urbandogowner

Your dog-side guide.

Before you bring them home

There's a lot to look forward to. Talk these things through together, and leave space for the questions you still have.

UDO says

I love a homecoming. A little planning now leaves more room for getting to know each other.

Who are you meeting? Animal / organisation / visit date

Get to know the animal behind the profile

- [ ] Ask for health records, medicines and follow-up needs. What is known, and what still needs checking?
- [ ] Talk through behaviour, toileting and daily routines. Where were they observed, and what might change at home?
- [ ] Confirm visits, who needs to attend, home checks, any homestay and the written adoption agreement.
- [ ] Check what the fee includes, plus separate licence, preparation, treatment and ongoing care costs.
- [ ] Confirm housing permissions, microchip and licence/transfer steps, and any required owner course.
- [ ] If training is required, confirm today's age threshold, provider, deadline and charges.
- [ ] Find out who to contact after adoption, especially if things feel harder than expected.

Make room in your everyday life

- [ ] Include everyone who will care for them, including helpers, tenants and your backup carer.
- [ ] Plan for this individual animal. Older age or a lower adoption fee does not guarantee lower care costs.
- [ ] Keep setup, regular spending and emergency savings separate. Check quotes and what they include.

Questions and costs to follow up:

Who will check, and by when?



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A home with room for them

Walk through the home together. Tick what is ready, note what needs attention, and agree who will take care of it.

01 AT THE DOOR

Latches, barriers, visitors and deliveries

02 BY THE WINDOWS

Balcony, gaps, fixings and nearby furniture

03 THEIR OWN SPACE

Water, rest, toileting and time together

04 OUT OF REACH

Medicines, chemicals, food and cables

Small checks that become caring habits

- [ ] Secure windows, balconies and exits with suitable barriers. Check gaps and fixings; ordinary insect mesh is not a fall barrier.
- [ ] Move climbable furniture away from openings. Keep secure barriers in place too.
- [ ] Agree your front-door routine. Secure your pet before visitors or deliveries arrive.
- [ ] Prepare a secure lead/harness, transport, toileting and rest areas, plus time for walks and enrichment.
- [ ] Store medicines, chemicals, unsuitable foods, cables and small hazards safely. Ask a vet about uncertain plants or products.
- [ ] Agree daily checks for water, feeding, cleaning, rest, movement/play, grooming and medicines.
- [ ] Keep your vet contact and transport plan handy. For urgent illness or injury, seek prompt veterinary help; don't wait for a charity application.

Everyday carer / tasks:

Backup carer / access / emergency authority:

Vet / transport / next home recheck:

Detailed guidance and sources are linked on the web page below: SPCA adoption information, annual reports and the 2025 welfare report. Individual dog cases informed the fall-prevention checks; cat care is adapted separately. This worksheet isn't medical advice or housing approval.