

Welcoming Dogs

In a recent Hope Project survey, 73% of homelessness projects said they did not accept dogs. This means that many homeless people are not being helped – simply because they have a dog.

Dogs Trust recognises that homeless people and their dogs desperately need the support offered by these front-line services.

Our Welcoming Dogs booklet explains the benefits of accepting homeless dog owners and contains practical advice and sample dog policies for hostels, day centres and shelters.

The Hope Project team can also visit individual projects to answer questions and offer advice on issues such as health and safety, insurance, behaviour and hygiene.



Contact details

For more information on the Hope Project or to order a copy of our new Welcoming Dogs booklet, please contact the Hope team on 020 7837 0006 or email hopeproject@dogstrust.org.uk

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DOGS TRUST HOPE PROJECT®



Dogs Trust Hope Project®

Dogs Trust Hope Project has been helping dogs whose owners are homeless or in housing crisis since 1994.

The bond between any dog and owner is a strong one but for homeless people their dog is often their only friend and companion. Being homeless or in housing crisis is an extremely difficult and unstable time. For a lot of people being able to stay with their pet is very important.

For this reason, the Hope Project was set up to offer advice to homeless dog owners and free veterinary care for their dogs. We also offer advice and assistance to homelessness projects to help them make an informed decision about accepting clients with dogs.

In our experience, homeless people are caring dog owners who put their dogs' needs before their own. Many of the organisations and veterinary surgeons who support our work remark that these dogs are both healthy and sociable.



Veterinary entitlement card scheme

Few homeless people can afford even basic veterinary care for their dogs.

Dogs Trust Hope Project veterinary entitlement card scheme provides free preventative veterinary care (vaccinations, microchipping, neutering, worming and flea treatment) to dogs whose owners are homeless or in housing crisis.

The scheme also covers any additional, necessary veterinary treatment up to a value of £250. In this case, the owner is liable for the first £10 of each treatment.

The veterinary entitlement card scheme operates in towns and cities across the UK and is run with the help of local homelessness organisations and veterinary surgeries.



Who can apply

Veterinary entitlement cards are available to any dog owner who is homeless or in housing crisis.

For example, those sleeping rough, squatting, living in a hostel, nightshelter, in temporary accommodation or on an unauthorised travellers site.

Those eligible can apply for a card through a registered participating homelessness organisation, such as a hostel, day centre or shelter, or by contacting the Hope team directly on 020 7837 0006.

