



RSPCA Cotswolds, Gloucester & District Branch

Cotswolds Dogs & Cats Home

A charity registered in England & Wales. Charity no. 207006

Beechmeadow Farm, Elmcote Lane, Cambridge, Gloucestershire, GL2 7AS

T. 01453 890014 E. info@cdch.org.uk W. cdch.org.uk

The Pet Promise

How will you know that my pet needs to come to CDCH?

If you pass away and your pet needs to come to CDCH, we will need someone to get in touch by phoning 01453 890014 or emailing reception@cdch.org.uk to let us know. This could be a friend, family member, neighbour, caregiver, or the Executor of your Will. Where possible, we suggest appointing somebody as your pet's guardian who knows your wishes and who can care for your pet for the period of time before they come to CDCH.

We also strongly recommend including instructions in your Will and informing people of your wish for your pets to be taken to the Cotswolds Dogs & Cats Home. You should make sure that your Will and any other relevant paperwork is up to date and easy to access. You might also want to display information clearly in your home about your pets and your instructions for them, including contact details for your pet guardian.

How will my pet get to CDCH?

We will liaise with your pet's guardian to arrange admittance of your pet into our care. If they can bring your pet to us, then that would be extremely helpful. However, please note that in some instances a wait of up to several weeks may be required to intake your pet so please ensure this information is shared with your pet guardian and they are able to take care of your pet in the meantime.

Traveling long distances can be very stressful for dogs, cats and small furrries. As such, we would ask you to carefully consider whether traveling a distance to the Cotswolds Dogs & Cats Home is in the best interest of their welfare and whether a local rescue centre may be a suitable alternative.

Will you take in my pet if I am no longer able to look after them for health reasons or if I go into a hospice or care home?

If you are no longer able to care for your pet for any reason, the Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home is here to help. As the registered owner, we would require your consent to transfer the ownership of your pet to CDCH. If you are not able to do this in person, it can be done over the phone or with your written permission for another person to sign over your pet.

Sadly, we are seeing an increasing number of cases where the pet owner no longer has the capacity to give consent for their pet to be admitted to the Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home due to hospitalisation, illness or dementia. This can cause complications, particularly if a next of kin or someone with a power of attorney is not available to give consent on your behalf. To avoid any delay to your pet being rehomed, we strongly recommend that as part of your pet promise planning, you write a signed letter of authority giving a named person (such as your pet guardian, a family member, neighbour, care giver, or trusted friend) permission to bring your pet to CDCH in the event that you are no longer able to care for them.

Does the Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home admit all breeds of dogs and cats?

We operate a non-selective intake policy however Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 means that we cannot rehome any of the four banned breeds – Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, or Fila Brasileiro.

What if you don't have room for my pet?

Our Pet Promise animals are prioritised, so we work hard to find a space for your pet as quickly as possible, however it is important to ensure your pet guardian is able to take care of your pet until a space is available.

What if I have more than one pet?

As part of our normal admissions procedure, we don't usually take several animals from one home at any one time. Whilst multiple pets would be welcome at CDCH, their admission may need to be staggered.

Can my pets be rehomed together?

We always put the happiness of our animals first and, if they come to us as a pair or a group, they can initially be kept together for assessment. Where we can see that a group of animals are clearly bonded, we will certainly look to find them a new home together. Relationships can change in a new environment so we can never guarantee that they may not be split to benefit their wellbeing, but we will always do our best to honour your wishes for your pets.

Does my pet need to be microchipped?

As well as being a legal requirement for all dogs & Cats in England, Scotland and Wales, a microchip is also the best way for us to identify your dog or cat on our system should they need to come to CDCH.

What if my pet has a medical condition?

Every dog and cat that comes into the Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home is treated with compassion and is assessed by a member of our Veterinary team. Under some circumstances, our vet may determine that an animal's medical condition cannot be treated and is having a negative effect on their wellbeing. In these cases, it may be decided that the kindest action is to put them to sleep. We care deeply for all the animals we look after and such decisions are never taken lightly or in isolation.

Our intake policy means that difficult decisions sometimes have to be made, but also ensures that every animal we take in gets the second chance they deserve. If your pet has an existing medical condition, it would be helpful if your pet guardian could provide CDCH with details of their treatment and medication. If our vet is happy that they still have a good quality of life, then they can certainly be rehomed. We would make sure that their new family are aware of any medical condition and are financially able to cover any costs involved.

What if my pet has behavioural problems?

Our expert team will take the time to assess every dog and cat to understand their individual needs, motivations and behaviours towards other animals and people. They will also identify any areas where undesirable behaviours can be resolved with time, training and care, and will work closely with the animal on these.

We may also look to match them with more experienced pet owners who understand these behaviours and could continue any training. If the problems persist and we cannot be confident of rehoming them safely and responsibly, CDCH may take the sad but necessary decision to put the animal to sleep. We care deeply for all the animals we look after and such decisions are never taken lightly or in isolation. Our intake policy means that difficult decisions sometimes have to be made, but also ensures that every animal we take in gets the second chance they deserve.

What if my pet is elderly?

We welcome dogs and cats of all ages and many people come to us looking to rehome one of our more senior residents. We know these animals still have much life and love to give so we would work hard to find your pet the perfect home to enjoy their retirement years.

Can my pet bring its own bedding and toys?

A small amount of familiar blankets or toys would help your pet settle in during their first few days at CDCH. After that we may use our own equipment based on each animal's individual needs. This includes leads, collars and harnesses.

Anything brought with an animal that can't be used by the Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home will be donated to other rescue centres.

What happens if my pet doesn't like being kept in a kennel/pod?

Whilst many animals are quite content within a kennel/cattery environment, we know that others can find it a bit stressful. At CDCH we have an extensive enrichment programme which includes

individual care plans for each animal, a variety of toys and games as well as regular cuddles and walks from our staff and volunteers.

If your pet is showing signs of extreme stress, they may be placed with a foster carer.

How long will you care for my pet?

The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home places no time limit on how long an animal can stay with us and we will continue to care for them for as long as it takes to find the right home. In some cases, this can take a matter of days but for others it may take a little longer. We have lots of great homes waiting and most animals will be with us for around 3- 5 weeks.

How do you choose a new home for my pet?

We've been finding loving homes for our animals for over 80 years so you can be assured that we would work hard to find your pet a new home that fits their individual needs and unique personality. We interview potential owners by asking relevant questions to ensure we find the perfect match for each animal. When a match has been found, your pet's potential new family would come to the Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home to meet them some times several times. If all goes well, and after a final chat with our rehoming team, your pet would then be on their way to their new home.

Can my family be kept up to date on my pet, or visit them after it has been rehomed?

Whilst your pet is at CDCH your family can ask for updates on their progress, however Data Protection laws would prohibit us from sharing details of their new owners.

What if my family decide to keep my pet or take it elsewhere to be rehomed?

It may be that a family member or a friend decides that they are able to provide care for your pet or they may choose to take it to another rescue centre. If you want to ensure that your pet comes to the Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home, or you are happy for family or friend to take them on, we strongly advise you include this in your Will.

Can you look after my pet whilst I'm at an appointment or on holiday?

The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home is a rehoming charity and we cannot offer a temporary boarding service for pets.

How much does it cost?

Our Pet Promise is free of charge, however many of those who sign up to the service choose to leave a gift in their Will to **the Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home, RSPCA South Cotswold Branch, registered charity number 207006** as a thank you for promising to take care of their treasured pet. Whilst this

is not a necessity, a gift to the Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home, whatever amount, will help ensure that we can continue to be here for every dog or cat for many years to come.

If you have any other questions, please contact our Legacy lead Sam:

Email sam.herniman@cdch.org.uk Telephone 01453 890014