

Adoption Guide

Thank you for thinking about adopting a pet.

We take care of over 1,300 abandoned and unwanted pets every year - here is your guide to adopting.



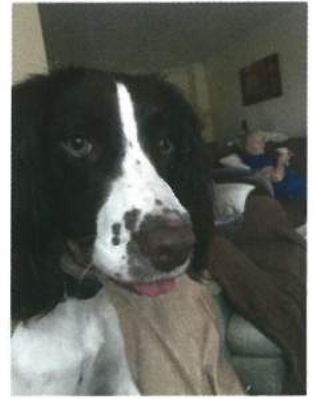
Bath
Cats & Dogs
Home



Rescue pets are amazing!

Our animals come in to us from a variety of backgrounds and are all different. Some are ready to fit straight into any home and others will need your help and guidance.

“I visited Bath Cats & Dogs Home looking for a companion, and I fell in love.” Mr Warren adopted Daisy the spaniel



Things to consider first

Here are some common questions. Please read through first as these may highlight some areas that you need to think about or talk through with your family, before registering to adopt.

What character do you want from your pet?

We get lots of different breeds in, reflecting common pet breeds. We look at character and personality to find you a great pet - try and keep an open mind when being shown animals. You may be surprised that a breed you may not have considered would be your perfect match! If you are looking for something in particular, then you may have to wait a little longer for that breed to come in and be available to adopt.

How much time do you have to give?

Many pets have come to us because their previous owner didn't have enough time for them. Unwanted behaviours such as toileting in the house, barking etc. often stem from the stress and boredom of being alone. You will be your rescue pet's whole world and they are relying on you to give them all the love and attention they need. Take a look at how much time you can give to a pet and speak honestly with your Re-homer so we can find you a great match.

Do you have children or have children visiting regularly?

Many animals come to us as strays with no information about their history. As a result, we have to be careful when homing them with younger children. You may experience a longer waiting time to find a suitable pet to live with young children.

For dog adoptions - do you have a dog already?

Is it important to you that your rescue dog is sociable with other dogs? Consider the life you want to have with your dog - do you want to take them to a pub? Or to walk with friends who also have dogs? Or are you happy with long quiet walks? Please discuss your preferences with your Re-homer so we can find a great match for you. You may experience a longer waiting time for a very sociable dog.

Dogs and the law

You must be aware that you are responsible for your dog's actions. Dogs must be in control in public places and in your house. For more information on dogs and the law, visit www.bcdh.org.uk/doglaw

For cat adoptions - do you have a cat already?

Whilst we cannot be 100% sure that cats will get along with one another, we can judge by their reactions in our temperament tests. Please discuss your own cat's temperament with your Re-homer so we can find you a good match.

Have you thought about the costs over the lifetime of your pet?

Many pets come to us as their owners can no longer afford to keep them. Have you thought about the basic costs and the unexpected? Food for a dog can be from £30 a month. To kennel a pet whilst you go on holiday can add up to £150 to your holiday costs per week. Insurance can be £10 - £100 a month depending on factors such as age, health and breed. You will receive a complimentary 4 weeks' insurance with PetPlan as part of your adoption. We recommend that you continue with insurance, as a £2,000 vet bill is no longer unusual for an accident or illness.

The rehoming process

Are you ready to go ahead? That's great news! Here's the 3 steps to adoption.

1. Register to adopt

After reading this, ask for and fill in an application form. A member of our Re-homing Team will quickly chat through this with you. At this point it may be that we will arrange for a home visit before we begin the matching process. The home visit isn't anything to worry about, some of the reasons we may carry these out are if you haven't adopted from us before or if you are first-time pet owner. If a home visit isn't needed you will move straight on to the matching process.

2. Matching

You will now have a full appointment with one of our Re-homing Team, who will talk further with you about the pet you are looking for and take you to meet animals who will be a great match for you.



At busy times we may have to book this for another day. Animals do behave differently in catteries and kennels, so please listen to the team about how they feel each animal will act in a home and behave as part of your family.

Before you adopt we ask that all of your family meet your pet. We may ask you to spend more time with them before adopting if they are shy of strangers so they feel comfortable with you.

If you have a dog already then we would arrange a 'mix' here at the Home under supervision. Our expert teams can recognise the signs that they may become friends, but please be aware that this only gives an indication of their future behaviour together. We will continue to support you as they settle in to your home.

3. Adoption

You are now ready to book your adoption date. Your pet will receive their final vet check-up and we will chat you through the final paperwork and care notes. This is when you pay the adoption fee - this includes microchip, initial vaccinations, flea and worming treatment and neutering. Your Re-homer will let you know the fee for your chosen pet.

How long will this all take?

If you are having a home visit, this may take up to one week to arrange and complete. All of our home visitors are volunteers who donate their time to help.

Matching will depend on the animals that we have in, which is always unpredictable. We take in around 5 animals every day.

We aim to complete adoption within 10 days from the matching stage, depending on the animal's needs.

Ready to register?

Please ask for an application form.

Not quite ready?

Don't worry! You are welcome to contact us with any questions, or to book an appointment to register to adopt at a later date.

Please call us on 01225 787321



www.bcdh.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 205594