Adoption - what you need to know

You must be at least 18 years of age to adopt from the RSPCA. Adoption animals are all health checked before they are available for adoption, however if your pet develops a medical issue within two weeks of the adoption, an RSPCA vet will treat it free of charge.

RSPCA adoption officers work very hard to help our animals find their perfect homes. Some of our animals have specific needs, so it’s important that we match them with families that will be able to meet their behavioural and/or physical needs.

If our adoption team do not feel that a particular animal is suitable for you or your circumstances, they may refuse the adoption. However, we have many wonderful animals waiting to find loving new homes, so in this scenario, our team will do their best to suggest another adoptive pet that will be a better match.

If you adopt an animal and consequently find that you can no longer care for it, you can take it back to the RSPCA adoption centre. Our normal surrender policy will apply.

Holds

Animals are put on hold on a case-by-case basis. Holds can be arranged at the discretion of adoption staff, but please be aware that hold times are limited. We try to keep hold times short, as we want to give our animals the best chance of finding a new family. We are usually only able to put an animal on hold if you have visited us in person, however other arrangements may be made on a case-by-case basis upon discussion with our adoption staff.

Transfers

We appreciate that a long drive to the RSPCA may be inconvenient for you, but it is well worth the trip, considering you could meet your potential new family member!

Though we are usually not able to transfer animals between RSPCA adoption centres, arrangements may be made in exceptional circumstances, such as having to travel a considerable distance to visit the adoption centre where the animal is located. Transfers are only arranged on a case-by-case basis and must be negotiated with RSPCA staff and approved by the shelter supervisor. They also depend on the resources we have available at the time.