

Adopting or fostering a pet from a rescue society

There is an enormous problem in the UK of pets being abandoned or allowed to stray and then not being claimed. Annually 125,000 dogs are picked up by local authorities. Each day, twenty dogs are destroyed simply because homes cannot be found for them. Many thousands of cats are similarly abandoned and many of these fail to find new homes.

There are many rescue societies across the UK who take in, assess and try to rehome unwanted animals. Some, like the RSPCA, rescue a wide variety of pets; others only take in dogs or cats.

Apart from the satisfaction of knowing that you may have saved an animal's life, there are many advantages to adopting a pet from a rescue society:

- **The animal will have been given a health check on arrival, and its behaviour will have been tested in a variety of situations.** This helps staff to accurately match the pet to your domestic situation, your lifestyle, and how much time you are able to invest in your pet.
- Because **shelter staff** want to ensure that the animal receives a lifelong home, they **invest time in ensuring that any behaviour problems are resolved**, prior to you taking them. If problems do occur **they will offer advice and support** and most will take the animal back if you feel you can no longer care for it.
- **Rescue animals will normally be given an initial course of inoculations, and will be neutered, and micro chipped prior to rehoming.** This saves the new owner considerable expense, and inconvenience.
- **Choosing a pet from a rescue society is an easy and enjoyable experience.** Most societies have a variety of pets to choose from and will list profiles of the pets available online. Staff can then be contacted to answer any queries or to arrange an appointment to visit. Some rescue centres will allow dogs to be fostered initially in order to ensure that the new home works out.

Foster

If you want the companionship of a pet but are worried about the long term commitment or feel that you may not be able to afford vet bills, you may like to consider fostering.

Most rescue societies try and place their animals in foster homes while they are waiting to be rehomed, as it avoids the stress of kennels. A pet's behaviour can also be more accurately assessed in a domestic setting, where it is able to enjoy the type of life it will enjoy when rehomed.

If you foster an animal you will care for it as if it were your own. You would normally be expected to buy its food but vet bills will be paid for by the rescue centre. The animal may be with you for a few days up to a couple of years, depending on how long it takes for it to be permanently rehomed. Some animals may be traumatised or feel insecure through their recent experiences, and may need reassurance or some basic training. When you apply to foster you will be given an opportunity to tell the rescue centre about your home situation and preferences so that they can appropriately match a pet to you.

There are many rescue societies in the South East area of England. Here are just a few:



Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare

www.raystede.org

The Broyle, Ringmer, East Sussex, BN8 5AJ
Tel: 0844 875 1252



Dogs Trust

www.dogstrust.org.uk/shoreham

Brighton Road, Shoreham, West Sussex, BN43 5LT
Tel: 01273 452576



Rescue Remedies

www.rescuemediesdogrescue.co.uk

(website application)



South Coast Staffie Rescue

www.southcoaststaffierescue.org

Tel: 07921 227323 (phone application)



Brighton & Hove Retired Greyhound Trust

www.retiredgreyhounds.info

New House Farm
Haywards Heath, RH17 5NP
Tel: 01444 881788



RSPCA

www.rspca-brighton.co.uk

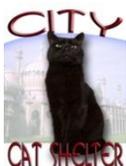
Braypool Lane, Patcham, Brighton BN1 8ZH
Tel: 01273 554218



Sussex Pet Rescue

www.sussexpetrescue.org.uk

Tel: 01273 551815 / 553735 (phone application)



City Cat Shelter

Michael.tully508@ntlworld.com

Tel: 01273 606843 (phone application)