



The RSPCA and rehoming

The RSPCA wants to find homes for all the rescued animals in our care.

The following policies help us to make sure that every animal finds the perfect home where they can live a happy, healthy life. Our rehoming process aims to make sure pets and owners are well matched.

- The majority of the animals in our care will have been rescued by RSPCA inspectors. Stray dogs are signed over by the local authority concerned. For stray animals, we keep them for at least seven days in order to give their owners a good chance to reclaim them. The RSPCA will not import animals from other countries for rehoming in England and Wales.
- Animals will have received a clinical examination by a veterinary surgeon prior to their adoption.
- No animal may be rehomed to anyone without identification and proof they are over 18 years old.
- No animal may be rehomed without reasonable steps to make sure they will have a good quality of life. Once we've found the perfect match for an animal in our care, then a home visit will be carried out by one of our trained volunteers to make sure potential adopters have really thought about the implications of owning a pet.
- Potential owners need to choose an animal in person. No animal should be rehomed over the internet, or by mail-order or telephone. No animal is ever sold at a market or given as a prize.
- For those potential adopters who live in rented or tied accommodation, you will need permission from the landlord to keep an animal.
- No animal may be rehomed if doing so would be illegal or create undue risks to humans or other animals. We don't rehome animals such as dogs, cats or ferrets to adopters who are likely to use them to hunt live animals or for use as guard dogs.
- We will always provide copies of the veterinary and behavioural history of the animal while they have been in our care and provide post-adoption support to help the animal settle into their new home.



- As part of the rehoming procedure, the RSPCA makes sure that all dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits and male equines are neutered and vaccinated, as appropriate to the individual. If for any reason they cannot be neutered before rehoming, they will not be rehomed to a home with other animals of the same species that are unneutered. If for any reason the RSPCA animal is unvaccinated, they will not be rehomed to a home with other unvaccinated animals of the same species.
- We also make sure that all rehomed cats, dogs and equines are identified by an implanted microchip. All horses rehomed by us will have a horse passport which will be transferred to the new owner after six months.
- Rabbits will be rehomed in or into compatible neutered pairs/groups. The RSPCA will not rehome rabbits to live on their own unless under specific behavioural or medical advice.
- Foals will be weaned before rehoming. Kittens and puppies will be at least eight weeks old before rehoming.
- No RSPCA animal should be kept in a school – the RSPCA strongly discourages the keeping of animals in schools. Also, no animal may be adopted out for use in experimentation that requires a Home Office licence.
- No RSPCA animal may be rehomed to countries lacking adequate animal welfare legislation or requiring journeys that compromise their welfare.

Joe Murphy (x3), Becky Murray/RSPCA Photolibrary



Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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www.rspca.org.uk facebook.com/RSPCA twitter.com/RSPCA_official
The RSPCA helps animals in England and Wales. Registered charity no: 219099

The RSPCA only exists with the support of public donations. UPDATED OCTOBER 2014

» www.rspca.org.uk/allaboutanimals