



Who'll be there  
when you're not?



Home for Life



**“Home for Life gives any responsible pet owner peace of mind that their pet will be well looked after by perhaps the most well known charity in the world.”**

Roy Kemp

# We will. That's a promise.

In the event of your death your pet deserves a home that's as loving and caring as the one they have right now, no matter what.

That's why we set up our Home for Life scheme. It means that if you're no longer here to look after your pet, we'll take them in and do everything we can to find them a safe and loving home.

In this guide, we'll take you through the simple steps needed to apply for Home for Life and ensure your pet is cared for.

If you have any questions about Home for Life after reading this booklet, please don't hesitate to call us using the contact details on the back.



# Every pet tells a story.

Your pet is unique, and may have very different needs from any one of the 47,000\* animals we rehome every year. Home for Life is here to ensure your pet's needs are met, just like Charlie's were in this touching story...

## A second chance for Charlie.

Charlie's owner John was the only family he'd ever known, so when John passed away, Charlie was alone and without his best friend. He was also blind, and subsequent health problems meant that he required an emergency operation.

### **Thankfully, John had registered Charlie onto Home for Life.**

Our dedicated staff at RSPCA Chesterfield branch worked tirelessly to keep Charlie's spirits up; playing with him every day and making sure he had lots of toys. They gave him all the love and care he needed to recover.

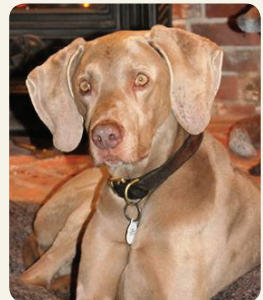
When the time came, they worked hard to find him a new home, and their efforts didn't go unnoticed. "We saw Charlie on the RSPCA website and just knew he was 'the one'," said Charlie's new owner Nicolette. Nicolette and her husband Richard drove for over eight hours to meet him, and went through a thorough vetting process including a home visit.

Finally, Charlie was ready to meet their two dogs Tess and Bear. He's now happily settled with his new family. "All three dogs are brilliant together and we even caught Tess resting her head on him last night," said Nicolette.

Charlie has his whole life ahead of him and is a prime example of what Home for Life can offer.

"Happy endings like this inspire us in ways we cannot express. Thank you Charlie, for touching so many lives with your sweetness. You're very missed by your RSPCA friends, but we're all so proud of you. And thank you to Charlie's former owner John for leaving a gift in his Will to the RSPCA, to help even more animals in need."

RSPCA Chesterfield Branch Team





**“It’s always been a worry for me as to what will happen to my pets when I’m gone. When I heard about the RSPCA’s Home for Life scheme, I knew it was the answer.”**

Joyce Hutley

# How to give your pet a Home for Life.

## And ensure other animals are cared for too.

We recommend you make or update your Will with instructions to rehome your pet through Home for Life (the suggested clause is included at the back of this guide). This ensures that your Executor is fully aware of your requirements, as your Will is the only official document they must refer to when dealing with your estate.

By formally acknowledging the RSPCA in your Will, and returning the completed application form, you're doing everything possible to safeguard your pet's future. If, or when, the time comes, you can rest assured that they'll be left in the hands of a dedicated team who promise to love and care for your pet as their own.

## But thousands more animals are not so lucky.

While you're making or updating your Will, please consider including a gift to the RSPCA at the same time. More than half our work is funded by gifts in Wills. They're a vital source of support; helping us to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals that may have been subject to horrific cruelty and neglect.

## Applying to Home for Life: your step-by-step guide.

1. Take this leaflet to your legal adviser and use the suggested wording at the back of this booklet when adding the Home for Life wording to your Will. Please also consider including a gift in your Will to the RSPCA.
2. Complete a Home for Life application form for each pet you'd like to register and return to us in the envelope provided. If you're happy to do so, please also send a copy of your Will. Then we'll be fully prepared if, or when, the time comes.
3. Make a copy of your Will and ensure someone you trust knows where the original is kept.
4. That's it! You can enjoy the rest of your life with your pet, safe in the knowledge they will be lovingly cared for when you're gone.

**“It was obviously right to plan for Thomas Tompkins’s future to ensure he will be kept safe and happy. I trust the RSPCA to give him the care and love he deserves. When I was writing my Will, it seemed natural to include a gift to the RSPCA to help carry on their important work.”**

Delyth Chappell



# Peace of mind for you. Love and care for your pet.

Once you've done everything you need to apply, we'll be in touch to let you know if there are any queries. If, or when, the time comes for us to take responsibility for your pet, we will be notified by the Executor of your Will, or a friend or family member, and will organise to take them in. We'll make sure your pet has all the necessary health checks and will do our best to find them a loving new home.

We understand every animal is different, and some pets can take longer to rehome than others. However, we promise that as long as your pet is healthy and coping well, he or she will stay with us for as long as they need.

## Why should I include the Home for Life Will wording?

We strongly recommend you include the suggested wording in your Will as this means that any arrangements in relation to your pet will formally recognise the RSPCA. It also ensures that, in the event of your death, your Executor will be fully aware of your wishes. This is because your Will is the only official document that they must refer to when dealing with your estate.

## What if I can't afford to make or update my Will?

Some legal advisers do offer a reduced rate for the preparation of a Will, and it may be worthwhile comparing several local firms. Alternatively, you may wish to speak with your local Citizens Advice to see whether they can be of any assistance. You can reach them on: **020 7833 2181** or at: **[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)**

## Can I use different wording in my Will?

As long as your wishes are clearly stated in your Will and you have included our charity name and registered charity number, your Executor should have all the information they need, but it's always a good idea to check with your legal adviser.

## Can you rehome my pets together?

If you require pets to be rehomed together let us know using the application form provided. Although we cannot guarantee that this will be possible, we would, of course, do everything we can to keep your pets happy.



## What if I get a new pet?

To make sure we're there to take in your pet and find them a loving new home, you'll need to submit an application form to register them onto the scheme. Please call us on: **0300 123 0239** to let us know and we will send out a form for you to complete and return.

## How much does it cost?

The Home for Life scheme is free. However, we simply wouldn't exist without public donations, and without kind gifts left to us in our supporters' Wills. That's why we ask you to consider leaving a gift in your Will, so we can continue our vital work protecting animals from cruelty.

## Are there any pets you won't take?

Cats and dogs are most commonly registered with Home for Life but we also take in other species of animals. If you're looking to place exotic or larger pets, spaces may be limited so please let us know and we can advise.

In rare instances, it may not be possible to rehome a pet under the Home for Life scheme, for instance if they pose a risk to humans or other animals. For more information, please see the Terms and Conditions.

## Is there a limit to the number of pets you can take?

No, there isn't a maximum number of pets. However, if you're looking to send more than five applications at once, then please contact us to discuss your requirements as capacity needs to be taken into consideration.

## What if my family offer to take my pet?

The Home for Life scheme is there for when no other provisions have been made. If you later decide that you'd prefer someone else to take care of your pet, please let us know.

## How long will you look after my pet for?

Healthy pets will stay with us for as long as they need. However, the animal's welfare is paramount and, as pets cope differently in different environments, they may stay with foster carers while we find them a new home.

# A few words make all the difference.

## Share this wording with your legal adviser.

Here is the suggested wording you'll need to include in your Will. This will leave your pet in the care of the RSPCA, in the event of your death:

"I give [any pet animal I own at my death] [define the animal] [and \_\_\_\_\_ pounds] [and \_\_\_\_\_ percent / the whole of my residuary estate] to the RSPCA of Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1GY (registered charity no 219099) for its general purposes and I direct that once [any pet animal I own at my death][defined animal] is delivered to the RSPCA it shall take over full responsibility for the animal and seek to place it in a suitable home if possible. The receipt of the honorary treasurer or other appropriate officer of the RSPCA for the time being shall be a good discharge of my Executors."

If you'd like to leave a gift to your local RSPCA branch, please use the above wording, making sure to update the RSPCA name, address and charity number with the branch details of your choice.



**“My husband is now in a care home, we have no family or anyone who would take our cats, so it is such a relief to know that, in the event of my death, they will be cared for.”**

Christine Smith





We know you wouldn't trust your best friend to just anyone. We want you to have the peace of mind that comes with knowing your pet will be loved and cared for by people who love animals as much as you do. If you have any questions or need more information, our team is always here to help.

**RSPCA Home for Life Team**

**0300 123 0239**

**homeforlife@rspca.org.uk**

**www.rspca.org.uk/homeforlife**

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1GY  
[www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk) [facebook.com/RSPCA](https://facebook.com/RSPCA) [twitter.com/RSPCA\\_official](https://twitter.com/RSPCA_official)

The RSPCA helps animals in England and Wales. Registered charity no. 219099

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**Home for Life**



# Home for Life Application form.

## 1. Your details.

Title:  First Name:  Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Landline:  Mobile:

## 2. Adding Home for Life to your Will.

We recommend you add the suggested Home for Life wording to your Will as this formally acknowledges the RSPCA in any future arrangements. It also ensures that your Executor is fully aware of your wishes as this is the only official document that they must refer to when dealing with your estate.

- Yes, I have added the Home for Life wording to my Will.
- I have enclosed a copy of my Will for your records. (This information is not mandatory but it helps us to better prepare for future arrangements.)

## 3. Helping other animals.

We rely on the generosity of the public to continue helping animals in need. So that we can better plan for our future, please use this section to let us know if you have chosen to include a gift in your Will to the RSPCA.

- I've included the RSPCA in my Will to ensure you're always there for animals in need.
- I have some questions and would like a bit of help.  
Please call me on:
- Please send me an information pack about gifts in Wills.
- I do not wish to include a gift in my Will to the RSPCA right now.

Please note, that any information you provide will be kept confidential and is not binding in any way.

Continued...

## 4. Your pet's details

Please share as much as you can about your pet. If anything changes you can always get in touch with us to update or add information. If you have more than one pet, please fill in these details on a separate sheet of paper, or photocopy this form.

Name of pet  Cat  Dog  Other (please specify)

Breed

Colour and any significant markings

Age  Male  Female

My pet has been Neutered  Microchipped  Microchip number

What are your vet's details?

Is there any special medical information we should know about your pet?

(e.g. do they require any medication, or have any health conditions?)

What vaccinations has your pet received, and when?

Does your pet have any dietary requirements?

Is there anything you'd like us to know about your pet?

(e.g. do they have a favourite toy or activity, are they afraid of anything?)

## 5. Sign here.

Yes, I have read, understood and accepted the terms and conditions.

Print name

Signature  Date

Thank you for your interest in Home for Life. We will be in touch very soon to confirm your details, and let you know that your application is being processed. **If you have any questions please get in touch:**

**0300 123 0239    [homeforlife@rspca.org.uk](mailto:homeforlife@rspca.org.uk)    [www.rspca.org.uk/homeforlife](http://www.rspca.org.uk/homeforlife)**

## Rescuing animals today and tomorrow – stay in touch

Your support will help rescue animals today and ensure the RSPCA are there for all animals all year round. We promise to keep in touch by sharing our rescue stories, with news of the work we do, campaigning and appeals.

Would you like to hear from the RSPCA by email and/or text?

Yes, I'm happy to hear from you by email     Yes, I'm happy to hear from you by text

You confirm you are over 18 years old by ticking any boxes above.

If you already hear from us we will continue to contact you in line with your existing preferences plus any new ones. If you have provided a telephone number and address we'll contact you by post and phone. You can always change how we contact you, call our Supporter Care team on 0300 123 0346 or email: [supportercare@rspca.org.uk](mailto:supportercare@rspca.org.uk)

How we use your information is set out in our privacy notice: [www.rspca.org.uk/privacy](http://www.rspca.org.uk/privacy)

The RSPCA operates in England and Wales and not in Scotland. Registered charity no. 219099.  
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**RSPCA Home for Life Terms and Conditions**  
**Date of issue: March 2017**

Please read these Terms and Conditions (Terms) before applying to join RSPCA Home for Life, "The Scheme". Registration with The Scheme constitutes your acceptance of these Terms, which take effect on the date that your RSPCA Home for Life registration is accepted by the RSPCA. Acceptance onto The Scheme will be confirmed by post.

1. RSPCA Home for Life is owned and run by the national RSPCA (Registered charity no. 219099) and operated with the support of a network of RSPCA charities (separately registered and volunteer run). The RSPCA operates in England and Wales only. References in these Terms to "RSPCA", "we", "us" or "our" refer to the national RSPCA and its support network of separately registered RSPCA charities.
2. All rehoming decisions are based on the RSPCA's rehoming policy which can be found at: [www.rspca.org.uk/findapet/rehomeapet/process](http://www.rspca.org.uk/findapet/rehomeapet/process). Key aspects are outlined in clause 14 and 15 of these Terms for ease of reference.
3. For the purposes of these Terms, any person who has applied to join The Scheme is known as 'The Applicant.' References in these Terms to 'you' refer to you as 'The Applicant.' Any person whose application has been accepted onto The Scheme is known as 'The Scheme Member'. Any references to 'Pet' relate to The Scheme Member's pet.
4. For the purposes of these Terms, any person who has been assigned responsibility to manage The Applicant's affairs in the event of their death is referred to as 'The Responsible Person.' This covers any individual who has legal responsibility for the Applicant's assets / estate post death so that arrangements can be made on behalf of and in accordance with the wishes of The Applicant.
5. The RSPCA reserves the right to modify these Terms at any time. In the event that any changes are made, the Scheme Member can access these Terms directly at: [www.rspca.org.uk/homeforlife](http://www.rspca.org.uk/homeforlife)

**Eligibility for RSPCA Home for Life**

6. Home for Life is a service for pets and their owners. For the purposes of the Scheme, the definition of a pet animal covers any animal sharing The Applicant's life as a companion pet. While an assistance pet, such as a guide dog, is classed as a primarily working animal, they may still be accepted, where applicable. Excluded from the definition is, for instance, animals kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or for other farming purposes; those kept in zoos and circuses for exhibition; those kept for hunting or sporting purposes and those kept for experimental or other scientific purposes.
7. A pet will only be registered onto the Scheme if an RSPCA Home for Life application form has been completed by The Applicant, and accepted by the RSPCA. The Applicant must submit an application form for each pet they wish to register onto the Scheme. If The Applicant wishes to register more than five pets they should call the RSPCA Home for Life Team. Acceptance onto The Scheme will be confirmed by post.
8. The RSPCA operates in England and Wales only, and as such The Scheme is available to pet owners in England and Wales only. Should there be any change in The Scheme Member's circumstances where they or their Pet no longer resides within England or Wales, Home for Life registration will cease.
9. As Home for Life is a post-death service, The Scheme does not rehome Pets during The Scheme Member's lifetime i.e. cases where The Scheme Member is unable to look after them due to illness or capacity issues. If The Scheme Member feels they have extenuating circumstances they should call the RSPCA Home for Life Team on: 0300 123 0049 to discuss their situation and seek further guidance and advice.

**Collection of an RSPCA Home for Life Pet**

10. By registering with Home for Life, The Scheme Member gives permission for the RSPCA to take full responsibility of their Pet. Legal ownership of their Pet will take effect on completion of a 'Transfer of Ownership' form.
11. On completion of the transfer of ownership, Pet(s) will be rehomed through a national RSPCA Animal Centre or one of the separately registered and volunteer run local RSPCA charities.
12. The Responsible Person and the RSPCA should work together to make prior arrangements for the interim care and collection of the Pet. While every effort will be made to ensure minimal waiting time, we ask that The Scheme Member considers making arrangements with The Responsible Person to look after the Pet whilst preparations are being made to bring the Pet into the RSPCA.

13. If there is any equipment to be used for the welfare of the Pet at the time of The Scheme Member's death, these should be included in the Will and passed over to the RSPCA for the care of that Pet. For instance, a dog bed, collar, vivarium etc.

### **Rehoming an RSPCA Home for Life Pet**

14. As per the RSPCA rehoming policy, the Pet's health, behaviour and welfare will be assessed on arrival.
15. As per the rehoming policy, no Pet may be rehomed without reasonable steps to make sure they will have a good quality of life. Once a right match has been found for a Pet in our care, a home visit will usually be carried out by a trained volunteer. This will also apply to friends or family members applying to adopt the Pet, where ownership has been transferred to the RSPCA.
16. While we do everything we can to find a new home for Pets as quickly as possible, some Pets may take longer to rehome. Where a Pet is not coping well, we will try to find them a place in foster care. For Pets that are proving more challenging to rehome, we will carry out special appeals. In some instances, we may work with other animal welfare charities to help with rehoming of the Pet.
17. While every effort is made to accommodate Scheme Member requests, there may be some instances where this is not possible. For instance, where the request to rehome Pets together is preventing them from being placed in a new home which could subsequently impact health or quality of life of one or both Pets.
18. RSPCA Home for Life is a rehoming scheme and the RSPCA cannot accept requests for indefinite care of a Pet by the RSPCA.
19. Under the Home for Life promise, the RSPCA will do everything possible to rehome a Pet providing they are rehomeable and coping well. A Pet may not be considered rehomeable where any of the following scenarios exist:
  - a. Their quality of life is or may become affected by issues stemming from severe or unmanageable health and/or behavioural problems.
  - b. They have mental health and behavioural problems that mean rehoming the Pet would create undue risks to humans or other animals.
  - c. They have a disease that is transmissible to humans or other animals.
  - d. It is a type of dog prohibited by The Dangerous Dogs Act (1991).
  - e. It is prohibited by The Dangerous Wild Animals Act (1976).
20. Where there are concerns about a Pet's rehomeability, an initial assessment would be required at the point of application, and also on future collection of the animal if relevant. Additional steps may also need to be fulfilled before registration can be confirmed.
21. RSPCA Home for Life will arrange for Pets with terminal illnesses and long-term conditions to be taken in and rehomed or fostered, providing the conditions are manageable with treatment and subject to veterinary advice.
22. Pets with a minor disease transmissible to humans or other animals may still be rehomed to any home where it does not place others at risk and only on veterinary advice. In general this means that Pets with an infectious disease can only be rehomed to a single animal household.

### **Care of an RSPCA Home for Life Pet**

23. The welfare interests of Pets within the Scheme are always our foremost priority. Where the Scheme Member has a reasonable request that falls outside of the standard Home for Life registration, the RSPCA will endeavour to do everything it can to honour these within the framework of the law and our organisational policies, in particular our Policies on Animal Welfare: [www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/aboutus/policies](http://www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/aboutus/policies)
24. Providing friends/family have not taken ownership of the Pet and ownership has been officially transferred to the RSPCA, all decisions regarding the welfare of the Pet lies with the RSPCA. Any final decisions regarding the welfare of the Pet whilst under the care of the RSPCA are at the sole discretion of the RSPCA.
25. In rare circumstances, and in the interests of the Pet's welfare or if the Pet is not rehomeable as per clause 17 of these Terms, euthanasia may be considered. These decisions are subject to veterinary, and in some cases behaviourist, advice and are based on health, behaviour and current legislative guidance (where relevant).
26. Applicants cannot specify Pet euthanasia as a request on their death; we will not comply unless it is in the interests of the Pet's welfare (based on veterinary, and in some cases behaviourist, advice concerning the Pet's health and/or behaviour, and current legislative guidance) or if the Pet is not rehomeable as per clause 17 of these Terms.
27. It may be possible for The Scheme Member's friends or family to visit the Pet within the Scheme whilst it is in RSPCA care, although this will be at the sole discretion of RSPCA staff based on the best interests of the Pet.



### **RSPCA Home for Life applications**

28. The Applicant is obliged to fully and truthfully disclose all medical, health and behavioural details relating to their Pet in the Home for Life application form.
29. Where The Applicant wishes to leave their pet to the RSPCA under the Home for Life Scheme, only in the event that a nominated individual is unable to take them i.e. in the event of secondary death, such instructions should be submitted with the Home for Life application form. If Home for Life is acknowledged in the Will, this information should also be included here.
30. Where applicable, the Scheme Member should ensure that legal requirements are complied with including, but not limited to, microchipping and tagging/ringing of Pets and providing the relevant species Article 10 certificate if necessary (\*Article 10 certificate is required for protected species falling under Appendix A of CITES regulations. For more information visit the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cites-imports-and-exports>).
31. Upon registration, The Scheme Member should keep any ID documents and legal proof of ownership including, but not limited to, microchip and tag/ring numbers, and an Article 10 certificate if necessary; with their registration pack. They should consider including any photos that will help with identification of their Pet on collection. We also recommend that cats are microchipped by The Scheme Member to aid identification on collection of the Cat.
32. Should any Home for Life application indicate potential welfare issues we will contact you to discuss how we can support you.
33. We reserve the right in our sole discretion to refuse any applications to Home for Life. Any decision regarding the acceptance of an application ultimately lies with The RSPCA. Decisions are made under these terms and on the basis of what is in the best interests of The Scheme and the charity as a whole. We aim to treat all Applicants fairly. Any information provided on applying will be taken into consideration.

### **Privacy - what we do with your information**

34. Information on how we use your personal data is set out in our Privacy Notice, published at: [www.rspca.org.uk/privacy](http://www.rspca.org.uk/privacy) Alternatively you can find out more by contacting our Supporter Services Team on 0300 123 0346.