



Please ensure you read this entire guide carefully and contact us if you have any questions.

Contact us via email

Contact us via Facebook Messenger



We are a non-profit organisation specialising in the rescue, rehabilitation, fostering and rehoming of dogs from Romania and the UK.



ADOPT



If you can't adopt...

FOSTER



If you can't foster...

DONATE



If you can't donate...

VOLUNTEER



If you can't volunteer...

NETWORK



If you can't network...

EDUCATE



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What your adoption fee includes

If OUR Dog Foundation is a non-profit organisation, why are our adoption fees £495 per dog?



Tests

To ensure your new pet has a clean bill of health prior to travel TOTAL PER DOG = €100 MINIMUM

- Parvo test (puppies under 6m) €20;
- Giardia test (all dogs) €15;
- Leishmaniasis test (all dogs) €18;
- 4DX test: heartworm, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease (all dogs) €22;
- Brucellosis test (all dogs) €25.



Vaccinations

To protect your new pet against common diseases TOTAL PER DOG = €65 MINIMUM

- DHPPI (combination vaccine shot that protects your dog from four different diseases: distemper with lepto, hepatitis, parainfluenza and parvovirus) & Rabies €50;
- Kennel cough €15.



Shelter and care

To keep your new pet safe in preparation for travel to the UK TOTAL PER DOG = €240 MINIMUM

- Release fee & transport cost from kill shelter (if required) €50;
- Food & foster care for three months €120 (this will often be much higher);
- Worm & flea treatment €20;
- Vitamins & special food for puppy health €10;
- Neuter/spay (if old enough) €40.



Preparation for travel & transport

To ensure that you new pet arrives happy and healthy TOTAL PER DOG = €280 MINIMUM

- Microchip registered in your name €10;
- Passport €10;
- Transport from Romania to your door in the UK €260.

This gives a grand total of €685 / £585 but we charge only £495.



Introduction

This is a guide to rescuing from Romania, and the OUR Dog Foundation Team are all so happy that you have chosen to save the life of one of our dogs. All of OUR Dog Foundation's rescues are very special and you must think ahead at all times and consider that most of these dogs will never have been in this kind of situation.

Almost all rescued dogs are not used to living in a house and therefore don't understand the house rules. Some are quieter than others and some settle in as though they've always lived there - it all depends on the dog and his or her history.

Some rescues will be house trained when they arrive, and some will not be. Some are good with children and cats and others are not. We often don't know until the dog is here, but most seem to get on fine with their families. Some dogs come with lots of background information and some we know very little about, particularly when they're saved from the kill shelter.

It is really important that you follow the guidelines set out in this guide, to ensure your dog's successful integration into their new home.

If you can imagine from the dog's perspective, they have been removed from everything they have known and come to trust, and have been thrust back into uncertainty. Like us dogs have different personalities and therefore cope with stress in different ways.

Changing your dog's name

Many of you ask about changing your dog's name.

Most of the time, our dogs are given their names at the rescue as they come to us with just a number. The name will therefore not be overly familiar to the dog, and they will soon adapt to their new name if you decide to change it.

Your dog's microchip:

- Your dog's microchip will be updated to include your details by OUR Dog Foundation.
- You will be contacted with these details in an email by Pet Trac a few days after your rescue's arrival.
 Please check your junk/spam folder if you don't receive this email.
- You can still change your dog's name at this point if you so wish.





Choosing your pet

When deciding on which dog you want to adopt, please ask yourself these few questions.

- Lifestyle
 - What are you expecting from your pet? Do you want them to engage in high energy level activities or do you want a companion to sit and cuddle and watch the world go by with, or even a new family pet?
- Family

 Are your family, and especially the children, able to understand that your pet will need time to adjust to their new living conditions?
- Space
 Is your home large enough to ensure your pet has a safe space they can retreat to when decompressing from their journey and household stress? Are you able to separate your new pet from your current pets when they arrive?
- Current Pet

 How will the adoption of a new dog affect your current pet?
- Affordability

 We recommend that you insure your pet. but some vet's will not work directly with insurance companies. Do you have funds to pay for treatment up-front if necessary?.
- Support

 Have you got people who you can rely on to help, in the unfortunate event of illness etc.?









The Rule of 3-3-3

There is a well-known and general rule that can be applied when welcoming any new dog into your family. This is referred to as the 3-3-3 rule.

It suggests that it takes 3 days for a dog to decompress and get over the initial trauma of a big move. 3 weeks for them to begin to feel at home and up to 3 months for them to fully settle into your home and begin to learn the rules. For some dogs this time frame may be shorter but for street dogs it more often can be longer.

The 3-3-3 rule generally applies to dogs who are entering a new home who perhaps have not had the level of trauma that a street dog may have. Not to mention the trauma of 2-3 days in transport and a new home with new people and new expectations. Some dogs will cope with this change remarkably well. However, it is better to assume that they won't and behave and handle them accordingly. Acting in this way can help prevent potential issues and allow the dog time to acclimate to the new environment.







3 DAYS

3 WEEKS

3 MONTHS

TO DECOMPRESS

- Feeling overwhelmed
- May feen scared / unsure of what's going on
- Not comfortable enough to be themselves
- May not want to eat or drink
- Shuts down or hides under furniture

TO LEARN YOUR ROUTINE

- Starts settling in
- Feels more comfortable
- Realises this could be their forever home
- Figures out their environment
- Gets into a routine
- Let's their guard down and begins to show their personality

TO START TO FEEL AT HOME

- Finally feels completely comfortable in their home
- Begins to build trust and a true bond
- Gains a complete sense of security with their new family
- Settles into a routine



3 DAYS

The Rule of 3-3-3 is a guide only - some dogs can integrate quicker and some take longer. It can take up to 72 hours for a dog's adrenaline levels to return to normal, which is why in the first few days, even if the dog seems settled, it is best to leave them alone to adjust. If your dog is shy, or over exuberant the first few days are crucial.

- Provide a safe space for your new dog
- Ensure minimum contact with the household.
- Do not have visitors.
- Do not let other pets meet.
- Make sure children are aware that they must leave the dog alone.
- Avoid taking your dog out on walks.

Providing a safe space

Your dog will have had a long and stressful journey to get to you, so providing them with a safe space to call their own will be important. This safe space should be tucked away, preferably in a quiet area where they can settle in and decompress.

A crate is a good option for dogs who may feel overwhelmed and want to hide away as it provides a den-like area where they can feel safe.

- Encourage your dog into the safe space with treats etc if needed
- If you are using a crate, do not close the door
- Leave fresh water
- Leave food
 - Don't worry if your dog does not eat, it is quite normal.
 - Just leave the food there and try not to worry or try to encourage them to eat.
 They will when their adrenaline levels return



- Allowing your dog to decompress will allow them to get used to the sights, smells and sounds of their new home from a safe area.
- If your dog is excitable and wants to see everything, erect a baby gate but encourage them to use their safe space as much as possible. This will help an over energetic dog to self-relax
- Leave a slip lead on your dog to allow them to be taken out to relieve themselves in the garden.
- They may not want to go out into the garden at first, so newspaper or puppy pads might be something you want to consider.



Keeping your dog safe

We live in fear of our dogs escaping so please ensure that the dog is shut away before answering the front door as these dogs are very good at getting out.

Be **very aware** that these dogs have had to survive any way they can... they can jump higher than you think, wriggle through holes smaller than you think and be gone in seconds if scared. In the unlikely event of your dog escaping and running away, you must **inform a member of our team straight away**.

Immediately, you should ring the dog warden and all local rescues. If you and friends or family go to search for them, we cannot stress highly enough **do not chase or try and corner them** as they will just become more fearful and run further.



House rules

Everyone in the home, including pets and your new arrival will have to learn a new set of rules.

Your family and current pets will already know what is expected but this new arrival will cause a change that will need to be implemented.

First of all, control and management are the key to ensuring all are safe.



Food

- Feed your dog on the best food you can within your budget.
- When the dog is eating, leave them alone.
- Constant watching, movement or interruption can cause a behaviour you don't
 want. Imagine if you are eating, and people are continually interrupting you how
 would you feel and act? You also don't want to make the dog eat too quickly or
 become obsessive over their food.
- Don't panic if they don't eat. Unless it's a medical issue, they will begin to eat when comfortable.

Toys

- Don't overwhelm your new dog with toys.
- Be realistic they may not know what to do with them or may even fear them.
- Leave them alone with them and let them figure it out.

Lead

- Leave a slip lead on your new dog so you can take them outside to relieve themselves ensure it is always as loose as possible.
- Getting them used to something around their neck will help when you transfer to a collar and/or harness.
- Your dog will need to be on the lead for first meets of other pets, children and visitors

3 WEEKS

Your dog will have started to become accustomed to their routine, and the sights and sounds within your home. If your dog is comfortable, and freely coming out of their space and wanting to engage, this is when you can start introducing children and other pets to the new arrival. It is still advisable to restrict visitors until your dog is comfortable with everyone in the home.

Before you have any introductions, you need to start helping your dog to see new situations and people, animals as being good. To start, each time a member of the house walks by, drop a treat, only if the dog is willing. If your dog retreats then it's too soon to start the process.

Drop the treat and walk away. Do not walk directly over to the dog, just drop a treat in passing, don't encourage them to come over to you.

Getting the first introductions right, like the other steps, are very important to gain your dog's trust and help them become the best dog they can possibly be.

Don't try and lure the dog over with treats - this is a false behaviour and can mask their inability to cope. The instinct to eat can overshadow their mistrust and they may well take the treat and run away. It's vitally important that each stage is governed by your dog's timescale.

Funny little habits may have started to appear, but don't worry, your dog is settling in.



Introducing your dog to children

It is very important that the introductions are made under your guidance, and at the dog's pace.

If you try to go too quickly and skip some steps, or leave the dog in a situation they can't cope with, then you are setting yourself and your dog up to fail and will cause further problems for the future.



Preparing your children:

- Explain that although they are excited the dog may not be, and therefore they need to be as calm and quiet as they can be.
 - The dog will not have experienced children in a home environment such as yours.
 - Even if the dog is exuberant, over excitement can cause unwanted behaviour and could also frighten the child.
- Explain also that if the dog does not want to say hello at that time, then they have to leave them
 alone, and although sad, the dog will learn to trust them more because they have given them time
 and space.
- Ask the children to sit quietly whilst you bring the dog in.
- When reacting with the dog, the first meeting should be calm and brief.
- Subsequent meetings can be longer and the children can throw treats or toys for the dog.

Preparing your dog:

Ensure your dog is happy with the sounds, sights and smells of your home and garden before you introduce them to the children.

- Encourage them to use their safe space several times throughout the day.
 - Give them a Kong, lick mat etc for them to use in their safe space.
 - This produces calming endorphins whilst your dog is having a pleasant treat.
- 10 minutes before your introduction, repeat the step above.
- Keep the door to the children closed.
- If the dog is calm, bring them to the door on a lead.
 - Treat them if there is no reaction at the door.
 - If the dog reacts just take them back to their safe space to decompress.
- If the dog is calm then open the door.
 - Do not let the dog enter.
 - Stand by the door and allow them to see who is inside.



- Ask the children not to acknowledge the dog.
- Treat the dog and if calm then bring them into the room on a lead.
- It is important not to keep the dog, or the children too long in this situation.
- Remove them from the room, back to their safe space.
- On the next introductions, follow the above steps but allow your children to throw treats for the dog.
- Slow and careful introductions will help your dog understand what is acceptable or teach a nervous dog how to trust.

Introducing your dog to other pets

By now you will have come to recognise your dog's personality, and behaviour a bit better and will also have noticed any possible changes in your current pet.

It is very important not to underestimate the impact a new pet may have on them. Some take it all in their stride whilst others take a bit longer to adjust, there will be new rules for everyone and the new dog will take a lot of your attention away from them initially.



Your current pet's behaviour may change and you may notice behaviours that may not have been present before. Don't panic if this occurs it's quite natural and with control and management can be resolved.

Slow and careful introductions are the key.

It is very important that the introductions are made under your guidance, and at the both pets pace. If you try to go too quickly and skip some steps, or leave them in a situation they can't cope with, then you are setting yourself and your pets up to fail and will cause further problems for the future.

- If safe to do so allow the pets to observe each other for short periods through a baby gate
- Praise calmness
- If there is a reaction, close the door and praise the pet that didn't react
- When they can see each other calmly through a gate, you can then try to introduce them
- Keep both animals on a lead, for safety
- Do not treat them when they are near to each other, you don't want the meeting to be marred over a dispute over treats
- Remove each pet and treat for calmness
- As time goes by, increase the time they spend together

Although we take every effort to ensure your dog can live with cats, it is a natural instinct for a dog to chase a cat. They can learn to live with their own cat, but may still chase an unfamiliar cat. Try not to get disheartened, if you follow the steps above, they will learn to live in harmony with each other.



Introducing your dog to visitors

As advised it is best to limit the number of visitors your dog meets within the first couple of weeks. We do appreciate this is not always feasible.

If they are unexpected, i.e., delivery etc then the best thing is to remove your dog to their safe space, or to another room, before you open the front door. This will stop the dog from practising unwanted behaviour, escape and later on you can teach them certain cues to change their behaviour.

- Ensure your dog is happy with the sounds, sights and smells of your home and garden before you introduce them to visitors
- Encourage them to use their safe space several times throughout the day
 - Give them a Kong, lick mat etc for them to use in their safe space
 - This produces calming endorphins whilst your dog is having a pleasant treat
- 10 minutes before your visitors arrive repeat step 2
 - Do not let them meet on the first visit
- Allow visitors to come in and get settled
- Keep the door to the visitors closed
- If the dog is calm, bring them to the door on a lead
 - Treat them if there is no reaction at the door
 - If the dog reacts just take them back to their safe space to decompress
- If the dog is calm then open the door
 - Do not let the dog enter
 - Stand by the door and allow them to see who is inside
 - Ask visitors not to acknowledge the dog
 - Treat the dog and if calm then bring them into the room on a lead
- It is important not to keep the dog too long in this situation
- Remove them from the room, back to their safe space
- On the next visit, follow the above steps but allow your visitor to throw treats for the dog
- Slow and careful introductions will help your dog understand what is acceptable or teach a nervous dog how to start to trust

It is very important that the introductions are made under your guidance, and at the dog's pace. If you try to go too quickly and skip some steps, or leave the dog in a situation they can't cope with, then you are setting yourself and your dog up to fail and will cause further problems for the future.



3 MONTHS

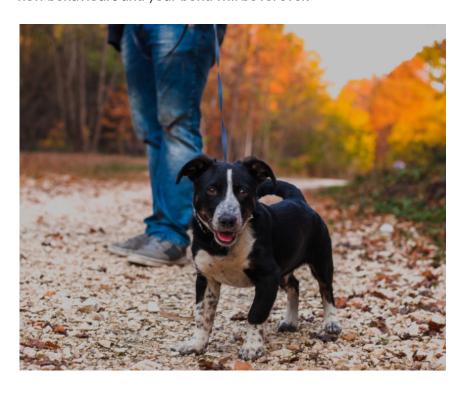
In around 3 months, your dog will be feeling much more comfortable in your home. They will have started to build a bond with you and other family members and you will have more of an idea of their true personality. As long as you have continued with training and a routine your dog should be well on their way to becoming the dog you expect them to be. It is important to note that this timeframe can be shorter or longer and is completely dependent on the time and effort you put in and the dog in general.

All rescue dogs go through a 'honeymoon period'; the dog may be very quiet and 'good' for a time, but the 'real' dog may appear four to six weeks later. This is usually after they have figured out the house rules, the schedule of the days, and the characters of their new family.

Don't worry if your dog has issues when out walking, this is common, not just in rescue dogs. Be patient, and also be aware that if your dog is reacting it does not mean they are aggressive it is communication and happens for lots of reasons. Also it may be the other dog who has caused the issue, not necessarily the dog barking.

Most of these dogs have very good communication skills but are not used to being restrained by a lead. With training and patience this can be overcome.

Whether a dog is a rescue or purchased from a breeder, they are all individuals, learn at different paces and have different personalities. Most importantly, with positive reinforcement they will learn new behaviours and your bond will be forever.





Shopping list

We recommend you have the following on-hand when your dog arrives at your home:

- Bed or bedding
- ☐ Crate (not required if you don't intend to crate-train)
- ☐ Enrichment toys such as Kong's or puzzles
- ☐ Slip lead
- Collar with ID
- ☐ Lead that clips onto the collar for walks
- ☐ Harness (do not attempt to put this on your dog until they are fully settled)
- ☐ Bowls for food and water
- ☐ Long-lasting chews such as yak chews, antlers, etc.
- Dry doggy shampoo and pet wipes

Many of these items can be purchased from OUR Doggy Essentials Shop.

For 10% off as a new adopter, use the code OURFRIENDS10 at the checkout.

ourdogfoundation.org/ store-doggy-essentials





Rescue backup

Before OUR dogs are adopted within the UK, they have had a huge amount of time, patience, commitment and financial support from ourselves, our sponsors and our fosterers. If you're entering into this process, we ask that you approach their adoption with the promise that you'll treat your new pet with the same level of dedication and devotion.

After an initial honeymoon period, many of OUR rescues acclimatise into their new homes and settle like they have never been anywhere else, but there are some that do not. We cannot foresee the future so we need to know that you have fully considered every eventuality.

As part of OUR's commitment to our adoptees, we offer ongoing advice throughout the dog's life from experienced adopters and a trained behaviourist about how to integrate your new family member successfully and help rectify any ongoing issues. More serious, ongoing issues may well require a trainer or behaviourist in your local area at your own cost.

Once every avenue of support has been pursued, rescue backup (RBU) is available, where OUR will organise, your dog being surrendered back into our care and taken to a place of safety within 21 days.

We must stress that you thoroughly and honestly ask yourself these questions before signing the contract for your Romanian rescue dog as RBU will only be exercised in exceptional circumstances:

Are you prepared for your new arrival and for your life to be turned upside down or are you expecting a dog to fit in immediately with you, your routine and your family?

Do not underestimate the impact on your social life, your house rules and your daily life. You need to fit your life around your dog and not the other way around.

This is NOT a reason for a dog to enter into rescue backup.

Have you considered what you will do about introducing your new dog to existing dogs? What if they don't immediately get on? How will you work around this?

If you have a dog already, it is highly advisable to remove all toys and treats from being freely available - our dogs have never had these things and will guard them. It is common for dogs to take time to settle in each other's company and not instantly become firm friends, but it can be worked through with the correct advice.

This is NOT a reason for a dog to enter into rescue backup.

How house proud are you?

Most of our dogs will not be housetrained. They may have accidents or chew furniture and belongings if they are anxious, as they don't know how to behave differently. This is NOT a reason for a dog to enter into rescue backup.



Have you considered taking time off work when your new pet arrives?

We ask that you spend as much time as possible with your new arrival, to help them to settle into your home and build up the time that they are left in small doses. Some of our dogs will display separation anxiety, which will mean major adjustments to your normal routines.

This is NOT a reason for a dog to enter into rescue backup.

Do you have children? Are they old enough and sensible enough to follow the rules of having a new pet?

New dogs need planned integration with every family member. Will your children respect the dog's need for a safe space? If a dog growls, it is a sign that they are intimidated in a new, unfamiliar environment with unfamiliar people.

This is NOT a reason for a dog to enter into rescue backup.

Are you expecting lovely walks in the countryside with a well-behaved dog that trots happily at your heel?

In time, this may happen, but most of our dogs will never have experienced a harness or lead so learning to cope with them will take time and patience. Also, they may initially hide or attack other unfamiliar dogs that they consider more dominant whilst out of your home.

This is NOT a reason for a dog to enter into rescue backup.

Are you prepared for if your dog latches onto a family member and begins to guard them?

This is a very common and hopefully a temporary issue. If it happens, we will expect you to follow our advice and work through it. This is NOT a reason for a dog to enter into rescue backup.

If you are adopting one of our dogs and have any doubts at all, please contact us now and not two days after your dog has travelled for days to get to you on the promise of a better life.

Imagine life from your new dog's perspective...

- You've just been taken from the only family you've ever known, been placed in a crate and travelled hundreds of miles for up to three days. After this you have been dumped in a place called 'home' which smells funny, has scary noises and is filled with people you don't know or trust.
- You desperately need to sleep as you haven't slept for three days, but you don't know if it's safe to close your eyes.





Adopting a Romanian rescue dog is unlikely to be plain sailing.

If problems arise, we expect you to not panic, read up on a solution and take up our offers of support. Their guard will begin to come down and they will start to feel happy under your care, but this whole process can take many days, weeks or months.

OUR Dog Foundation offers a consultation with our behaviourist. There is a small fee for this service, which includes a telephone call, control and management plan, a report for you to refer back to, tailored exercises and behaviour adjustment advice. 100% of this fee goes to OUR Dog Foundation.

Helpful resources



https://www.youtube.com/user/kikopup

Professional dog training videos created by world renowned trainer Emily Larlham. Topics vary from basic to advanced dog training, reactivity, anxiety, etc.



https://www.youtube.com/user/zakgeorge21

Videos created by a dog trainer Zac George, who has also written a number of helpful books, specifically good for puppies.



https://absolute-dogs.com

Absolute Dogs - an online learning resource providing training 'games and DVDs as well as online communities for teaching your dog important lessons using games.



https://www.facebook.com/groups/374160792599484

Dog Training Advice and Support - A Facebook group run by qualified trainers and behaviourists offering free advice and help to dog owners.



https://www.facebook.com/groups/2326424080971527

Canine Enrichment Ideas - A Facebook group with lots of helpful advice and ideas for mental enrichment activities.



Pet Passport & DEFRA Documentation

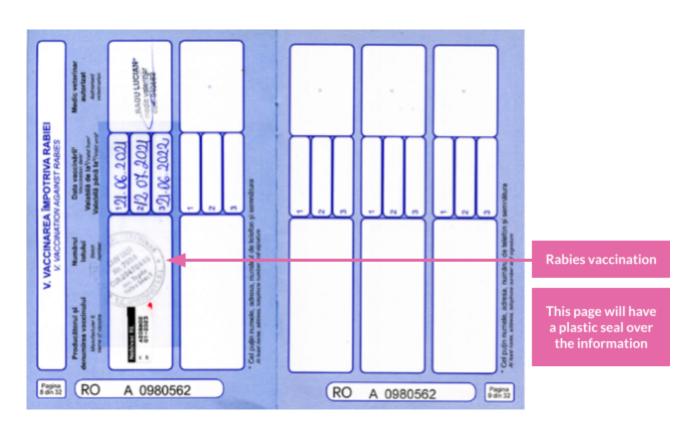
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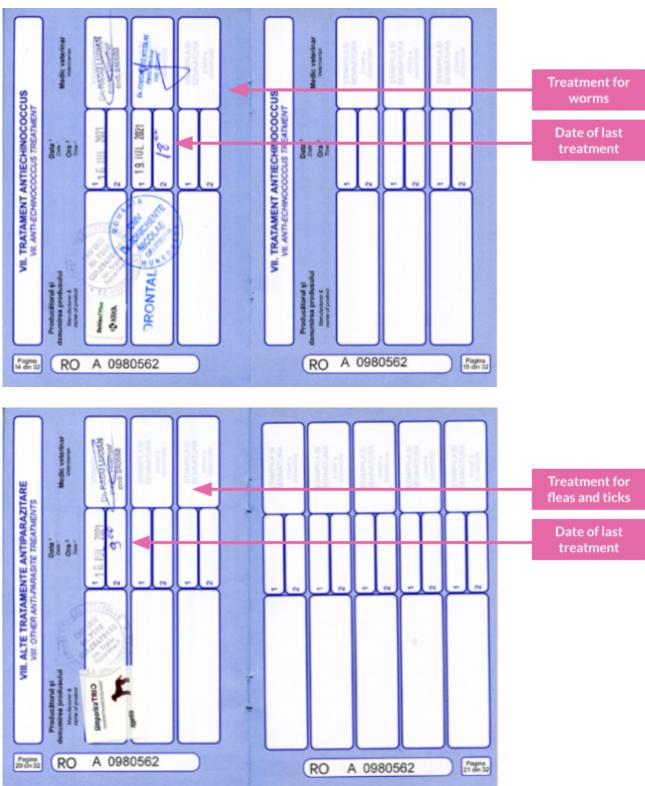






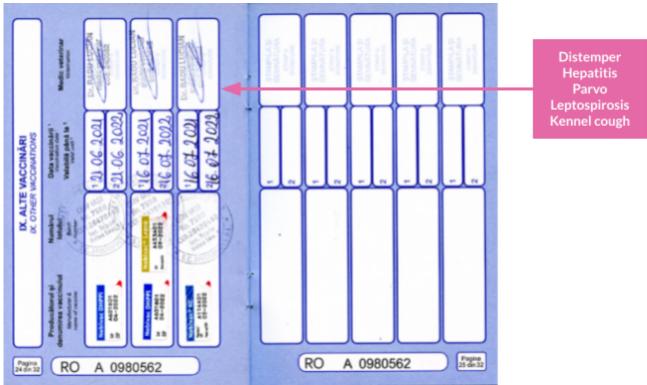






Both worm and flea treatment will be due 30 days after the last date on these pages, and should be organised by the adopter.



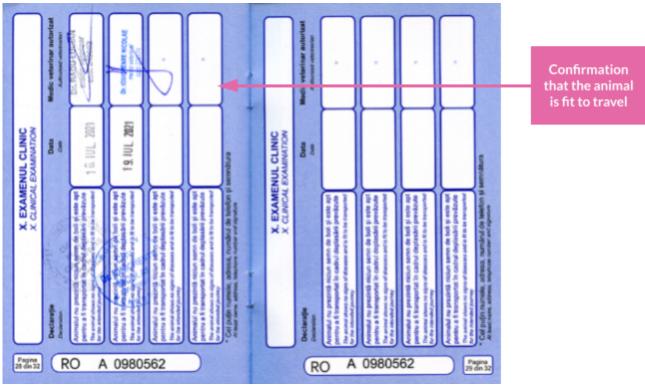


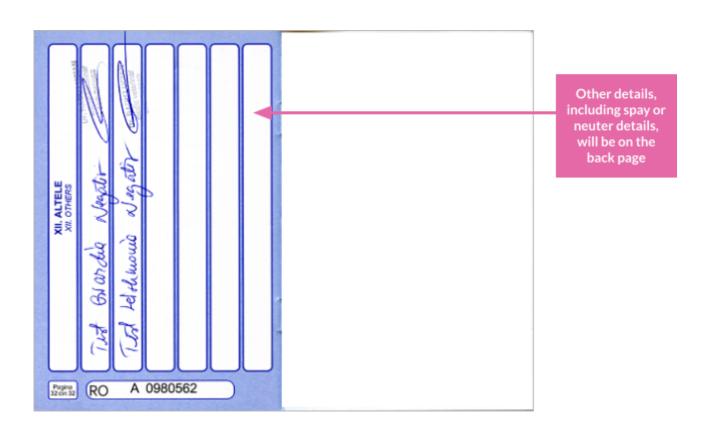
You may also have other vaccination records in a pet health book:





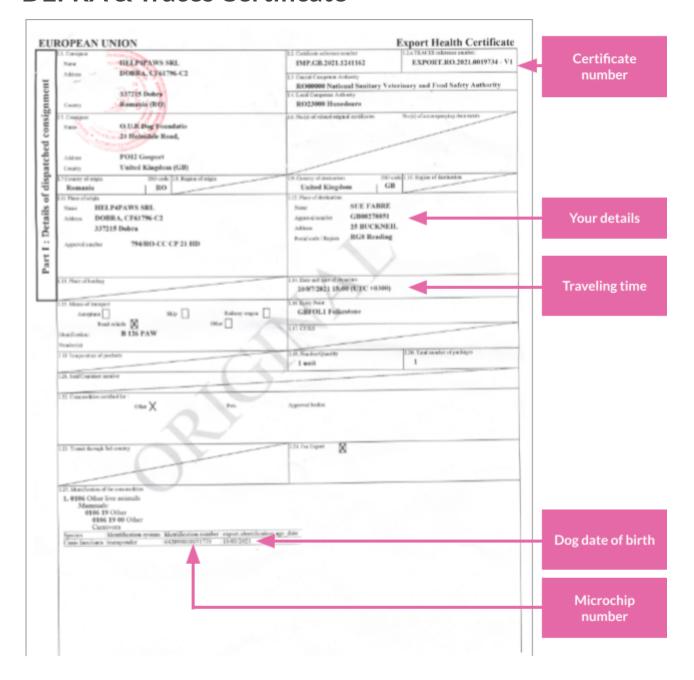








DEFRA & Traces Certificate





On the last page of the certificate, the stamp colour must be different to other particulars in the certificate i.e. any colour other than black.

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