to our busy environments and find them scary & stressful, on top of the already stressful experiences they have been through leading up to their arrival with you. They will be tired enough with processing all that has and is happening to them, they need time to settle to get ready to take on the environment outside. (Google - Stress or trigger stacking in dogs for a more detailed explanation about this)

Don't Let your rescue dog off the lead for AT LEAST several weeks

But probably much longer & with some never. Hire a secure field if you want to give them a good run around. Please do not risk your dog's life because you want to enjoy the sight of them 'running free' many dogs are very easily spooked and it wouldn't take much for them to bolt. In addition to that many of them have a **very high prey drive** and although they may seem like they're going to hang around with you, one whiff of something interesting and they could well be disappearing into the distance!

DOGS - WHAT TO EXPECT FOR THE FIRST FEW WEEKS?

When your rescue dog first arrives with you, it is important to be 100% aware and realise they **will need time to adjust and settle**. If I took one of my dogs and left them in a strange house where they didn't know anyone, I would expect them to be unsettled, upset, confused and stressed, and to display any range of behaviours which they would not normally display.

I would expect all this from a dog that has **never** had any upset in their life and has lived knowing nothing but love, safety and security. So, imagine how much worse it is for a rescue dog.

Some dogs cope with all of this remarkably well, but some don't, and it would serve

adopters and fosterers better to assume that they won't cope and behave and handle them accordingly. That way, you are far more likely to prevent problems than if you assume they will be fine, or that they will be grateful for this wonderful life you have offered them and don't provide them with the necessary consistency, boundaries and structure that they **need** at this most unstable of times.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER IN ORDER TO PROVIDE STRUCTURE IN THE EARLY WEEKS

Have **all the equipment** you might need ready for when your dog or cat arrives. That way you will be prepared.

Keep **YOUR** behaviour consistent. Your rescue dog or cat will learn much quicker from knowing what is expected of him. Avoid confusing him by making sure everyone in the house is doing the same things.

Provide a secure, safe place for him to be left alone. Start doing this as soon as your dog or cat arrives, even if only for 5 or 10 minutes at a time while you go elsewhere in the house. The more times you can repeat this from day one, the better your dog or cat will cope with being left when you must go out for longer periods.

Establish a **routine** as much as possible and as quickly as possible. Your new arrival can gain a lot of confidence and reassurance from having a routine in place and knowing what to expect and when. This can help them settle more quickly and there will be plenty of time to develop their resilience to changes in routine once they are more settled.

DOGS – TRAINING

You will be provided with detailed information about each dog.

We have several accredited trainers on the team to provide you with consistent help and support. We only use force free training methods. Dog adopters are given a free 121 training session. This may be in person or via video call.

You will only get out what you put in, early training will set your dog up for a much brighter future.

Expect some problems in the early settling in period and **be prepared** for it to be a bit stressful and unsettling for **everyone in the house** to start with.

You will find many training resources within our "Life After Rescue" group on Facebook.

Dogs are particularly impressionable when they first arrive in a new environment, and how well you manage their behaviour during this transitional period will have a direct effect on how quickly they settle and become a well-adjusted member of the family.

Please plan to invest time to appropriately socialise, teach and get acquainted with your new dog and his/her unique character.

Possible Problems You May Encounter

Resource guarding

Separation Anxiety

House soiling

Barking

Demanding Attention

Snatching at food

Escaping or running off

Fear of new people

Fear of other dogs

Counter surfing and bin raiding

Not liking a lead being put on.

Pulling on the lead or not wanting to move when the lead is on

Stress behaviours (Chewing / Shredding)

Digging

If there is anything you are concerned about or unsure of, please discuss this with your us BEFORE you get your dog.

CONTACT US

Our opening hours are Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00.

www.phoenixrehoming.co.uk/contact

DOGS - FURTHER RESOURCES

Online dog training clinics www.adolescentdogs.com/workshops

Trigger Stacking: <http://www.woofliketomeet.com/category/about-adoption/trigger-Stacking/>

Introducing dogs to each other: <http://www.woofliketomeet.com/2016/01/introducing-new-dogs-a-step-by-step-guide/>