

# ANIMAL CARE CARD



## What happens to my pet in the event of my death?

The Executor of your Will, next of kin or friend/family member will need to contact Gables on 01752 331602 to let us know that we need to take in your pet for rehoming. It will be their responsibility to arrange interim care for your pet/s whilst we arrange for him/her to come in to Gables, which we will do as soon as possible. We will make an appointment for them to bring your pet in - rather than them just turning up with your beloved pet when we are closed. This will ensure we have sufficient time to ensure a smooth and stress free process for all involved. If there is no one that can bring your pet to Gables we will make arrangements to come and collect them as soon as we are able to.

When your pet arrives at Gables, our qualified staff will assess him/her. This ensures we can provide the best care and helps us to know what home will suit him/her best. Your completed animal care card application form is extremely useful as we will have all of the information about your pet/s to help us. We will obtain all Veterinary history from your vets and your pet will then see our vet for a health check and receive any treatment needed.

We will then start the process of looking for a new home for your beloved pet/s. Gables is a non-euthanasia charity so some dogs and cats stay with us for a long time, but we never give up hope of finding them a new loving home no matter how much it costs! We rehome animals all over Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and the Isles of Scilly.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Can I still take out an animal care card even though a family member or friend will probably take my pet/s on?**

Yes! This is a good idea because when the time comes your family member/friends circumstances may have changed. Gables will be your back up plan.

**If I have signed up as an animal care card holder, does this mean that if I go into hospital temporarily you would foster/take care of my pet/s on a temporary basis and then return my pet/s to me?**

Unfortunately we cannot provide temporary accommodation for your pet/s. We can only take in pets that can be rehomed permanently.

**You say you are a non-euthanasia charity but my pet/s has an ongoing medical condition. Will he be put to sleep?**

We treat all animals in our care as though they were our own family pets. If your pet/s has an ongoing medical condition then we would of course continue to treat this. To help us to do this you need to provide us with as much information on the medical condition as possible.

If your pet is seriously ill and is suffering by the time they come into our care, we will take our trusted and very well experienced vets advice as to what is the best course of action for him/her. We will always put the animal's welfare first and if there is no treatment that will improve your pet's condition, or alleviate his/her suffering, then we would put the animal to sleep peacefully as it would be the kindest thing to do for him/her.

### **My dog is aggressive, will you still take him/her?**

We work with lots of dogs who are nervous and frightened and recognise that a change of surroundings may be a stressful time for your dog. Should they show aggression to the extent that our staff were at serious risk, then we may have to seriously consider what is best for them, and of course your dog. Please be assured that this decision would not be taken lightly and we would try everything we could to help your dog cope with the change of environment before making any decisions on euthanasia. We have rehabilitated many aggressive dogs over the years and given them the stability and confidence they needed to start to trust us and then go on to find a new loving home.

### **My cat is feral/semi feral, will you still take him/her?**

We work with lots of cats who are nervous, frightened or feral and recognise that a change of surroundings may be a stressful time for your cat. We specialise in caring for feral cats and in this case we would be very careful in how we house and handle your cat/s and look for an experienced new home which may be a stable yard or farm if appropriate.

### **I have two dogs or two cats will they be rehomed together?**

We will do our utmost to carry out your wishes. Often we are able to rehome two dogs or two cats together. However this is not something we can guarantee at point of registration if it is in the animals interest to be separated. The welfare of your pets is our main concern and if for some reason they are not coping with sharing a kennel or cat pen together then we would separate them and rehome them separately. If you have a dog and a cat we cannot house them together here at Gables and cannot guarantee they will go to a new home together as most people only to come to us for a dog or a cat not both. We will try our best to achieve this if it is possible.

### **Do I need to notify you if my pet/s die?**

Yes please, we can then ensure that our records are updated accordingly.

### **Do I need to notify you if I get another pet?**

Yes please. If you do decide to take on anymore pets and would like them to be registered on our animal care card scheme we will send you a new application form and also discuss any additional requirements.

