



Adoption Guide



At Animal Concern Cumbria, we are dedicated to finding secure, loving homes for animals in need.

Every dog and cat coming into our care is fully assessed by our experienced animal care team. We create tailored care plans focused on each animal's enrichment, wellbeing and individual needs.

Our goal is to ensure every animal is matched with the right forever home. Through a thoughtful adoption process, we carefully consider the lifestyle and circumstances of potential adopters to make sure it's the purrfect fit; for both the animal and their new family.

Looking to adopt

Bringing a rescue animal into your home can be an incredibly rewarding experience. However, it also requires patience, understanding and commitment. Every animal is unique, with individual needs such as a calm environment, regular exercise, enrichment, or ongoing medical care. These factors are carefully considered when matching animals with the right families.

Taking on the responsibility of a pet is a significant decision. It is important to consider the ongoing costs, including veterinary care, insurance, routine vaccinations, flea and worm treatments, as well as good-quality food and mental stimulation. These are essential for your pet's wellbeing and should be planned for accordingly.



If you are renting, please check your tenancy agreement before applying, as many landlords do not allow pets in rental properties.

After considering all the above—particularly your ability to provide the necessary physical exercise, mental stimulation and social interaction; it is important to be realistic about what you can offer. You may need to make lifestyle adjustments to ensure your new companion is happy, fulfilled, and well-balanced.

To learn more, please visit our website and browse the individual profiles of our animals available for adoption. Each profile includes information about their needs and the type of home that would suit them best.

Rehoming Process

Our rehoming process varies depending on whether you are looking for a dog or a cat. All animals available for adoption are regularly updated on our website.

Register your Enquiry

- Have you seen an animal that you feel would be a great match for your lifestyle? If so, please complete our online Adoption Enquiry Form, providing as much detail as possible. The information you provide helps us to identify the most suitable matches for both you and the animals in our care.
- If you're not enquiring about a specific animal, you are still welcome to complete a general enquiry form. We will keep your form on file for 3 months and refer to it when potential matches become available.

Important for Renters:

- If you rent your home, we require a recent letter from your landlord confirming permission to keep a cat or dog at the property. Unfortunately, we cannot proceed with your enquiry without this written consent. Please upload your letter along with your enquiry form.

Previous Pet Owners:

- If you've had pets in the past, we may ask for the details of your former veterinary practice as we may contact them for a reference.



Finding the Best Match

- If we believe you may be a suitable match for the animal you've enquired about, a member of our Animal Care Team will get in touch with you directly.
- Only those who are considered potential matches will be contacted. One of our team will give you a call to discuss your enquiry in more detail.
- If, after this initial conversation, the match appears to be a good fit, we will then arrange a home check as the next step in the adoption process.

Meet and Greets

Once your home check has been successfully completed, you will be invited to meet your potential new pet at our Centre.

Please note, we never allow an animal to go home after the first visit. We encourage you to take some time to think it over, discuss it with your family or anyone involved in the animal's care and ensure it's the right decision for everyone.

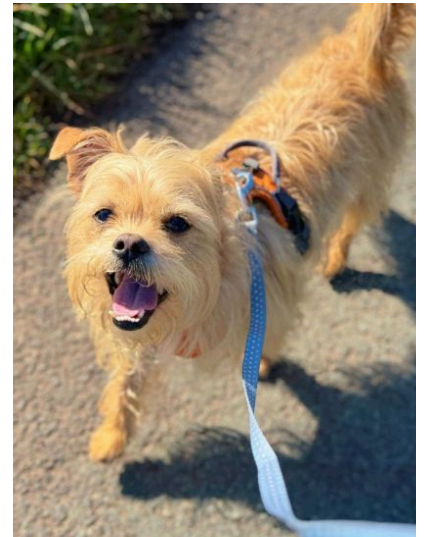
We'll give you a follow-up call the next day to chat things through.

At the Meet & Greet

You may be asked to visit your chosen animal more than once, especially if they have medical or behavioural needs, or simply need more time to build trust. Every animal is different and we'll guide you through what's best for their transition.

Dogs

- You'll be invited to meet your potential match and join us for a walk (please wear suitable footwear and clothing).
- You'll also spend time with them in our off-lead area (weather permitting) or indoor arena and in our Meet & Greet room.
- If you have other dogs at home, they will need to attend a meet as well, to ensure they get along before moving forward.



Cats

- You'll spend time with the cat in our catio (weather permitting) and Meet & Greet room.
- If you have a cat at home, we'll discuss scent transference techniques to help with a smoother introduction.
- If scent transference goes well, we'll discuss moving forward.

Additional visits & family involvement

If you're happy after the first visit but other household members or pets weren't able to attend, we'll arrange a follow-up appointment for everyone to meet the animal before a final decision is made.

For the appointment

- Please bring at least one form of photo ID showing your current address (or two separate forms if needed).
- Ensure any existing pets vaccinations are up to date before attending your appointment.

Taking your pet home

Once you've been matched with your new companion and all visits are complete, we'll arrange a date for adoption.

Adoption day, our team will guide you through the necessary paperwork

This includes:

- Personalised information detailing your pet's needs and routines
- 4 weeks of free pet insurance to support a smooth transition
- A Pet24 registered ID tag
- Microchip registration (transferred into your name after adoption)
- A few days' supply of your pet's current food
- Their favourite toy



Medical

- Adult dogs are generally neutered before they are re-homed.
- Puppies and kittens may not be mature enough to be neutered before they leave our care but you will sign an agreement to have this done as soon as they are mature enough and *we will follow this up*.
- All animals have started their vaccination course whilst in our care and are up to date with flea and worming treatments and are microchipped.

If your pet has only had their first vaccination, you are responsible for ensuring they have their second within the timeframe, at your expense.

If the animal is not neutered, the charity will contribute towards a traditional neuter/spay up to the amount payable to our partnered veterinary practice, Millcroft Vets.

Animal Concern Cumbria reserves the right to reclaim any animal if neutering is not completed.

When you take a cat home

They will need to be *kept indoors for at least 2-4 weeks*, even if they will eventually have free access to the outdoors. Cats need to learn your home is their home before they have access to outdoors - otherwise they may not return when you let them out. We recommend using a quick release collar and bell.

Kittens must be kept in until they have been neutered. Dogs must be kept onlead until neutering is done and not be left alone with an unneutered animal.

After adoption

You will receive a confirmation email from the microchip company once the chip has been transferred into your name. This should arrive within a couple of weeks.

Aftercare

The team will check in with you the next day and again a few days later to see how the animal is settling in and to address any questions which may have come up since bringing them home.

At Animal Concern Cumbria, we make a lifelong commitment to every animal that comes into our care with ongoing support and guidance to adopters.

If you should ever need to rehome your adopted pet, our adoption agreement asks you to get in touch so we can take them back and ensure they are placed in the best possible home once again.

Animal Costs

Your adoption contribution is a lifeline that helps us continue giving love and care to cats and dogs in need.

Caring for our animals is more than just finding them a home. Each one receives a veterinary health check, vaccinations, flea, tick and worm treatments, microchipping and neutering. Some need extra help through behavioural training and rehabilitation, which can take weeks of patience and care.

Your support, combined with Gift Aid, truly makes a difference to helping us rescue, care for and rehome animals who deserve a second chance at a happy life.

Our standard donation* is £250 for a dog and £150 for a cat, these are non-refundable. Card payment is preferred.

** We may alter amounts for bonded pairs, very old or infirm where their condition is likely to cost money in the first few months after rehoming.*

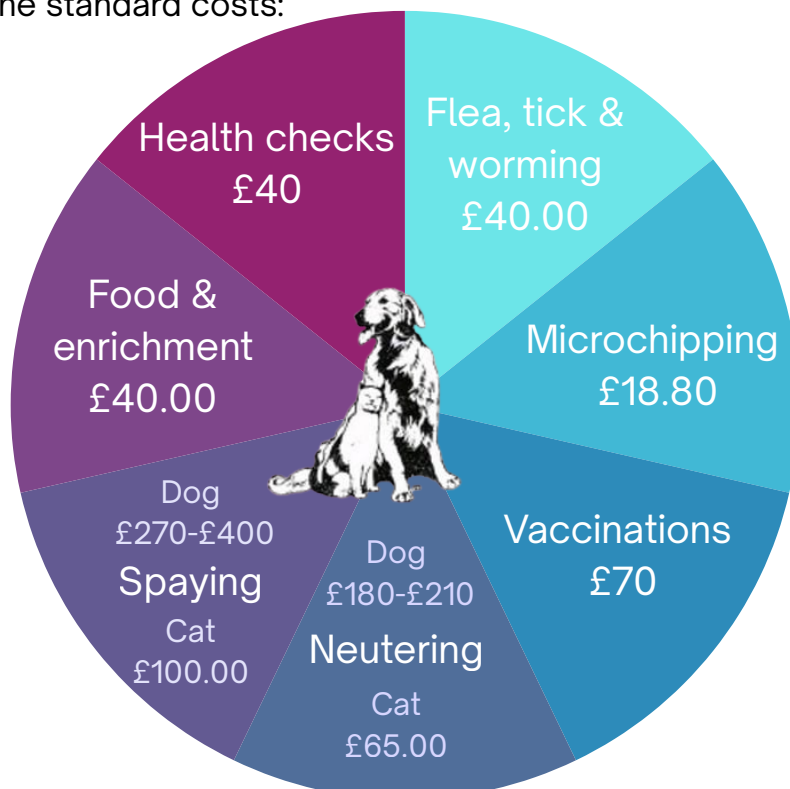
Gift Aid

If you're a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aiding your donation. This allows us to claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give, *at no additional cost to you.*



Overview of Our Animal Expenses

Some pets may require additional services such as dental care, medication, behavioural training and more, beyond the standard costs:



*As a charity we are **not** Government funded. We continue to help animals in need thanks to your contributions and generosity.*