Finding your new companion

**Step 1: Submit your application form** (available on our website)
We will consider your application and contact you if we need a few more details or to invite you to Raystede for a chat. If you do not hear from us, we have everything we need for now, thank you.

**Step 2: Wait for the magic to happen**
Once you have registered with us, please keep an eye on our website for new arrivals and contact us if you feel someone might suit your home.

When animals arrive at Raystede, we get to know them through behaviour and medical assessments. Our expert animal care teams carefully use this information alongside your application to see if the match could be a success. Finding the perfect pet can take time. Please be patient; they will be worth the wait.

**Step 3: Visit Raystede**
We will invite you to Raystede as soon as we have found any potential matches for your home. We will discuss the animals’ background, health and behaviour. This sometimes requires a few visits. You will need to provide photo ID, proof of address, and if applicable, written landlord permission to have a dog in your property.

**Step 4: Take your new pet home**
Once we have found your perfect partner, we will book an adoption appointment; our Rehoming Team will talk you through caring for your pet. Your adoption fee will help us continue our work to give animals a better life.

Peace of mind when adopting

All Raystede dogs are:
- Health checked by a vet
- Behaviour assessed
- Vaccinated (first vaccination minimum) and treated for protection against kennel cough
- Treated against fleas and worms
- Neutered/spayed
- Microchipped

You will also receive:
- Four weeks’ free Petplan insurance
- A collar and ID tag (required by law)
- A comprehensive adoption pack and appointment with our Rehoming Team to ensure you have everything you need to care for your new dog
- Follow-up advice from our expert Kennels Team

Thank you for your adoption fee, which will help to cover some of our costs:
- Adult dog (7 months and over) £130
- Puppy (up to and including 6 months) £230
Finding your new dog

Finding a suitable dog

During your adoption journey, you will come across a lot of different dogs. We will help you to find a dog suited to your home, lifestyle and experience. Think about the following points:

- **Breed** – it can be beneficial to do some research on behaviours that are related to breed type or specific needs they have relating to exercise or environment.
- **Previous history** – the dog may need extra support as a result of their previous experiences, which may include mistreatment or neglect.
- **Training** – any dog entering a new home will need a degree of re-training. They will not be used to your tone of voice and may not understand the cue (commands) words you use. Some dogs have no previous training or have been trained incorrectly. Are you able to provide the training that the dog requires, or would you prefer a dog that has received more training?
- **Exercise** – are you able to provide them with the exercise they need to keep them happy. Bored dogs often develop behaviour problems. We recommend that dogs are be kept on lead in public spaces.
- **House-training, travel and behaviour when alone** – does the dog fit your expectations?
- **Behaviour around children and strangers** – does the dog’s reactions fit your expectations and will they be able to cope with the social situations they experience with you?
- **Behaviour around other animals** – will the dog need to mix regularly with other animals?

When we have found a dog who might suit you, our expert Kennel Team will share the dog’s behaviour and medical assessment with you and you may choose to meet them and spend some time out walking. We will talk you through any medical or training requirements the dog may have and happily give on-going advice where possible.

Useful websites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association of Pet Dog Trainers</th>
<th><a href="http://www.apdt.co.uk">www.apdt.co.uk</a></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors</td>
<td><a href="http://www.apbc.co.uk">www.apbc.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Canine Behaviour and Training Society</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tcbts.co.uk">www.tcbts.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Kennel Club – for Breed Rescues, the Assured Breeders Scheme, breed-specific advice and accredited trainers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk">www.thekennelclub.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pet Advertising Advisory Group – for advice on buying pets. PAAG promote responsible, legal and ethical pet advertising</td>
<td><a href="http://www.paag.org.uk">www.paag.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Useful books

- ‘Haynes’ Dog manual
- How to speak dog
- The Rescue Dog: A practical guide to choosing and adopting an adult dog
- 100 Ways to Train the Perfect Dog
- Life Skills for Puppies
- The Perfect Puppy

Carolyn Menteith
Sarah Whitehead
Gwen Bailey
Sarah Fisher & Marie Miller
Helen Zulch & Daniel Mills
Gwen Bailey

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