



Frequently Asked Questions

We understand it's a big decision adopting or fostering a dog or cat. To support you with this process, we have created this FAQ guide, which we hope answers any questions or concerns you may have.

About Us

Helping Dogs and Cats UK are a non-profit UK animal rescue based in Basingstoke.

Our mission is to rescue, rehome and rehabilitate dogs, puppies, cats and kittens from the UK and Romania. We do this by working directly with individuals across the UK, and with rescues in Romania to arrange safe shelter, transport, veterinary care, microchipping, spaying and neutering. Many of our rescues have been abandoned or come from traumatic situations, which is why all our rescues enter into foster homes first for assessment.

For dogs coming from Romania, many will have most likely **never** seen the inside of a house, had a warm bed, a collar round their neck or been walked on a lead. They may have to fight for food and attention, so lots of time and patience is needed to help them settle in. Rescue dogs and cats have so much love to give and to see a nervous or frightened animal turn into a confident one is truly amazing.

In the UK, we spend our time helping with welfare cases. Sometimes, we receive calls from the public that a dog or cat has been abandoned, maybe in danger, or they come via other rescues. We work hard to give them the chance of finding a forever home. The rescue is also involved in spay/neuter and release campaigns for cats and kittens.

What is Best, Foster or Adoption?

We have two options available:

1. Foster with a view to adopt. The animal will come directly from Romania to your home. You will have the opportunity to first see if the animal is right for you and vice versa before making a final decision.
2. Adoption. Our dogs or cats will already be in foster in the UK, and you will get the opportunity to meet with them before making your decision.

Advertising

We try and ensure that our website and Facebook pages are kept as up to date as possible. At any given time, we also have dogs and cats who have not yet been listed, so feel free to make a general enquiry rather than specific to a particular animal.

With dogs/puppies coming over from Romania, sometimes the information we receive is limited. In each case we will do our best to provide you with as much information as possible, so that you can make an informed decision. As our dogs all go into foster homes it gives the rescue the opportunity to fully assess them first.

Our cats/kittens are usually UK rescues, and we normally have more information on them.

Website Address: <https://helpingdogsandcatsuk.org>

Facebook Address: <https://www.facebook.com/helpingdogsandcatsuk>

Our Process – How We Operate

Our process is as follows:

1. If you see a dog or cat that you are interested in adopting, or are just interested in general, in the first instance please can you complete and return an application form. <https://helpingdogsandcatsuk.org/forms>

Please ensure that you meet our criteria if you are looking to adopt a **dog**, see below:

- We do not home to flats above ground level
- We do not home with children under 8
- You will require a minimum 5ft height secure fence/wall

Please ensure that you meet our criteria if you are looking to adopt a **cat**, see below:

- We do not home on main roads or close to railway lines
 - We do not home with children under 5
2. We will review all applications received and if successful, a member of our volunteer admin team will call you for an informal chat. We will talk through the answers on your application form and find out more about you, your lifestyle etc. This is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have.
 3. If the rescue and yourselves feel that it is a good match, we will organise an in-person home check. There is a £10 charge for home checks, which will be deducted off the compulsory adoption fee at the end.
 4. For dogs – After the home check has been approved, we will arrange for a meet and greet (if the dog is already in foster). We ask for a minimum of three visits, including taking along any dogs already in the home, along with any other family members. The fourth visit will be to collect the dog or in some cases the dog will be delivered directly to you at home.
 5. After ongoing conversations and if everyone agrees, we will send you an adoption agreement to sign and return to us. We will also ask for the adoption fee to be paid.

Adoption Fees for Dogs

£10 Home Check (deducted at the time of adoption if successful)

£430, Adoption of Dogs up to 6 years of age

£320, Adoption of Dogs over 7 years of age

£100, Adoption of Dogs over 10 years of age

£80, Adoption of Dogs with Special Needs

Foster with a View To Adopt

Two payments £250 (transport fees) and £180 at the point of adoption

Adoption fee for Cats & Kittens

£200, Adoption for a Kitten

Age dependant, the adoption fee varies £70 to £200

Our adoption fee includes:

- Pet Passport (if applicable)
- All vaccinations
- De worming and flea treatments
- Microchipping
- 4 weeks free insurance cover with Pet Plan
- A call with our team behaviourist

*Where the dog or cat is old enough, it will also be spayed or neutered and we will confirm during the process, if this has been done or not.

Terms of Adoption

Before completing an application form, please take a moment to read through our [Terms of Adoption and Code of Conduct.](#)

Other Costs to Consider

Having a dog or cat is expensive, especially if medical treatment is required. Here are few expenses that you need to consider:

Pet Insurance	This will vary depending on the age, size and breed of your dog. Some people prefer to put money aside each money to cover any unexpected medical costs.
Monthly treatments	De-flea and de-worming
Food	Wet, Dry or Raw
Dog Walker or Pet Sitter	If you are out at work or go away on holiday

Microchipping

Each of our rescue dogs/cats are microchipped and we arrange for the microchip to be updated with your address and contact details on adoption.

Rescue Back Up

The team works hard to ensure that our dogs go into the right homes and vice versa that you are happy with the adoption. We understand that sometimes things do not work out, people's circumstances change, or you may feel that you are not coping or having issues with the puppy or dog etc. and, in these rare instances, we provide full rescue back up.

Fostering

Many of our rescues have been abandoned or come from traumatic situations, which is why all our rescues enter into foster homes first for assessment.

When you foster a dog or cat with us you are signing up to foster them until they are adopted, whether by you or another family.

Rescue dogs and cats have so much love to give and to see a nervous or frightened animal turn into a confident one is truly amazing.

We ask you take care of all the animals needs during their time with you including feeding, walking, grooming, toilet training, general training, and socialising. You will play a key part in the rehoming process, speaking and meeting with potential adopters, all with our full support, unless of course you become a failed foster.

You should always be able to separate your foster dog from any children and/or other pets and make sure that they are always supervised.

Our team are on hand to support you throughout your fostering journey, and you will have the opportunity to connect with other foster carers and share stories.

We work hard to give these dogs and cats the best chance of finding a forever home.

Donations

In August, we'll be celebrating our 4th Birthday and we have set ourselves a target of raising £4000.00 before the end of the year.

So, we are asking if you could spare just £4 per month and become one of our regular supporters and help us towards achieving this goal. One-off donations are extremely welcome as well!

<https://helpingdogsandcatsuk.org/donate>