



SECTOR OPERATING GUIDANCE DURING CORONAVIRUS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is this Guidance official Government advice?

It is agreed and reviewed by DEFRA and their policy advisors and has been drawn up by ADCH and other sector colleagues, in line with legislation and Government requirements during the Coronavirus crisis. Similar guidance allows rehoming in Guernsey and Ireland and we hope to get acceptance of the guidance for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales soon.

Will I be stopped by the police if I try to rehome a dog?

You may be asked by the police why you are making a journey, which is why the Guidance is clear that you should give your staff an official letter showing it is an essential journey and they should also carry a copy of the Defra advice on rehoming.

Can I still charge for rehoming an animal?

Yes this Guidance does not prevent you charging a rehoming fee - what it does give is clear advice on ensuring you can rehome an animal and comply with the Coronavirus restrictions, especially around avoiding non-essential journeys and complying with social distancing rules.

What happens if I do not have any more spaces for my animals?

The Guidance is also clear that you should carefully manage your intake as the best way to ensure you have enough spaces for animals. By rehoming it is also expected that you will free up spaces for further animals to come in and hopefully be better able to manage any staff or volunteer shortages due to illness.

What happens if someone wants to adopt an animal but lives a long way away?

The Guidance is clear that it is preferable to rehome as short a distance as possible from the centre. However, we recognise that some people may want an animal but live a long distance from your centre. You should try and persuade them during the restrictions to look for an animal closer or wait till the restrictions are lifted and then come and visit your centre.



Can I still import dogs for rehoming into the UK?

No. Whilst you may be given the relevant paperwork and certificates to import, Government Coronavirus restrictions on essential travel and social distancing and resources for checking at borders make this activity highly risky and pose an unacceptable risk to both people and animal welfare. All such import activity should stop for the duration of this crisis.

Will I be able to neuter and microchip my dog or cat before rehoming it?

Yes - we recognise that neutering and microchipping has been difficult but on 14 April the British Veterinary Association changed its advice to the veterinary profession, to allow them to neuter and microchip and vaccinate and it is hoped that this will enable rescues to follow the same procedures as they had pre Coronavirus

Will I be able to send my animals to other rescues to rehome if I have no spaces?

Yes - By joining or connecting with ADCH you will have access to a network of 150 different rescues across the British Isles who may be able to assist you and take animals from you.

The guidance references staff, does this include volunteers?

The term staff in this guidance can include volunteers and other personnel involved in the operation of the rescue.

Where can I obtain a letter of authority?

The letter of authority is something issued by the rescue, ideally on headed paper, confirming that the driver etc. is authorised by the rescue to make the journey as official business and on animal welfare grounds.

Why are rescue staff allowed to transport animals, but the public cannot visit rescue centres?

The reason rescue staff are allowed to transport animals to homes and not the other way round is because, the rescue is making a journey in the course of its business (which is allowed under Government guidance), a member of the public travelling to a rescue centre is not doing so. Rescue making careful journeys to individual houses is also lower risk than lots of people visiting a rescue centre.



Why are other pet related businesses open to the public but not rescues?

This guidance is designed to enable the safe rehoming of animals whilst reducing the risk of further spread of COVID-19. It is considered a reasonable excuse under Government guidance for rescues to do this as part of their business, it is however not considered a reasonable excuse for the public to visit rescues for the purpose of adoption, as it is not essential for them to do so.

Other pet related industries are able to be open to the public as they provide essential goods and services to the public and key workers. An example of this is pet shops as they sell pet food which are essential supplies. Therefore, it is a reasonable excuse for the public to visit a pet shop to obtain food for their pet.

Full information on the guidance for pet related businesses can be found here:

<http://www.cfsg.org.uk/coronavirus/SiteAssets/SitePages/Home/CFSG%20Animal%20Business%20Guidance%2007.04.20.pdf>

How do we safely rehome to owners who have had coronavirus and now recovered?

The new owners cannot go to the kennels as that is non-essential travel, so the kennels must come to them. As they (ie new owners) are recovered this can go ahead **but normal social distancing rules will have to be maintained as set out in the Guidance and normal post-visit washing of leads, and persons applies**

Will Animal care staff count as essential workers for the coronavirus testing scheme?

We have been advised that only key workers who are displaying symptoms can request a test.



ADCH

Association of Dogs and Cats Homes

*together for
dogs + cats*