**CDCH Safe Space Scheme Agreement**

The CDCH Safe Space Scheme is a temporary pet fostering service for individuals fleeing domestic abuse or facing other life-changing events by providing support and care to their pets while they are temporarily unable to.

Our project offers a solution to a vulnerable situation and enables an individual to flee to safety while having the peace of mind that their pet is safe and cared for. This service is free to use and completely confidential.

**The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home Safe Space Scheme agree the following:**

* We are committed to supporting you and your pet(s) throughout a time of need and will provide accommodation for a maximum of 6 months while you are in refuge or temporary accommodation. We understand that circumstances can change and are sometimes unpredictable, extensions may be applied following a review of the foster placement and your housing progress.
* After the agreed foster period has elapsed, or you have relocated to accommodation that allows you to be reunited with your pet(s), we will arrange for you to collect your pet(s) from the CDCH Centre within 14 days.
* We will ensure that your pet is microchipped (a legal requirement for dogs since April 2016, and a legal requirement for cats after June 2024). The microchip will be registered to The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home in order to maintain confidentiality. Once your pet has been returned to you, the microchip will be registered to you at your current address. If your pet is already microchipped, you consent to us transferring the chip to CDCH for the duration of the foster period. \*This applies to dogs, cats, and rabbits only.
* If your pet has not been neutered/spayed when they come into our care, we will arrange to have them neutered/spayed by our onsite vet, free of charge, following their assessment and veterinary guidance.
* If your animal is not up to date with their vaccinations, or has missed their booster, we will vaccinate your pet(s) free of charge. If you cannot provide proof of vaccinations, we will restart their vaccination course. If you cannot prove proof of vaccination, and are not happy to consent to us vaccinating your animal(s) we may not be able to facilitate your Safe Space Request.
* We will place your pet(s) in our kennels/cattery or in the care of one of our fosterers (where available).
* If placed in foster, we will regularly monitor the foster placement to ensure your pet(s) are receiving the appropriate care and treatment. All of our fosterers have been approved through our rehoming process and have completed the relevant home checks prior to a foster placement. The name, address, and contact details of the fosterer will not be shared with you under any circumstances to maintain confidentiality.
* Where needed, we can provide equipment for your pet(s) during the foster period, such as beds, bowls, collars, leads, toys, crates, hutches (for small animals) etc.
* We will supply your pet’s food free of charge during the foster period. We are unable to provide specific food brands, unless advised by a veterinary surgeon.
* We will pay for the cost of any essential or preventative veterinary treatment during the foster period where advised by a veterinary surgeon.
* We may use external practitioners, such as veterinary surgeons or dog/cat groomers where required.
* We have a responsibility to ensure that your pet(s) is returned to a safe location where their welfare needs will be met. In instances where we are asked to return an animal to an address/situation where we feel these needs will not be met, this will be discussed with you. We reserve the right to contact the relevant authority or the RSPCA where we have significant concern for any animals’ welfare.

**You as the registered owner, agree to the following terms and conditions when referring your pet(s) to the Safe Space Scheme:**

* I give permission for The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home to provide temporary care for my pet(s) for a maximum of 6 months.
* I give permission for my pet’s veterinary records to be released to The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home should they be required.
* I understand that while my pet is in the care of The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home Safe Space Scheme, I need to be contactable by phone at all times, and will ensure to provide a current contact number and residing address for myself.
* I understand that while my pet is in the care of The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home Safe Space Scheme, I must agree to provide contact details for my current support worker/relevant agency that can provide updates on my behalf regarding my housing progress.
* I give consent for my support worker/relevant agency to discuss my case with the Safe Space Scheme.
* I understand that if I move into new accommodation and/or, I am no longer being supported by the same support worker/relevant agency, I must provide The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home with the contact details for my new support worker/relevant agency in order for my pet(s) to remain in the Safe Space Scheme.
* I consent for The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home to hand over my pet(s) to another party if legally required to do so as a result of a court order or lawsuit request by the Police.
* I consent to my pet(s) being microchipped (if not chipped already) and for the chip to be registered with The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home. \*This applies to dogs, cats, and rabbits only.
* I understand and agree that if my pet is not already neutered/spayed, The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home will arrange and fund the operation as this is a requirement of the scheme.
* I understand that it is a requirement of the Safe Space Scheme that my pet is vaccinated. If my pet is not vaccinated (and I cannot provide vaccination history), I consent for CDCH to restart their vaccination course. If I can provide proof of vaccination history and my pets’ booster vaccination is needed, I consent for CDCH to provide booster vaccinations for my pet(s). \*This applies to dogs, cats, and rabbits only.
* I understand that if I cannot provide proof of my pets(s) vaccination record, and do not consent to CDCH vaccinating them, I may be unable to use the Safe Space Scheme. \*This applies to dogs, cats, and rabbits only.
* I understand that if my pet is found to be pregnant, or comes into the project with her litter of puppies/kittens, then The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home will care for the mother and litter. Once the litter are of a suitable age to be rehomed, I consent to them being rehomed by The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home through their rehoming process.
* I understand that if upon arrival to The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home, my pet(s) displays behaviours that are considered by staff to be dangerous or unmanageable – and have not been disclosed prior on the Animal History Form or verbally – The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home have the right to refuse to allow my pet into the Safe Space Scheme.
* I understand that in the event that my animal(s) shows any form of aggression towards people, or unmanageable aggression towards other animals whilst in the care of The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home, I may be required to collect my pet(s) from CDCH immediately. If I do not arrange the collection of my pet(s) on an agreed date, I could be deemed to have abandoned them, and they will be automatically signed over to The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home. In this instance, we will endeavour to get in touch to notify you that your pet(s) have been automatically signed over to our care.
* I understand that The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home will always attempt to contact me to notify me that veterinary treatment/euthanasia is needed. However, if my pet is suffering and a veterinary surgeon advises that treatment is given immediately to prevent further illness or suffering, I understand that CDCH will authorise this on my behalf.
* I understand and agree that CDCH cannot be held responsible for the injury, illness, or death of my pet(s) while in their care, or in the care of a fosterer.
* I understand and agree that in order to maintain confidentiality, I will be unable to meet with my pet(s) while they are in foster care.
* I understand and agree that the identity of the foster carer, and the location of my pet(s) will not be disclosed to me in order to maintain confidentiality.
* I understand and agree that once I have been rehoused, or entered accommodation that will allow me to be reunited with my pet(s), I must make arrangements with CDCH to collect my pet(s) within 14 days.
* I understand and agree that once I have been rehoused, or entered accommodation that will allow me to be reunited with my pet(s), and **do not** make arrangements with CDCH to collect my pet(s) within 14 days, I could be deemed to have abandoned my pet(s). In this instance, my pet(s) will be automatically signed over to The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home and will be rehomed through their rehoming process. In this instance, we will endeavour to get in touch to notify you that your pet(s) have been automatically signed over to our care.

The aim of the Safe Space Scheme is to provide owners vital time to seek safety, with the knowledge that their pets will be safe and provided for in foster, until they can be reunited.

While the aim of the scheme is to reunite owners with their pets, this is reliant upon the owner making regular contact with CDCH throughout the foster period. We therefore, must make clients of the scheme aware of the below conditions.

By signing the Safe Space Agreement, I agree that:

* I understand that if I do not contact The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home every 30-days whilst my pet is in the care of the Safe Space Scheme, and if I fail to respond to their attempts to contact me, I will be deemed to have abandoned my pet(s). This will result in my pet(s) being automatically signed over to The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home, and rehomed through their standard rehoming process. In this instance, we will endeavour to get in touch to notify you that your pet(s) have been automatically signed over to our care.
* I understand that my pet(s) will be cared for by CDCH for a maximum of 6-months. I understand that if I do not arrange for my pet(s) to be returned to me after the 6-month period has elapsed I will be deemed to have abandoned my pet(s). This will result in my pet(s) being automatically signed over to The Cotswolds Dogs and Cats Home, and rehomed through their standard rehoming process. In this instance, we will endeavour to get in touch to notify you that your pet(s) have been automatically signed over to our care. \*Extensions to the foster period can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**By signing this document, you are confirming that you understand and agree to the aforementioned conditions, and that you are the registered owner of the animal(s) detailed below.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pets Name | Age | Species | Breed | Microchip Number |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Signed:  | Name:  | Date: |
| *Signature above confirms ownership* | *Print Name in Block Capitals*  |
| Signed on behalf of CDCH: | Date: |
| RSPCA Contact: | reception@cdch.org.uk / 01453 890014 |
| Owners Contact Number: |  |
| Support Worker Details: |  |