

ADCH

Association of Dogs and Cats Homes

*together for
dogs + cats*



**ADCH Membership
Information and Guidance**

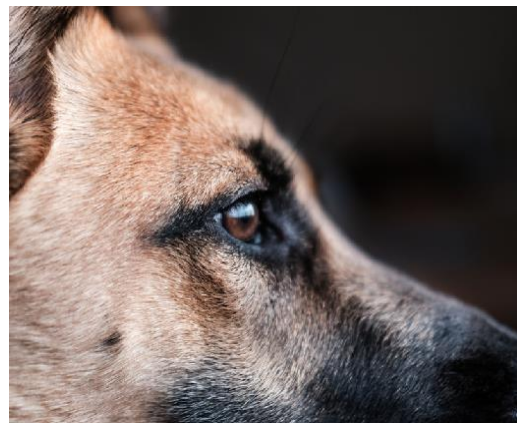
About the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH)

The Association of Dogs and Cats Homes exists to promote best practice in animal welfare for dogs and cats.

Membership incorporates registered charities and not-for-profit organisations of all sizes. Our priority is to ensure that rescue dogs and cats get the best possible chance of new loving and caring homes.

Whilst in the care of our Members we expect all animals to receive the best possible attention including exercise, enrichment, and appropriate basic training. The ADCH Minimum Welfare & Operational Standards aims to raise standards amongst animal rescue organisations that care for dogs and cats with the overall aim of enhancing their public respect.

Through the commitment and dedicated hard work of our Members we hope to share knowledge and understanding with the public so that those considering a new family dog or cat will take on a rescue pet or purchase through an accredited breeder. The sad alternative is to support the irresponsible and unnecessary breeding of animals which simply increases the number of dogs and cats awaiting rehoming from rescue centres which ADCH would not advocate.



OUR VISION

Where dogs and cats are free from abuse, neglect and abandonment, and where people recognise the joy that giving a rescue animal a second chance of a happy life and a new home can bring.

OUR MISSION

To improve the lives of dogs and cats by creating a welfare sector that rescues and rehomes to high standards, giving every lost, abandoned and unwanted dog and cat the care they deserve and the chance of a happy life.

OUR VALUES

ADCH is committed to being:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| COLLABORATIVE | - Sharing knowledge for excellence |
| RESPECTFUL | - Of animals and people |
| INCLUSIVE | - Together for dogs, cats and people too |
| SUPPORTIVE | - Helping Members to grow and develop |
| PROACTIVE | - Tackling issues, facilitating solutions |



About ADCH Membership

One of the most important attributes of ADCH is the close personal link Members have with each other. We really do live by our values of Collaboration, Respect, Inclusion and Support every day. There is no sense of hierarchy or divide; we do not segregate the large from the small, the paid staff from the volunteers. We are all like-minded, dedicated and passionate colleagues working together in the hard and challenging world of animal welfare.

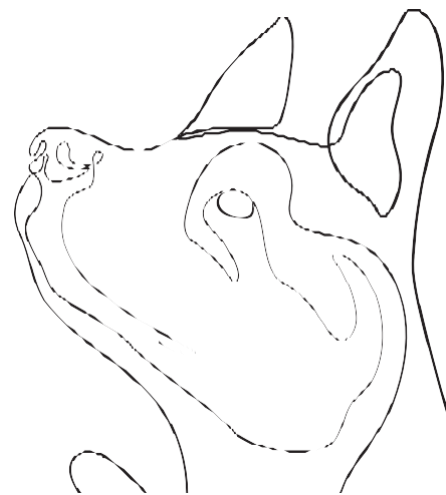
Being a member of the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes is a unique way of networking with like-minded organisations, large and small.

Members are asked to abide by the [Membership Code of Conduct](#) to ensure that everyone gets the most out of their membership with ADCH.

BENEFITS OF BEING AN ADCH MEMBER

Members also have access to a range of exclusive benefits including: -

- The ADCH Minimum Animal Welfare Standards
- The ability to use the ADCH Member logo to demonstrate your organisation's commitment to best practice.
- Practical support and advice from the collective experience of ADCH Members.
- Access to the exclusive member-only networking platform, where you can interact and share useful documents, resources and templates with other Members.
- Exclusive offers and discounts from our Corporate Sponsors.
- Notification of funding opportunities.
- Opportunities for mentoring and support from your peers.
- Networking at social events including Open Meetings and Workshops.
- Exclusive 'Member rate' incentive to attend the Annual Conference and the Petplan & ADCH Animal Charity Awards and Gala Dinner.
- Free access to our dedicated e-Learning platform 'ADCH Know-How'.
- Monthly Member Newsletters to keep you up-to-date with what's going on at ADCH and within the sector.
- Free promotion of your job opportunities on the ADCH website.
- Opportunity to help influence policy and campaigns.
- Voting rights in the affairs of the Association (Full Members only).



Membership Categories and Criteria

The Association offers two categories of Membership Individuals, registered charities or not-for-profit organisations directly engaged in the rescue and/or rehoming of dogs and cats must apply as Full members.

1. FULL MEMBERS

Full Membership is available to registered charities with an appropriate and relevant status and objectives in their country of origin in the UK or Ireland. All Full Members undertake rescue and / or rehoming in the UK and / or Ireland and may, in addition, import. Full Members have the right to vote. They must meet the following criteria:

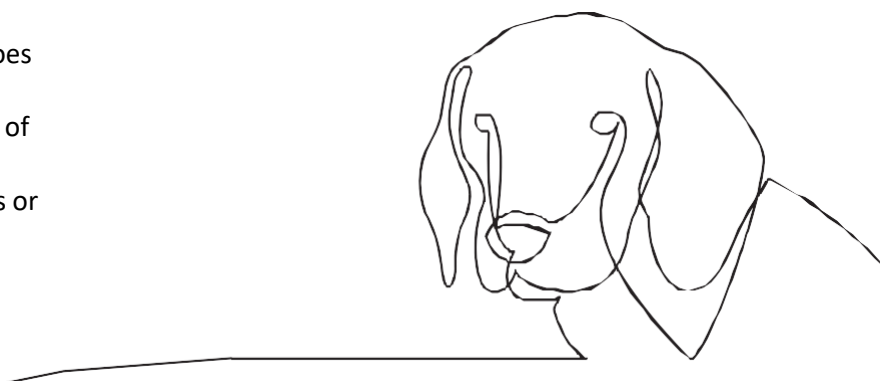
- Registered charity and working in the British Isles and/or Republic of Ireland
- Directly involved in and carrying out the rescue and/or rehoming of dogs and/or cats.
- Have read, understood and consider the rescue compliant with the Association's published Minimum Welfare and Operational Standards. Be ready for an external assessment by ADCH to confirm compliance before admittance to the Association.
- Comply with all current animal welfare related legislation in the jurisdiction within which they operate
- Operate on a non-commercial basis.
- Only import dogs or cats from other territories:
 - If these have been legally imported in a manner that meets all applicable transport and health requirements; and
 - have had the relevant vaccinations (including those not necessarily mandatory by the exporting or importing country);
 - and the organisation ensures all dogs are behaviourally assessed and documented as suitable and safe to rehome to a British Isles environment prior to transport; and
 - has a plan in place in case the rehoming of an animal is not successful.
 - Not involved in any importation that does not meet the above criteria.
- Sympathetic to and compatible with the values of ADCH.
- Declare that they are not aware of any Trustees or Senior Staff Members with any previous convictions for animal welfare offences.

2. AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Affiliate Membership is intended for not-for-profit organisations and individuals who are actively supporting (but not directly involved) in the dog and cat rescue and/or rehoming sector. This includes FE/HE/educational establishments and other animal welfare/industry organisations who do not rehome animals.

Individuals who are also actively supportive of the dog and cat rescue and/or rehoming sector may also become Affiliate Members by special appointment. It is envisaged that the individual affiliates will be people with an active involvement with the sector who will add value bringing their experience to the Association's deliberations. They must meet the following criteria:

- Registered and working (organisations) or resident (individuals) in the UK and/or Republic of Ireland
- Actively supportive of the rescue and/or rehoming of dogs and/or cats. Must not be involved in any activity that is in conflict with the stated aims and values of the ADCH.
- Comply with all current animal welfare related legislation in the jurisdiction within which they operate (organisations) or reside (individuals)
- Organisations must operate on a non-commercial basis
- Not be directly involved in animal importation
- Sympathetic to and compatible with the values of ADCH.
- Declare that they are not aware of any Trustees or Senior Staff Members with any previous convictions for animal welfare offences (organisations) or self-declare that they do not have any previous convictions for animal welfare offences (individuals)





Membership Joining Process

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION FORM

- Complete your application at <http://www.adch.org.uk/adch-membership>. We are open for Full Membership applications at 4 periods in the year. The opening periods for 2024 are:
 - From Monday 12 February to Sunday 3 March
 - From Monday 20 May to Sunday 9 June
 - From Monday 12 August to Sunday 1 September
 - From Monday 11 November to Sunday 1 December
- Include details of two referees who can endorse your application.
- Upload or supporting documents (accounts for last 2 years and a copy of your constitution, or similar).
- Pay your £100 application fee*

INITIAL APPROVAL TO PROGRESS

- We will acknowledge receipt of your application, take up your references, and present to the Trustee Board for their initial approval.

ASSESSMENT (FULL MEMBERS ONLY)

- We will then assign two ADCH Assessors to carry out an assessment against the Minimum Welfare and Operational Standards.
- The ADCH Assessors will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient time and date to carry out the assessment.

POST-ASSESSMENT

- The ADCH Assessors will go through the result of the assessment with you and a report and recommendation will be submitted to the Standards & Animal Welfare Committee (SAWC).
- SAWC will consider the Assessors report and make a decision whether to approve your membership.

APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

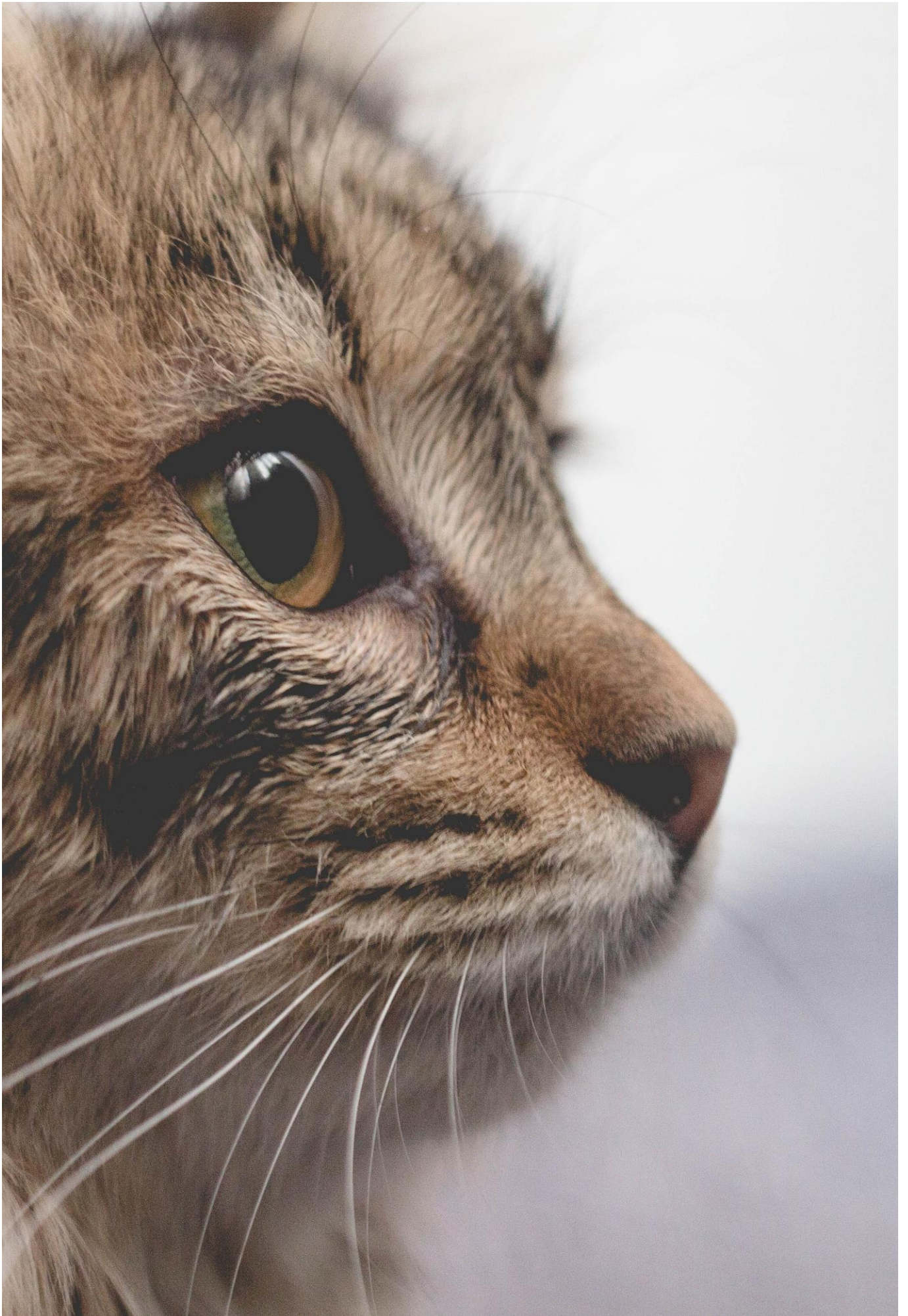
- We will advise of the decision made by SAWC and provide any feedback. If your application has been approved, we will issue an invoice for the membership fee (see below).
- When payment has been received, we will issue your Welcome Pack and Membership Certificate
- If your application has been declined you will be provided with feedback and details of our appeals process.



Effective from Monday 20 May, a £100 application fee (exclusive of VAT) will be required for each new application, including former members seeking to rejoin. This fee is a contribution towards the expenses associated with the administration, review, and processing of applications.

As a small charity, ADCH aims to keep this fee as low as possible, ensuring that it supports the necessary costs involved in preparing applications for assessment. Our fundraising efforts heavily subsidise our work, enabling us to maintain minimal charges to our members.

Please note that the application fees are nonrefundable, including cases where applications may be refused. Wherever possible we will work with you to give you support and the tools you need. We will aim to agree an action plan, if necessary, so that your application can succeed in a timeframe agreed between you and ADCH.



Membership Fees

Membership is affordable and offers tremendous value. Over 150 organisations already take advantage of the benefits that being part of ADCH brings.

Membership fees are on a sliding scale based on your income as submitted to the Charity Commission.

Band	Income	2024 Rate*
Band G	Less than £50k	£60
Band F	£50k- £0.25m	£120
Band E	£0.25m - £0.5m	£200
Band D	£0.5m - £1m	£300
Band C	£1m - £5m	£700
Band B	£5m - £10m	£2,000
Band A	Income more than £10m	£4,500

**All fees are exclusive of VAT*

What Our Members Say

“We have been members since 2005 and have really benefited from the practical, varied and valuable information discussed at meetings and conference. We have also built relationships with other organisations breaking down the barriers of big and small and them and us. Membership is one of the best decisions you will ever make”.

**BEN WILKES, TRUSTEE,
BORDER COLLIE TRUST GB**

“The ADCH have been a tower of strength to all their members throughout Covid-19, offering support, assistance, advice and helping us to help each other in a common cause – the welfare of animals.” **ANNE CARTER, LABRADOR LIFELINE TRUST**



“Over the recent weeks I have found ADCH an extremely valuable resource in the situation and I just want to thank everyone for all their hard work and guidance throughout the situation we find ourselves in. I’ve found the ADCH family invaluable and also the private Facebook page, and I’ve made many new friends. I will never forget my very first ADCH Conference, it certainly moved me .. it will stay with me forever. I came away with many ideas for my wee branch in the North East of Scotland.”

**LIZ ROBINSON, DEESIDE BRANCH
OF CATS PROTECTION, NORTH EAST
SCOTLAND**

“During the Coronavirus crisis, the food donation for rescues are so generous, we really are grateful to receive this, and too the ADCH Emergency Grant that we were successful with. Having never received or even applied for funds or grants before, I wasn’t sure we would be successful, so again, thank you so much for all your support for our rescue, and all the other little rescues you have helped.”

**SIOUX PERKES,
SUKI’S CANINE RESCUE CREW**

“Fundamentally I feel less isolated. I feel part of a community and get to learn that I am not alone with the problems I face. It is reassuring that we are all ‘in it together’ and we can seek support and advice from one another. I also feel like there is ‘someone’ looking out for us. ADCH are at the forefront of knowledge and disseminating expertise. It really is an invaluable source of support to me.” **SUSIE HUGHES, BRANCH
MANAGER, RSPCA MANCHESTER AND
SALFORD**





If you would like further information please contact: -

Association of Dogs and Cats Homes
PO Box 76271
LONDON
SW8 9FA

Clare Radlett
Standards and Operations Officer

enquiries@adch.org.uk

clare@adch.org.uk

