

# Freedom

A specialist  
service by



## Find freedom from domestic abuse

by placing your dog  
with a loving foster carer



# Support for you and your dog

At Dogs Trust, we go the extra mile for dogs and the people who love dogs too. Freedom is our specialist dog fostering service here to support you on your journey towards freedom from domestic abuse. We understand how difficult that journey can be and how important it is to ensure your dog is safe too.

If you plan to find safety in a refuge or move to temporary accommodation but are unable to take your dog with you, Freedom can find your dog a loving home with one of our dedicated volunteer foster carers. Your dog will receive the best possible care giving you peace of mind that they have a safe place to stay until you can be reunited with them again.

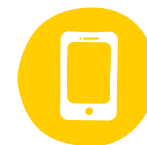
**“ Without Freedom,  
I don’t know what  
I would have done.**

**I would never have left  
my dogs behind as I think  
he would have harmed  
them. I’m so grateful for  
everything Freedom did  
for me, and that I was able  
to get my dogs back. ”**

- A Freedom Client



## We're here when you need us



If you would like to find out more, you can visit our website or contact your local Freedom team directly by phone or email and we will talk you through how the service works and answer any questions that you have.

**London and South East**  
**0800 298 9199**

**West Midlands**  
**0300 373 2788**

**East Anglia**  
**0808 196 6240**

**East Midlands**  
**0300 373 2789**

**Yorkshire**  
**0800 083 4322**

**Scotland**  
**0808 169 4315**

**North East of England**  
**0300 303 3497**

**Wales**  
**0300 373 0677**

**North West of England**  
**0300 303 4139**

 **freedom@dogstrust.org.uk**

 **dogstrustfreedom.org.uk**

# We're here for you and your dog every step of the way

We work with you and your support worker from the beginning to understand your plans and ensure you are getting the support you need on your journey to freedom.

- Your dog's individual needs are important, so we ask that you tell us about their health and behaviour and how you like to care for them. We may ask you to send us some photographs of them.
- Our friendly regional teams are familiar with all the available volunteer foster carers in their area and know each of their home environments. This means we are well placed to find the best possible match for your dog.
- Should you decide to place your dog in foster with us, one of our all-female team will arrange a time to meet you and your dog at an agreed location that is both safe and convenient for you. We will liaise with the foster carer to take your dog directly to them wherever possible.
- Our volunteer foster carers will be ready and waiting to welcome your dog into their home. We will provide everything your dog will need including a comfy bed and toys.

- Our team stays in regular contact with your dog's foster carer throughout, both on the phone and in-person. Together we ensure your dog receives any veterinary care needed and is happy and settled in their foster home. We keep you updated with photographs and informed of your dog's progress.

## Our aim

is to reunite you with your dog as soon as you are settled and ready to have them back. Whilst your dog is in their foster home, we will continue to liaise with you and your support worker to help make this happen.

# A helping hand from one dog lover to another

Freedom is completely confidential and free to use. We will cover all your dog's expenses whilst they are in foster care including food, veterinary care, toys and treats.

Our volunteers are experienced in caring for dogs in their own homes and many have been volunteering with us for several years, providing foster care for many dogs in that time.

## Here's some of what they have to say...

“ We love fostering for Freedom. The fact that you are helping the dog's owner, who is going through a hard enough time without thinking they may lose their dog, is a really nice feeling. ”

“ We receive a huge amount of satisfaction, enjoyment, reward and pride from doing something worthwhile. ”

“ You get to make a lot of new doggy friends. I've had 13 different dogs and the companionship is wonderful. ”



# Your safety

## is our priority

We take steps to ensure that you cannot be traced through your dog.

### These include:

- placing your dog away from your local area or any area where they could be recognised
- not sharing your personal details with anyone outside of the Freedom team - including our volunteer foster carers, nor posting images of your dog and their location online
- collecting your dog in a plain vehicle without Dogs Trust branding

Keeping safety in mind, you will be unable to visit your dog whilst they are in our care. But rest assured, you can contact your local Freedom team who will be regularly visiting your dog directly. We will be ensuring your dog has everything they need and will also contact you regularly to send you photos and updates so you can see how your pet is doing.

**We've been helping dog owners find freedom from domestic abuse for over 20 years.**

We want to give you peace of mind by reassuring you that your dog will be well cared for which is one less thing for you to worry about.

You will be provided with our fostering terms and conditions from the start so that you are clear about our service, and we will only start to make any arrangements once you have signed your consent for us to do so. Our teams are here to support you should you have any questions.

Where possible, we ask you not to tell friends or family members that your dog is being cared for by Dogs Trust in case they accidentally share this information. We will also not share this information with anyone.

Our amazing foster carers open their hearts and homes to make Freedom possible and you can rest assured that all volunteers go through an application process which involves an interview and a home check, are at home most of the time during the day and are visited and supported throughout your dog's foster placement.

Once you are ready for your dog to come back to you, just let us know and we will return them to you at a safe location. Your dog can stay with us for up to six months, however if you are not yet in a position to be reunited by then, we may be able to offer an extension to the placement and can discuss the best option for you.

**“ When a dog comes into the care of Freedom, our number one priority is to make sure they are loved and cared for. The best part of my job is seeing the dogs reunited with their owners at the end of the foster placement.**

**No matter how long they have been fostered with us, the dogs always remember their owners and are so excited to see them again. ”**

- Laura, Freedom Manager



# Find support

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, or are worried about someone else, there are specialist services who can provide support:

## England

### **Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline**

0808 2000 247

[nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

## Scotland

### **Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline**

0800 027 1234

[sdafmh.org.uk](http://sdafmh.org.uk)

## Wales

### **Live Fear Free Helpline**

0808 80 10 800

[livefearfree.gov.wales](http://livefearfree.gov.wales)

**A dog is for life<sup>®</sup>**

**[freedom@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:freedom@dogstrust.org.uk)**

**[dogstrustfreedom.org.uk](http://dogstrustfreedom.org.uk)**

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