



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:

We have received your application form - Thank you!

This booklet has been automatically sent with your declaration form. As soon as your declaration form is signed and we have received it, we can progress your application. A member of our adoptions team will contact you - your admin. They will be in direct contact with you throughout the process and after your dog is home.

Our adoptions team aim to make contact within the first 48 hours by the preferred contact method on your application form, so please keep an eye out for their correspondence.

If they don't receive a response from you, they will try again and leave a message with their contact details.

Please also check your spam/junk folders.

If you haven't had any contact then please email us here:
enquiries@pawprints2freedom.co.uk

Sometimes, we find numbers or emails have been entered incorrectly on the application form, so you may be contacted by other means.

Your admin will have arrange to call you about which dogs match your application form, to gather more information, explain the process again and answer any questions you may have.

If you agree to continue then a home check will be requested. This is done internally with our own team and a home checker will contact you to arrange a mutually suitable time.

We do ask for all family members to be present, but please let us know if this isn't achievable. We do aim to have a homecheck booked in within 7 days, but please be patient with us during busy periods.

Once your home check is complete, it will be independently reviewed by our team to check that you would suit one of our dogs.

On some occasions, there may be some adjustments needed, such as securing or heightening boundary fencing. You will be notified and we hope you'll be willing to accommodate these.

Your admin will then be in touch to reconfirm your chosen dog and put you into match review. Match review is where we check this dog will match your family and circumstances.

Sometimes applicants come to us without a dog in mind and this is where we look at the whole picture to see which of our dogs would be suitable.

Once you're through match review with your chosen dog, your admin will send you our payment details to request your dog's adoption fee.

OUR ADOPTION FEES:

For dogs travelling from Romania our adoption fees are:

£400 for residents of England and Wales

£420 for residents of Scotland

£150 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.

A refundable neutering fee of £100 will be requested if you are adopting a puppy. Please send a copy of your vet invoice confirming your dog's neuter to your admin who will arrange for the fee to be refunded.

Our adoption fees cover the following:

TRANSPORT - We transport to England, Scotland & Wales. However, if you're on the outskirts of the country, in a remote region, or too far off the transport route, you may be asked to meet our transport. We do our best to accommodate all, please speak to your admin if you have any concerns.

VACCINATIONS - DHPPI, Leptospirosis & Rabies

TESTS - Brucellosis, Babesia, Leishmania and 4DX snap test for: Heartworm, Lyme Disease, Ehrlichia and Anaplasma.

FLEA AND WORMING TREATMENT.

The results of the above tests and vaccinations will be recorded in your dog's passport which you will receive with your dog. Please keep this safe as vets often request to see it.

Any issues or queries, please speak to your admin.

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 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.

WHAT TO EXPECT

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.

Many people ask 'why Romania?'. There are so many reasons why we chose to help Romania, but the main one is the lack of welfare conditions and care. It's not uncommon to see dogs injured and suffering on the street. These same dogs are then captured by dog catchers and left to a horrific fate in a public shelter. Many are starved, beaten and treated appallingly.

We can't save them all, but those we take on have likely had horrific experiences. We take the time to help them grow and flourish within our Romanian shelters to prepare them for a life in a home.

Our U.K. dogs often come to us from homes that can no longer keep them for various reasons or from local U.K. pounds.

We usually get contacted just before they are due to be euthanised. We often don't know much about the backgrounds of these dogs, no matter which country they originate from.

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. Your dog may be the friendliest one in the shelter but arrive to you worried and shy. The transport trip alone is extremely stressful and those first moments through your front door can be so overwhelming.

Please refrain from giving hugs and kisses to newly arrived dogs, they may not know how to react or understand that you're being kind. Their previous experiences of touch may not be good and you will be a stranger to them.

We recommend taking everything slowly and not giving your new arrival access to the entire home. These dogs have come from a small kennel and giving them too much all at once can be overwhelming and have a negative impact on them. You could begin to see behavioural issues such as guarding or destruction.

The same goes for toys and physical items; the dogs have had nothing in the kennels so we need to introduce these slowly. Start small and then work upwards at a comfortable level for you and your dog.

Your new dog may bark, cry or howl. They may shut down, stay in their crate, not come near you. All of these behaviours are normal for a new arrival trying to find their paws in a completely new environment.

We hope that our process ensures the right dog is matched to you and your circumstances. However, you still may experience some of the following:

Resource guarding - this can be an object, food or a human. As explained before, don't give them everything at once. Your new dog will appreciate space when eating.

Separation anxiety - tackle this by leaving your dog for short periods of time and work your way up to longer periods. This can also be prevented by your dog having their own safe space so they don't become overdependent on you.

House soiling - the kennels do not have a separate toilet space, so this will need to be worked on for almost all dogs.

Snatching food - keep all food, treats, snacks etc. out of reach off benches and worktops and keep your bins closed.

Trying to escape - ensure doors and windows are closed and your dog is behind a secondary door before opening your front door. Use your slip lead in the garden for at least the first few weeks.

Fear of new people or pets - introduce slowly. Stair gates are useful for this so people/animals can safely meet and get used to each other with a barrier for safety.

This list is not extensive and you may experience other behaviours as your dog begins to settle in.

If you need help, please contact your admin at the earliest possible time or email enquiries@pawprints2freedom.co.uk

Thank you again for choosing our rescue to adopt or foster and please do get in touch if you have any further questions.