Caring for your dog when you are no longer able to

Birmingham Dogs Home

est. 1892

forever friends

We are here for you should you need us

“Here at Birmingham Dogs Home, we believe that every dog matters, and our Forever Friends service can provide you with peace of mind.”

We want you to know that we are here for you should you need us.

Planning ahead for the care of your beloved pet is an important and caring part of responsible pet ownership. By making arrangements for your dog, or dogs when you are no longer able to care for them will give both you and your family peace of mind. If they are clear about your wishes, it is one less thing for them to worry about. It is helpful for family members, friends and even Executors to your Will if you have made provisions for your dog in the event of your passing.

Birmingham Dogs Home has been at the heart of the local community for generations, since 1892, and we want to give something back to our supporters and their dogs, whether they've rehomed their dog from our charity or not, with our **FREE Forever Friends** service.

We care for around 2,000 dogs every year at our two centres, with no government funding, and provide vital ongoing care for every dog that comes through our doors until they are ready to go to the new homes they so deserve.

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How our Forever Friends service works

You can apply for our Forever Friends service today, giving you the reassurance you need.

1. Complete the Forever Friends application form

Carefully read through all of the information within your letter and this booklet before deciding whether you would like Birmingham Dogs Home to care for your dog(s) if you are no longer able to, and to rehome them.

Complete the application form enclosed within your pack and return to us to start the process. Please complete all details on the form to enable us to consider your application.

2. Choose a trusted family member or friend

Choose a trusted family member or friend, to be a 'dog guardian', who will be able to sign your dog over to Birmingham Dogs Home in the event of your passing. Please note their details on the form and forward the enclosed dog guardian letter to them for their information.

3. Leave instructions in your Will

To help ensure your wishes are fulfilled, confirm your chosen wishes within your Will. Wording we suggest would be: 'After my death, it is my wish that my dog(s) are taken to Birmingham Dogs Home so that they can care for and rehome them, under the provisions of their **Forever Friends** service'.

4. Receive confirmation

Once we have received your application form and it has been approved, we will then send you a confirmation letter which will also include a **Forever Friends** card.

You should fill in the details immediately on the card and keep it in your wallet / purse, to ensure it is kept safe and can be found. We recommend that you let your family and friends know that you have this card and that you keep information about the **Forever Friends** service in a safe place.

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About Birmingham Dogs Home

Here at Birmingham Dogs Home, we believe that every dog matters, which is why our teams work tirelessly every day, often in emotional and challenging situations to relieve suffering and help every dog we can.

We are very proud of what our charity has achieved over the years, and we are only able to provide these life-changing and life-saving services thanks to the very special people who kindly make one-off and regular donations, or remember us in their Wills.

Our charity has been at the heart of the local community for generations. Established in 1892 in the heart of Birmingham, the charity's history is interwoven with decades of change for the Midlands, providing a vital service throughout two world wars, times of economic hardship and most recently a pandemic and cost-of-living crisis.

We now look after around 2,000 dogs every year at our two centres to the north and south of Birmingham.

Secure a future for your dog and thousands of other dogs

Many supporters who sign up for our Forever Friends service also choose to leave a gift in their Will to Birmingham Dogs Home, so we can be here to continue to care for every dog that needs us.

Let your love of dogs live on.

We don't receive any government funding and are totally reliant on supporters to help us raise vital funds each and every year. Through Gifts in Wills, we are able to provide life-saving and life-changing services to around 2,000 dogs every year.

3 IN 5 DOGS
ARE LOOKED AFTER THANKS TO GIFTS IN WILLS

Let Your Love Live on

Frequently asked questions

Can any pet be registered?
You can apply to register dogs only, and your application will be considered for approval once we receive your completed paperwork.

How many dogs can I register?
You can register up to 4 dogs per person through our Forever Friends service.

How much does it cost?
Our Forever Friends service is FREE. Many supporters who sign up for our Forever Friends service also choose to leave a gift in their Will to Birmingham Dogs Home, so we can be here to continue to care for every dog that needs us and help give them a second chance of happiness.

You may also choose to make a regular donation to our charity, and further details can be found here.

What if I get another pet after registration?
If you become the owner of another dog after registering for the Forever Friends service you will need to register again for your new dog in the same way by requesting another application pack.We will consider your new application in the same way.

Can my dogs be kennelled together and then rehomed together?
If more than one dog is requested to be kennelled and rehomed together then Birmingham Dogs Home will try their best to do so but may have to separate them if this is in the dog's best interest with a view to being rehomed without a long unnecessary stay in kennels. A prolonged period in the kennels could impact a dog's welfare.

How will Birmingham Dogs Home know if my dog needs to come to you?
Your chosen dog guardian will need to contact us within our opening hours, and would need to be prepared to care for your dog(s) until we can take them in.

Do I have to live near to one of Birmingham Dogs Home's rescue centres?
Birmingham Dogs Home will accept dogs from England, Scotland and Wales, however, should your dog guardian not be able to deliver your dog to one of our rehoming centres then BDH are only able to collect within a 30-mile radius.

Will you find my dog a new home?
Birmingham Dogs Home makes the best endeavours to rehome every dog in our care.

Any rehoming decisions will be made using Birmingham Dogs Home's rehoming policy and procedures, which you will find at www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk If you require a copy, please ask.

Can my dog be taken in with their own bed, toys etc?
Yes, of course. Your 'dog guardian' will need to bring in any of the dog's possessions (bed, blanket, toys etc).

Can family and friends be kept up to date with my dog's well being?
If your dog guardian would like to be kept updated please ask them to contact us.

Will you care for my dog if I am on holiday, ill or hospitalised?
We are able to care for and rehome your dog in the event of your passing.

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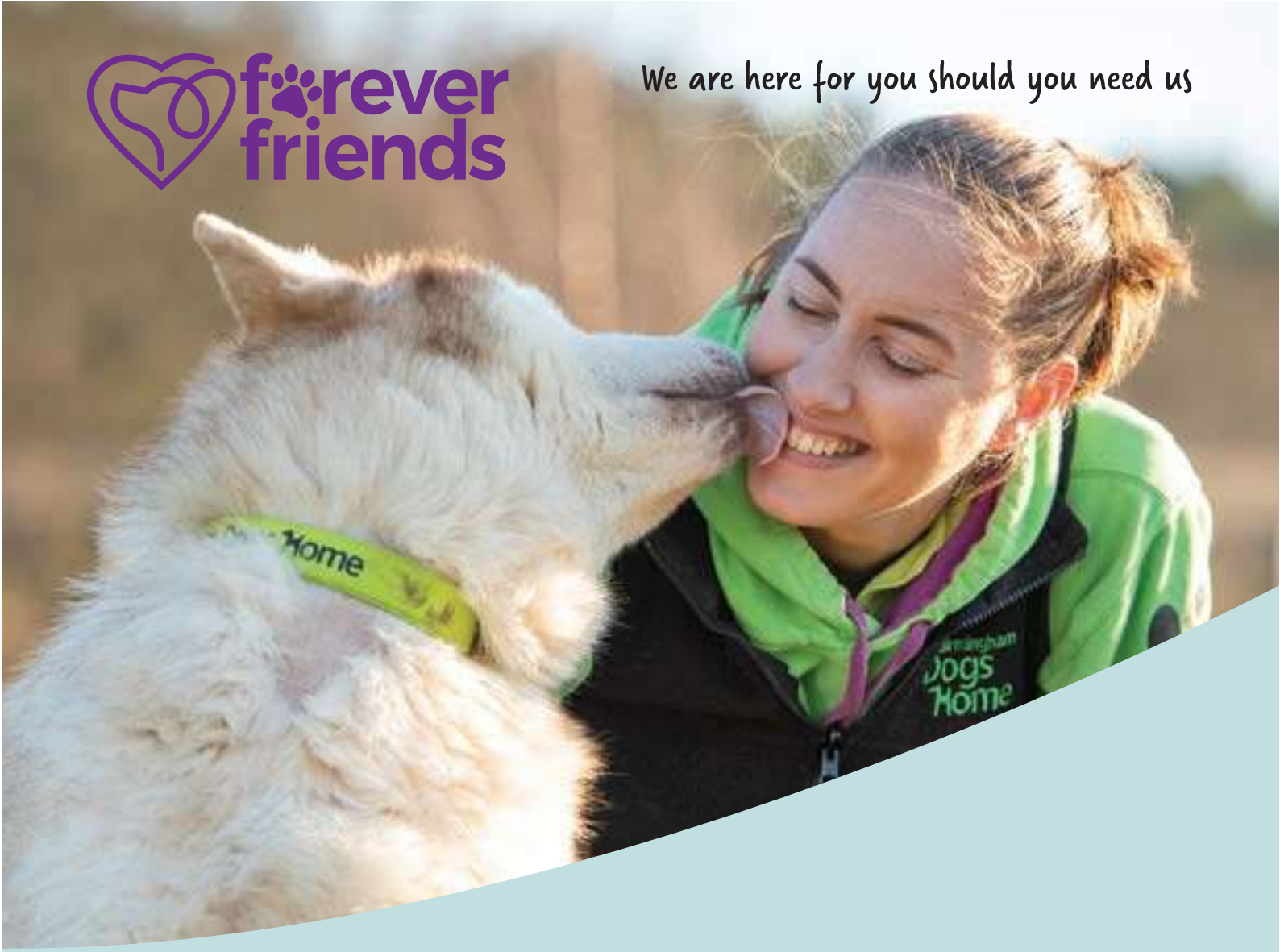

If you would like to discuss our Forever Friends service please contact:

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Solihull, West Midlands B92 0DJ
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0121 643 5211 (option 3)

www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 222436

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR