

FAQs

If you are thinking about putting a plan in place and asking us to take care of your pet(s) when you pass away, we understand that you're likely to have a few questions about the Pet Guardian Scheme. Here are the answers to some of the most common questions we get asked:

How much does the service cost?

The Pet Guardian Scheme is free of charge. However, many people who register also choose to leave us a gift in their Will, as a way of saying thank you for promising to make arrangements for the care of their pet.

How many pets are you willing to look after as part of the scheme?

Whilst we don't have a formal limit on the number of cats, dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs we will take into our care, there are obvious difficulties in finding space at short notice for a large number of animals. If you have more than 3 of any one animal, please get in touch to speak with us about your circumstances.

What happens if I register and then get a new pet?

Once you have registered with our Pet Guardian Scheme, we will look after any dogs, cats, rabbits or guinea pigs you may have when you pass away, not just the ones you have when you register. However, any updated information about your pets is always useful, as it ensures we can provide the best possible care for them when the time comes.

How would you find out that I have died?

Once you register with our Pet Guardian Scheme you should let your family, friends, neighbours and the executors of your Will know that you have made arrangements for Animals in Distress to care for your pet(s) in the event of your death.

Furthermore, we will provide you with a membership card for your wallet, which can be kept on you at all times, and a notification form, that can be kept with your personal documents. These items have all of our relevant contact details, and have space to put down information about your pets too.

What happens if my family offer to take the pet?

Our Pet Guardian Scheme is to cover eventualities where alternative provisions cannot be made for your pet's care. If a family member or friend is subsequently willing to offer your pet the care it needs, then we will explore that option first, providing it is in the best interest of your pet.

Will my pet be rehomed or kept by Animals in Distress?

We are a rehoming centre and therefore we will never give up trying to find your pet(s) a loving new home, no matter how long it takes. Once in our care your pet(s) will be subject to our normal policies and procedures, including neutering, vaccination, micro chipping and adoption.

It is important to stress that whilst we will never put a healthy animal to sleep just because it has no home, where it becomes necessary on health grounds or where it may pose an unacceptable risk to other animals or people, it may have to be a consideration. Rest assured we will always make the best decision for your pet.

Can you care for my pet but not rehome it?

Animals in Distress is a rehoming centre and we believe that finding a loving new home is the best thing for the pets in our care, no matter how long it takes. We would ensure that any potential new home matches your pet's individual needs and requirements. We appreciate that some pets are harder to rehome than others – but you can rest assured that we never put a healthy animal to sleep, no matter how long they stay with us before we find them a home

We cannot take on arrangements where we wouldn't seek to find your pet a new home. We simply don't have the capacity as a charity to provide long term sanctuary.

Can you rehome my pets together?

If you wish for your pets to be rehomed together, you should mention this to us. Although we cannot guarantee that this will be possible, we will do everything we can to honour your wishes.

In every event, we always do what is in the best interests of the animals in our care. If trying to find a single owner for more than one animal results in them spending longer than necessary at our rescue centre, then we would have to review the situation. However, in the vast majority of cases it is often understood that is better to keep these animals together and we pride ourselves on being able to find them a loving new home with this in mind.

Will you still be able to rehome my pet if they have a medical condition?

Here at Animals in Distress we regularly rehome pets with all sorts of ailments, as long as they have the opportunity for a good quality of life. It is important to stress that whilst we will never put a healthy animal to sleep just because it has no home, where it becomes necessary on health grounds or where it may pose an unacceptable risk to other animals or people, it may have to be a consideration. Rest assured we will always make the best decision for your pet.