



Adoption Booklet

Welcome & Thank You!



Thank you for deciding to adopt or foster with Pawprints to Freedom.

Every application brings us so much excitement and joy with anticipation of a dog going home.

Our process is thorough to ensure we are matching our dogs to the correct homes for their needs and we hope that you stick with us throughout. We promise it's worth it!

OUR PROCESS:



Applicant Journey

Every Applicant has a dedicated volunteer administrator to guide them through their adoption or foster journey. Here's what to expect...

Thank you for your application. Your application will now be handled by your admin - please be patient for their contact. Please read this adoption booklet thoroughly.

Your admin will make contact and arrange a call to discuss your application, talk through your circumstances, and explain how our adoption process works.

You'll be prepared for and booked for a home check. This will be followed by a decision from our review team. Please make sure you have valid photo ID & proof of address for your home check.

Discuss and complete any conditions of your home check, then you'll have an independent match review for your chosen dog.

Your dog's microchip will be updated to you by our team. You'll receive an email from PETtrac. All dogs are dual registered to Pawprints to Freedom.

Once payment is received, you'll need to complete a transport declaration and your dog will be prepped and booked on to the next available transport. If collecting a dog already in the UK, this will be organised with your admin and the dog's current carers.

Your adoption contract will be emailed to you and must be completed before receiving your dog.

After successful matching, you'll be asked to make your dog's adoption fee payment, and your admin will discuss transporting your new dog with you.

Your dog arrives home!

Please remember the advice given by our team and use this booklet to set your dog up for success.



Thank you!

YOUR APPLICATION JOURNEY

1. Once you submit your application you will be allocated an admin. The admin will reach out, discuss the process, what's required, and any dogs you're interested in. The role of the admin is to answer any questions you may have and take you through the process. Your admin is your main point of contact.
2. You will be automatically sent the adoption pack upon applying. 3. Your admin will book the homecheck with the homecheck team. The homechecker will then liaise with you and complete the homecheck. The role of the homechecker is to gather as much information as possible on the forms and full media.
4. The homecheck decision team will review the homecheck and asses the media to determine whether the home is appropriate for any dog. You may have conditions such as stairgate required, child tested or fence to be heightened.
5. The match review team will then determine if the particular dog you have chosen matches with the requirements of the homecheck decision and is suitable for you.
6. You will then need to pay the adoption fee within 48hrs, sign the contract and sign the transport declaration.
7. Your dog will then be transported on the next available transport.



OUR ADOPTION FEES

For dogs travelling from Romania our adoption fees are:

£520 for residents of England, Scotland and Wales



£175 of the adoption fee is non-refundable if you cancel BEFORE your dog has boarded the transport. This is paid to the rescuer to prepare the dog for transport.

100% of the adoption fee is non-refundable once your dog has boarded transport. We have to pay the preparation and transport costs, even if you decide last minute to not continue.

Our adoption fees cover the following:

For our dogs travelling from Romania, our adoption fee covers the following:

- 🐾 Passport
- 🐾 Vaccinations and tests
- 🐾 Neutering/spaying for dogs over 9 months old
- 🐾 Microchip and subsequent change when arrived in UK
- 🐾 Import customs fee
- 🐾 Transport

For puppies that are under 9 months old, we take an additional £100 neutering fee, which is held on deposit and refunded if you get your dog neutered/spayed within 6 months of them arriving with you.

Adoption by Donation:

We want our oldies to have a chance of a forever home, and we recognise that there is potentially insurance and vet fee considerations when considering adoption of an older dog. We therefore decided to reduce our fees for oldies so they have a chance to get out. It still costs us the same to bring them over, so we fundraise for the difference between the adoption donation and our standard fee.

PRE-TRANSPORT PROCESS

Below are the vaccinations that we give each dog, along with the tests we carry out prior to travel:



Vaccinations:

-  DHPPI
-  Leptospirosis
-  Rabies

Tests:

-  Brucellosis
-  Babesia
-  Leishmania

4Dx snap test for:

-  Heartworm
-  Lyme Disease
-  Ehrlichia
-  Anaplasma

These tests are rapid/snap tests and give an immediate positive or negative indicator based on antibodies in the dogs blood. If a dog tests positive, we run full blood tests and treat accordingly. When taking your dog to the vets for the first time, please take along your dog's passport and health record.

Occasionally vets may request lab processed blood tests (especially for Brucellosis/Brucella Canis) before agreeing to see/treat your dog. Please check with your vets in advance. If you or your vet has any questions or concerns about your dog's testing or vaccinations, please don't hesitate to reach out to us before agreeing to any additional tests/vaccines. Some U.K. vets have difficulty understanding everything included in the Romanian passport.

Flea and Worming Treatment:

All our dogs are given flea and worm treatment prior to travel. Deworming is legal requirement for transport. In some cases, it may be necessary to repeat flea treatment within the first few weeks as the treatments in Romania aren't as efficient as those we have here in the UK.

Some flea tablets can be used additionally to spot on treatment if needed - please ask your admin contact for advice before giving additional treatment.

CANINE BRUCELLOSIS INFORMATION

MUST READ

What is Canine Brucellosis?

Canine brucellosis is an infectious disease in dogs, caused by a bacteria called 'Brucella canis'.

Canine brucellosis is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can also be transmitted to humans causing flu-like symptoms. Fortunately, this is very rare.

We have tested for Brucellosis since June 2021. Prior to this, there was very little awareness due to the rarity of this infection.

What tests we do

As of 7th October 2025, all dogs from Romania, are required to have negative Brucella canis ELISA and Brucella canis SAT tests by APHA prior to import. These results are emailed to us and retained on the dogs file to share with the adopter - please ask your admin contact.

Blood is taken from your dog in the shelter and sent to the APHA laboratories in the U.K. for testing. Your dog must travel within 30 days of the sample being taken. tests must be negative for the dog to be permitted to travel. If the dog tests positive on one or both tests, sadly they will not be able to travel.

Testing in the U.K

Over recent months, some vets in the U.K. have implemented new practices for B.canis testing, due to a rise in positive cases. Sometimes they will require further testing, usually 3 months after a dog arrives. These tests (SAT & ELISA) are the same tests carried out by Pawprints To Freedom prior to transport. Please be aware that these results may differ from your dog's original results prior to transport depending on level of infection or exposure.

A dog can test positive on one or both of these tests, resulting in an overall positive status. The tests show both active infection and antibodies as a result of previous exposure. If the antibodies are present in a high enough quantity, the dog is often considered to be considered positive for life, even if they are asymptomatic.

In the U.K, following a positive test result, some vets may advise on euthanising your dog. This is contrary to the advice given by APHA. Some vets may refuse any further treatment or offer restricted services.

We highly recommend you consult with your veterinary practice on their approach to imported dogs and their policy on B.canis testing and process in case of a positive result.

Guidance on testing, symptoms and treatment from UKHSA can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/brucella-canis-information-for-the-public-and-dog-owners/brucella-canis-information-for-the-public-and-dog-owners>

TRANSPORT

Once your fee has been received, your admin will then book your dog a space on our transport.

We use DEFRA-approved, 5-star transport.

The journey takes approximately 4 days.

You will be notified of the transport date once we have enough dogs for a full bus and the crossing has been booked. You will be added to a group chat for updates along the way after transport sets off. This chat will stay open for any questions or if you need advice after your dog's arrival.

During the transport, the relevant team will update your dog's microchip to you and you'll also receive your contract via email whilst your dog is in transit. Please sign and return this as soon as possible.



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WHAT TO EXPECT

What you need when your dog arrives off transport:



You will need a slip lead, which you will hand to the driver who will pop this on your dog before handing over to you. The driver will also give you the passport and health record. We recommend leaving the slip lead on for the first 48 hours as this will make it easier for you, and your dog will get used to having this on.

A crate is essential to prevent dogs from escaping and injuring themselves. It also provides them with a safe space. If you have your crate outside, the driver will put your dog in the crate for you. If you can't get your crate outside, you can ask the driver to bring your dog inside for you and put into their safe space.

Please have chicken and rice ready for them, this helps settle their tummies after the journey. You can gradually transition over to what food you will be feeding them.

Collecting your dog from our kennels, foster, or after transport:

Please bring a slip lead and a collar/harness and lead with you. Please keep your dog double leaded for the journey home, and secure in your vehicle in a crate / seatbelt to minimise flight risk when getting them in and out of your vehicle.

If you are collecting from our kennels, you can opt to make a £20 donation for the harness and lead which have been used with your chosen dog whilst they have been in kennels and will fit well. Items are pre-loved.



THE FIRST 48 HOURS

They're finally here!

Please ensure that your new arrival does not leave the home for 48 hours if they have travelled directly from Romania. This is a legal requirement known as traces!

What is Traces?

Traces means that when a dog arrives in the UK, they must not leave your property for 48 hours.

ALL dogs must do traces, whether in England, Scotland, or Wales. Traces are a legal requirement by DEFRA and the recipient of the dog will receive a fine for noncompliance.

DEFRA is the UK authority that deals with the importation and exportation of animals and plants. DEFRA requires the addresses of where the dogs will be in the first 48 hours so that they can spot check and ensure the animal is not imported illegally. They will check the microchip and passport.



SETTLING IN



Ensure that your dog will have a 'safe place' to spend their first hours after arriving. This is important to let your dog decompress after travelling, which can take 3 or 4 days. This includes keeping them completely separated from resident pets or children.



- Dogs coming from Romania have probably never lived in a home and are used to a small kennel. A whole house can be very overwhelming for them, so keep their world small. They may not wish to be fussed or stroked straight away.
- Even if your dog is arriving from a UK foster home, they need a safe place to adjust. It's important that they are able to go here for peace and quiet away from resident pets or children.
- Have food and water in their safe space with their crate/bed and leave them to explore in their own time. They will approach you when they are ready, sometimes this takes a few days, sometimes a few weeks. As tempting as it is, don't have visitors until your dog is confident meeting people, as this can be overwhelming for them.

THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

Important things to remember!

Whether you have adopted one of our Romanian dogs or a U.K. dog, they are bound to have a past - some worse than others.

The experiences these dogs have shape them and whilst we do all we can to prepare them in our kennels, a home life will likely be a completely new experience for them.

The traumas from their past may come to light and we want you to understand and be prepared for these.



- Boundaries are important to have in place upon arrival. This means ensuring your new dog does not have access to furniture such as sofas and beds. We have to ensure the dogs know what is expected of them and stop potential guarding behaviours.
- We do not want to overwhelm our dogs with lots of new experiences when they arrive, therefore we ask that they are not bathed or groomed until they are fully settled. We recommend 1-2 weeks, although this can be longer depending on the dog's needs.

INTRODUCING DOGS AND CHILDREN

Dogs can have a very positive influence on children, however common sense and ground rules need to be applied.



Introductions

- After 48 hours and once your dog is ready, ask children to sit down calmly and wait for the new arrival to approach them. Have them hold lots of treats in their hand to make it a very positive experience. The most important thing is to start slowly and work up.
- Don't allow children to approach the dog from behind or pat them directly on the head. Offering an open hand to the dog is a great way to tell how they are feeling. Be led by your dog and teach children to do the same.
- Ask children to speak calmly and quietly to help the dog feel at ease. It is important to not scream or shout around them.

Important Points

- Ensure children don't take any toys, food, or bones away from the dog.
- Please keep dog's and children's toys separate.
- Always feed your dog away from children and ensure they don't interrupt the dog while they are eating.
- Please don't allow children to sleep with a dog, hug or kiss a dog, or get into a dog's face. This can make them very uncomfortable and overwhelmed.



INTRODUCING DOGS AND OTHER PETS

There are simply no second chances when it comes to the all-important introductions. Introducing pets in the right way gives everyone the very best chance of a positive experience.

Resident dogs

- When the first 48 hours are up, assess how your dog is settling in and whether they are feeling settled and confident enough. Ideally where possible you should enlist help from another adult.
- Taking them on a walk together is the best first approach. If all goes well on the walk you can then let the dogs in together through your garden, allowing them to interact in a more personal environment. If positive vibes continue you can then begin introducing within the home.
- If any negative issues start, separate and continue daily. Please ensure that dogs are always kept separated while eating, sleeping and when you are not home until you know they have fully accepted each other.



Resident cats



- Always ensure that your cats have a quiet separated safe place to retreat to away from the dog if they are becoming overwhelmed. Also ensure that their food and sleeping areas are out of reach for the dog.
- When starting introductions, always ensure your dog is on a lead and your cat has an easy exit route. It is natural for dogs to want to chase anything that runs - this doesn't mean they want to harm them. They just need time to get used to each other and learn to live together.

Resident furries/birds

- Please always ensure that any smaller animals are kept permanently separated from your new resident dog. Introductions should never take place. Please ensure cages are off the floor and out of reach, especially within a dog's safe areas.



LEAD WALKING

Romanian rescues are notorious escape artists. It is ESSENTIAL they are walked with a three-strap harness and double leaded.

A three-strap harness stops them from backing out and escaping. Double leading helps prevent accidents such as chewing through the lead.

Double Leading

Your slip lead should have a good quality stopper which is adjusted once fitted.

Whilst slip leads are the most secure way to manage your dog, they can be bitten through in seconds, which is why a second lead is required.

Hold harness/collar lead in right hand to control the dog's movement.

Hold slip lead in left hand - with no pressure on this lead unless there is an emergency.

OPTION ONE: WELL FITTING COLLAR WITH ID TAG AND SLIP LEAD

OPTION TWO: WELL FITTING HARNESS AND SLIP LEAD

PLEASE NOTE: YOU SHOULD ALWAYS DOUBLE LEAD YOUR DOG EVEN IN THE GARDEN. WHEN FRIGHTENED, DOGS CAN CHEW THROUGH A LEAD OR SLIP A COLLAR OR HARNESS IN SECONDS. ALWAYS USE A SLIP LEAD AS A SECOND LEAD.

THIS IS A CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENT

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These are examples of a three-strap dog harness. These are the most comfortable and also the most likely to be escape proof.

The extra waist strap prevents your dog from backing out of the harness.

We recommend ordering from Ashcroft Animal Accessories. They provide support to ensure correct measurements and fit and we receive a small donation for your purchase. They can be found on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AshcroftAnimalAccessories>



A collar alone is not a safe option for a rescue dog



FOSTERING

Your role... to be a loving and patient foster parent whilst your foster dog acclimatises to domestic life. Your 'job' as a foster parent is to learn about your dog's personality and behaviours in order to help find a great adopter.

Who can foster? Almost anyone!

- You must be over the age of 18.
- Someone in the household must be fit, willing and able to give the dog adequate exercise.
- There must not be any dogs that are covered by the Dangerous Dogs Act in the house.
- There must not be foster dogs from another rescue in the house.
- We cannot place dogs in households where dogs are being privately sold
- You must have landlord permission to foster dogs.
- You must not have been prosecuted for any animal cruelty or neglect.

Once your application is in, we will do a home check to help us to match you to the right dog. Some dogs have additional needs and can only be homed in certain environments. Your admin will discuss this with you and be with you every step of the way.

There is no charge to foster a dog. We cover all costs for preparation and travel. However, you do have some obligations.

Foster obligations

- Provide the dog with a bed, bowls, food, collar, lead, harness etc.
- Take lots of pictures and update us regularly about all the things you learn about your dog to help us find a forever home.
- Ensure the dog is given flea and worm treatment when required.
- Keep the dog clean and groomed.
- Keep the dog secured or on a long line at all times.
- Let us know any concerns you have about the dog's health, temperament or wellbeing.
- Ensure sensible introductions with resident pets and children, and not allow the dog on the furniture.



- Ask anyone who expresses interest in your foster dog to adopt through us – you must not arrange a private adoption or to meet potential adopters which have not been arranged through the rescue directly.
- Check-in weekly with your admin and the foster team.
- Keep the dog at the address on your application and let us know if you plan to move or have another change of circumstances.
- Arrange holiday cover for your dog as you would your own. Pawprints to Freedom cannot cover foster holidays.
- Do not foster or adopt animals from other rescues without prior notice and consent.
- Do not attend the vets (unless it is an emergency), without consent from Pawprints to Freedom – we cannot retrospectively authorise vet fees, you must always seek authorisation first, unless the dog needs urgent care.

Our obligations

- To cover all vet bills, where the visit was an emergency, or pre-authorised.
- To advertise the dog to potential adopters.
- To ensure all information given about the dog is accurate and true.
- To find an adopter within a reasonable radius, and/or willing to travel.
- To support the foster carer with any questions they have and give behavioural advice where needed.
- To provide emergency care for the dog in unanticipated situations.
- To keep the foster carer informed regarding any interest, reservations and adoptions.
- To keep the fosters details safe, secure and confidential. To only share pictures with the fosters consent.



Pawprints to Freedom fosterer Tracey Wilburn with Butterbean

“

The fostering process is incredibly rewarding, especially when they move on to adoption and you see them on the FB group, happy and being trained from reactive to not or loving cuddles.

”

Fostering with a view to adopt

When you choose to foster with a view to adopt, we will ask you to make the adoption fee payable to Pawprints to Freedom within a two week period of the dog arriving into your home.

If you are not able to do this, we will organise for the dog to be advertised on our website and social pages for a new home. We cannot keep a dog indefinitely in a foster home without advertising the dog for a new home.

There will be of course some situations whereby the dog is not ready to be put up for adoption. If this is the case this can be discussed with your admin or the Foster Team.

When your dog is ready for adoption

When your foster dog has been with you for a couple of weeks and you feel they are ready to find their forever home, we will send you a template to complete.

We will ask for you to provide as much information and photographs as possible so we can promote them on our main page.

When we find a potential adopter we will set up a chat for the potential adopter to meet the foster dog.



RESCUE BACK UP (RBU)

We offer RBU to ensure that dogs rescued by us are kept safe, so should unforeseen circumstances arise (e.g. critical life-changing illness, or death), we will do our best to find a suitable alternative placement for the dog.



RBU is **not** if you have changed your mind on having a dog, or it doesn't look how you expected, or it isn't housetrained. Dogs are living beings and should be treated as such. We expect you to put in the work with training and help your dog live a happy and contented life, feeling safe, secure and part of the family.

When rescue dogs get rehomed, it can take months for them to settle and be comfortable in your home. You must be prepared for that, and if you aren't, a rescue dog isn't right for you. They have gone through so much, they need to learn to trust you, and if you give up on them you are adding to their trauma and their ability to trust. Please don't be that person.

Before taking a rescue dog on, consider what sacrifices you may have to make and if you can accept them. Life won't be the same, the first few months could be hard, visitors can't visit, trips may need to be put on hold, and leaving the home for long periods is no longer possible. Your new dog needs to come first and everyone in the household needs to be on board with that.

Our processes take a huge amount of volunteers' time, which our volunteers willingly give because they care. It is frustrating and upsetting when RBU is requested. We understand that there are always genuine reasons why it's needed, but situations where it could be avoided are challenging for us to deal with. "Come and get this dog now" is never appropriate. We don't judge genuine cases, but please don't give up after 3 days/weeks/months or even years.

We always provide as much support and guidance as we can to help you be successful. Please listen and take our advice, which is through years of experience. It's the most heartbreakin, frustrating moment when someone contacts us to say they've changed their mind and it's incredibly unfair on the dog and the rescue team who have worked so hard for it to have the best chance of a wonderful life.

RESCUE BACK UP IS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES ONLY. PLEASE THINK VERY CAREFULLY ABOUT HOW YOU WILL OVERCOME ANY SCENARIO SHOULD IT ARISE WHEN YOU ADOPT A DOG.

UK INTAKES

Our UK Intakes team help support dogs in need all over the U.K, ranging from U.K pound dogs to loved family pets.

Where possible, these dogs are assessed by our volunteers and their medical history is obtained before moving into foster homes.

All UK intakes move into foster homes to be further assessed, vet checked and socialised for a minimum period of 3 weeks before they will be ready and advertised for adoption.

Fosterers taking UK intakes must take their foster dog to a vet within 1 week of arrival so the vet can double check or implant microchips as needed, begin vaccinations, and schedule neutering if required.



BEHAVIOURAL SUPPORT

Post adoption tips

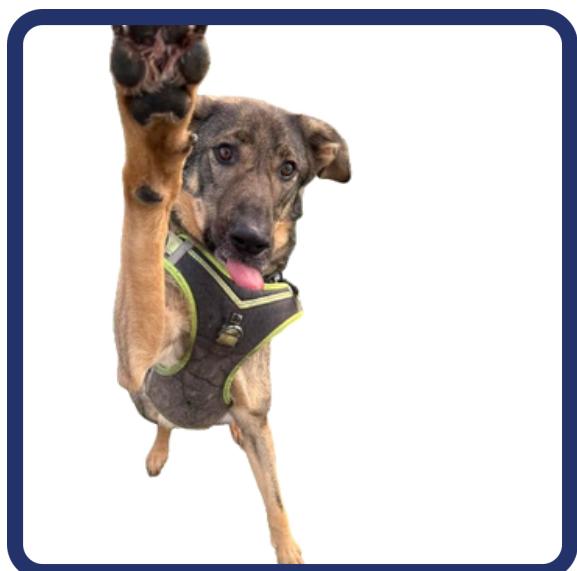
Below is a list of behaviours that can occur with new rescue dogs:

- Dominance
- Fear Aggression
- Destructive Behaviours
- Food and Resource Guarding
- Fear or Reactivity (towards dogs, people, leads)
- Excessive Barking
- Fearfulness or Nervousness

By following all of our advice above with separation, introductions and helping your dogs settle, a lot of these behaviours can be avoided or more easily managed.

Adopting a rescue dog is an amazing and rewarding experience, however it is extremely important you understand that these dogs have been through very challenging situations and may have had to fight for their lives.

It is our obligation to inform you that challenges and issues with behaviour may occur, however it is our promise to you to support you and your dog to give you the best experience with your adoption. If your dog begins to show any changes in behaviour please inform your admin or a member of the rescue immediately. Early intervention is essential and we can provide advice on training techniques and behavioural management.



*High five for adopting
or fostering a rescue
dog - you are truly
saving a life!*

Affiliate Links

Waggel Pet Insurance

<http://www.waggel.co.uk/pawprints>

With our waggel link, adopters will receive 1 months free insurance and PPTF will receive £25 for every sign up.

Waggel insurance policies offer free behavioural & nutritional support via video call, as well as £1000 annual dental cover.

All claims handlers are qualified vet nurses and all policies are lifetime cover.



Affiliate Links

Trick Woofs

<https://trickwoofscomics.uscreen.io/?via=hayley>

Trick Woofs offer a library of over 300 supportive resources to help owners and doggies, enrichment ideas, body language videos and step by step mini videos plus challenges and progress trackers to download and monthly giveaways!

Members can choose monthly payments or annual and they offer a risk free 3 day free trial.

PPTF receives 50% of all sign ups!

