

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals RSPCA Westmorland Branch

Registered charity no. 232236



THE EARS SCHEME

The EARS scheme offers a financially subsidised system for the veterinary care of an elderly animal. It also allows the adopter peace of mind when taking on an elderly pet, as the Branch will step back in and take care of the animal if the owner has to be hospitalized or, sadly, dies.

WHICH ADOPTERS QUALIFY FOR THE SCHEME?

Whilst we believe the scheme is most attractive to elderly persons, the scheme is open to anyone over the age of 18 who wishes to adopt an elderly animal. They must have passed their pre-home visit. If we do not have a suitable animal available, the potential adopter will be placed on a waiting list until such time as we do have one.

DETAILS OF THE SCHEME

RSPCA Westmorland charges a £50 adoption fee for each animal. This includes:

- Full vaccination
- Worm and flea treatment
- Microchip
- Neuter or Spay – unless advised against by the vet
- 4 weeks free insurance
- Provision of behavioural advice if required. (This will only apply to animals within the Westmorland Branch area).

RSPCA Westmorland RSPCA will subscribe to the adopter's nominated vet's pet health scheme for life. This usually covers an annual health check, annual vaccinations and flea/worm treatments, although schemes may vary. **Any additional veterinary costs are to be borne by the adopter and/or their Insurance.** However, Westmorland RSPCA will negotiate a discount with participating vets on behalf of the client.

In the event of an adopter being ill, and at the discretion of the Rehoming Coordinator or Branch Manager of the RSPCA, it may be possible in emergency situations to offer extra support for a two-week period. Whatever

form this may take, and whatever help will be provided, will be discussed at the time.

In the event of an adopter being hospitalized, we can, if required, arrange for one of our fosterers to look after the animal, if one is available. This support would be available for a two-week period – any foster required for a longer period than this will be discussed on an individual basis and must take into account any fostering required for animals in kennels.

If any circumstances arise where the adopter becomes unable to look after the animal, i.e. prolonged ill-health, moving to sheltered accommodation, death etc., Westmorland RSPCA needs to be informed as soon as possible. We will then arrange for the animal to be returned to us and to be rehomed again via our scheme.

In the event of the animal sadly needing euthanasia, the fee will be paid by Westmorland RSPCA **but not any extra cremation fees.**

On adoption, the adopter will be asked to specify which vet they intend to use, and will be asked to sign a Sharing of Information agreement. RSPCA Westmorland will then contact the vet and send them details of the animal being adopted, including a description of the animal, age, microchip number, medical history to date and name and address of the person adopting the animal.

All potential adopters are required to pass a pre home visit before they can adopt from the Westmorland RSPCA.

For all dogs and also for “problem” cats, an optional post home visit will be carried out within 8 weeks of adoption to ensure all is going well for the adopter and their new dog / cat. The aim is to offer any advice or support that may be required.

In order to support and maintain contact with the adopter and their dog or cat in the long term, RSPCA Westmorland will carry out an optional yearly visit if required.

THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING AN ELDERLY ANIMAL FROM RSPCA WESTMORLAND.