



Pet Foster Carer Application Pack

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Pet Foster Carer for the Endeavour Project – Pet Service.

This application pack contains the following information:

- Section 1 – Profile – Background to Endeavour Project
- Section 2 – Role Description – What a Pet Foster Carer Does
- Section 3 – Equal Opportunities
- Section 4 – Foster Carer Application Form

Thank you for your interest

We look forward to hearing from you soon

Section 1

Profile – Background to Endeavour Project

Endeavour Project was established in April 1997 to provide extra support services to individuals and families who have fled from abuse at home and live in the North West of England (Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Merseyside and Lancashire).

Pets

In 1998 **Endeavour Project** was successful in a bid to the National Lottery Charities Board for three years funding to set up a pet fostering service. This enabled Endeavour to help these families access refuge knowing their much-loved pets will also be safe until they can be reunited in a new home.

Many people that suffer domestic abuse have pets in the home, and abusers these can be used by abusers as a tool to control and frighten their victims. Abusers will often harm or threaten to harm the animals, or even kill them, causing even more trauma to the person or family. For many people who leave violent relationships, the options open to them regarding their pets are very limited. Very few local authorities provide any facilities for kenneling pets and most refuges are unable to allow pets to stay. Unless family or friends can help out most pets will either be left behind (to roam or possibly suffer at the hands of the abuser) or be put down. This inevitably causes further distress to the family - particularly the children. There are also an unknown number of victims who stay in abusive situations because they cannot bear to lose their pets in the above manner.

Endeavour Project reduces the stress and pressure on families and the suffering of the animals by providing a high-quality pet fostering service for the animals until their owners are rehoused. This is done through a network of volunteers and pet foster carers who are recruited and trained from around the region. They are given support and advice on the care of the animals and all of the fostered animals are visited and monitored on a regular basis to ensure they are being cared for to a high standard.

Endeavour Project is also aware that many pets do not receive the nutrition, exercise, stimulation and veterinary care that they need and intends to produce a series of educational materials for the women and children about pet care. We ensure all dogs and cats are microchipped and encourage neutering for all dogs, cats and rabbits.

Results

At the end of March 2016, **Endeavour Project** had seen:

- 1,865 animals fostered through the Pet Service
- 1,119 individuals helped by the scheme
- 1,372 children reassured that their beloved pet is safe whilst they are in refuge

Section 2 – Role Description

Volunteer Pet Foster Carers

Task Descriptions

Volunteers are essential for **Endeavour Project** to continue its work within the refuges and other types of temporary accommodation in Bolton and throughout the North West. Volunteer Pet Foster Carers (PFCs) make a real difference to the lives of people escaping domestic abuse and their pets.

Endeavour Project is committed to Equal Opportunities and everyone who fits the below eligibility criteria is welcome to apply for the Pet Foster Carer opportunity. Pet Foster Carers will also automatically become a 'Friend of Endeavour' and receive quarterly newsletter with updates on the work we do.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Experience and confidence around pets
- Patience
- Commitment
- Genuine love of animals

Pet Foster Carer Responsibilities

Pet Foster Carers will:

- Temporarily look after a pet belonging to someone escaping domestic abuse on behalf of **Endeavour Project**. This could be for a short stay of less than a week or a longer placement of several months, depending on the needs of the owner and your own circumstances.
- Care for the pet ensuring it has proper exercise and nutritional food, complying with **Endeavour Project** guidelines.
- Keep to appointments made with Endeavour for the dropping off and picking up of the pet and other monitoring visits – these will usually be at your home so we just ask that you ring the office as soon as possible to let us know if you are unable to be in at the agreed time.
- Be monitored and supported by a trained member of the Pet Service, who will visit the Pet Foster Carers in their own homes offering help and advice on animal care.

- To contact **Endeavour Project** office **immediately**, if there are any concerns over the pets health or if personal circumstances change and alternative foster care arrangements need to be made.
- To return any pet equipment belonging to **Endeavour Project** to a Pets Service worker when no longer in use.

What Happens Next?

- A member of the Pets Project will visit all prospective Pet Foster Carers in their own home to complete the application form and discuss their suitability of becoming a Pet Foster Carer.
- If your application is successful, you will receive a confirmation email that you have been registered with us, and your details will be put on our database so that you will be considered when we get a referral that matches your preferences.
- When you have accepted a referral, our trained Pet Service worker will bring the animal to your home along with any equipment you will need and a booklet of information on 'Your Fostered Pet' which will tell you everything you need to know about your placement.
- If you have any questions at all during the whole process, please call us on 01204 394842 or email our dedicated inbox at petfostering@endeavourproject.org.uk

Endeavour Project welcomes anybody 18 years or over to apply to become a Pet Foster Carer regardless of age, race, religion or shoe size! **Endeavour Project** is a small organisation that hopes to develop and attract support from many different sources. We will endeavour to obtain funding to enable any person that fits the eligibility criteria to join our family as a Pet Foster Carer.

Above all **Endeavour Project** wants its Pet Foster Carers to benefit from the companionship and unconditional love that an animal can give, with the knowledge that their care is helping women, children and animals escape abuse and cruelty at home.

Section 3 – Equal Opportunities

Endeavour Project is committed to making its services and opportunities for employment and volunteering open to everyone regardless of gender or sexuality, mental or physical ability, race or ethnic origin.

In order to ensure that no one is discriminated against, we ask all users of the services and job or volunteer applicants to fill in this monitoring form. It is entirely voluntary, but any information that you give will help **Endeavour Project** to make sure we are not excluding any groups in our work.

Please tick/highlight the answers that you are comfortable disclosing.

Gender

- Male Female Transgender Other: _____

Sexuality

- Heterosexual Bisexual Gay/Lesbian Other: _____

Disability

- None Considered disabled Registered disabled Details: _____

Ethnic Origin

Asian/British Asian

- Bangladeshi
 Indian
 Pakistani
 Chinese
 Asian other:

White

- British
 Irish
 Irish traveller
 White other:

Black/Black British

- Black African
 Black Caribbean
 Black other:

Mixed

- White & Asian
 White & Black African
 White & Black Caribbean
 Mixed other:

Section 4 – Foster Carer Application Form

Name:	
Address	
Postcode	
Contact Tel No	
Email	

I am over 18 years old

Rented Accommodation Yes/No
 Permission to keep pets Yes/No

What kind of animals would you consider fostering? (tick/highlight all that apply)

- Cat: kitten Cat: indoor Cat: outdoor
 Small furries: indoor Small furries: outdoor Fish
 Birds Reptiles/Exotics

Please give below details of any pets you currently have

Type of Pet	M/F	Age	Neutered Y/N	Vaccinated Y/N	Behaviour/Temperament

What other members are there in your household?

Not all pets are suitable for a household with young children. If there are any children that live with you or visit you often, please give their ages:

Are these children used to animals?

Yes/No

Would the pet be left alone for long periods of time, eg when you go to work?

Up to 3 hours

Up to half a day (5 hours)

Up to a full day (8 hours)

Where will you keep your foster pet during the day/when you are not home? at other members are there in your household?

Where would you expect it to sleep?

Could you take more than one pet from the same family?

Yes/No

Could you take pets from more than one family during a placement?

Yes/No

Would you be happy for a pet to receive vet treatment whilst in your care?
Eg medication, neutering or other operation?

Yes/No

If necessary, are you able to take your fostered pet to the vets?

Yes/No

What experience do you have of caring for pets or other animals?

What qualities do you have that you feel would make you a good Pet Foster Carer?

Have you ever adopted an animal from a rehoming establishment?

Yes/No

If yes, please give details.

How would you feel about handing the animal back after fostering it for several months?

Sometimes pets that come from families where there is domestic violence can be traumatised. Some of the problems that have been encountered are listed below. What is your tolerance level for any of these situations:

An animal that is very noisy for attention and/or because of stress, eg excessive meowing.

A pet is wetting and soiling the house.

Furniture and personal belongings being chewed/scratched.

Please add any further information that may be of interest to us with regards to your application to become a Pet Foster Carer

Where did you hear about this Pet Fostering Scheme?

By signing below, you certify that the above information is correct to the best of your knowledge and agree to these details being added to Endeavour's database.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Domestic abuse is a very serious crime and so for the safety of everyone involved with fostering, all volunteers are asked to supply 2 references. Please provide information:

Referee One	
Name:	
Address:	
Tel No:	
Email:	

Referee Two	
Name:	
Address:	
Tel No:	
Email:	