

Break The Chains for Dogs Bulgaria (BTC)

Email: btc4dogs@aol.com (for the return of forms only)

CONTRACT OF ADOPTION – DOGS

The following terms form the conditions of the agreement between you (“the Owner”) and us (“the Welfare”) made when we agree that you will adopt a dog from us. Please read, digest and familiarise yourself with these terms and ensure that you accept and understand the moral and legal implications of agreeing to these terms prior to signing this contract, which is a legally binding document. Once you are satisfied that you understand and accept the responsibilities placed on you by signature of this document, please initial each condition below and sign at the bottom of the contract.

1. In order to reserve a dog, the owner will be required to leave a deposit of £95 which is not refundable if you decide to cancel for any reason. The full fee, which can vary depending on the dog, will be discussed and agreed with you at the time of reservation. It along with your deposit covers the transport fee and is non-refundable.
2. An identity disc is supplied with your dog which, (together with a collar), MUST be worn by your dog at all times when in public in accordance with the law. Please let us know immediately if you lose the identity disc or change address, as we can post a replacement to you. Do not rely upon your collar to secure your dog during walks. Follow the advice provided in your welcome pack. You are contracted to provide your own ID disc as well as ours. You can attach this to your harness too.
3. In accordance with legal requirements, your dog will receive a microchip before leaving the Sanctuary which will be registered to Break the Chains for Dogs Bulgaria so that in the worst case scenario of the dog straying we are always able to be contacted. For the purpose of the microchip and also for our own records and legal compliance, the owner must keep us informed of any change of address or telephone number so that we are always able to contact you in an emergency. It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that contact details are kept up to date both with us and with the microchip company. Failure to do so can incur a fine in excess of £200.



4. The Owner agrees and undertakes unequivocally to provide the dog with any and all veterinary treatment required at any time for the duration of the dog's life. We strongly advise lifetime insurance cover for your dog to ensure that the dog remains covered for life. If you are unwaged and/or in receipt of certain benefits, the PDSA may be able to help. PDSA have many clinics located all over the U.K. and pets must be registered before needing treatment.

5. The Owner must always provide the dog with adequate food as per the diet sheet and fresh water must always be freely available. A comfortable suitable bed must always be available for your dog to use. Grooming your dog is essential for health and increases the bond and trust between you and your pet. The dog must be taken out at least twice a day for exercise and provided with adequate shelter outdoors but **MUST NOT** live outdoors permanently.

6. Your dog will be vaccinated before going to their new home, but may require a second vaccine and/or additional veterinary treatment which will be communicated to you via the passport or information document provided during the adoption process.

7. Without exception, all of our dogs must be neutered or spayed and we expressly forbid the use of our dogs for breeding. Your dog will be neutered or spayed prior to going to their new home, unless there is a specific medical or age-related reason for this to be delayed which will be decided on veterinary advice. Sometimes the dogs are not neutered or castrated if the vets have a reason not to, although they don't necessarily inform me.

Occasionally a dog can be transported intact (for example too young / old to be spayed) and whilst we endeavour to discuss this with you prior to delivery it is not always possible. As we do not ask adopters to cover the cost of castrations in Bulgaria as part of the adoption process, we are not responsible for any costs incurred once they arrive in the U.K. Should neuter or spay be required to be delayed for any reason, you must arrange a date for the surgery to take place and liaise with us to ensure that this has been carried out.

Please note this is a very rare occurrence.

8. We require the carer to agree that they **WILL NOT** let the dog off lead under any circumstances in areas that do not permit it within the U.K. and that are not safe .such as built up areas or where orders permit them to be leashed. You are responsible for making sensible choices in the welfare of your charge. Enclosed secure areas designed for the purposes of exercise and/or training, or that are safe for your animal such as some rural countryside fields and walkways can be appropriate and sensible locations. You must consider recall techniques, livestock that may be in the area and how to keep your animal safe from harm. Please consider that whilst there is no blanket law requiring dogs to be kept on a lead in all public spaces there are a series of orders that mean you have to leash your rescue in certain places in your local area. We cannot stress too strongly the importance of following these stipulations when relevant and educating yourself in the current U.K. laws/orders. A dog who



is off lead can be **AT SERIOUS RISK** and even the most highly-trained dog can spook and bolt in an unforeseen situation, which can lead to traffic-related accidents and fatal accidents. A dog loose in a public area and thought to be creating a hazard is at risk of seizure by Police and even destruction. In the case of emergency boarding the boarder must protect the dog by keeping them under control at all times and on a leash at all times. You are contracted for the wellbeing of your arrival to take your rescue to enclosed parks for time off lead several times a week so they can for example enjoy off leash on a quiet and safe beach. We understand that not all carers have enclosed parks accessible to them. You understand that your dog must have time off leash and if you do not have enclosed parks you must organise suitable alternatives and ask for guidance if needed.

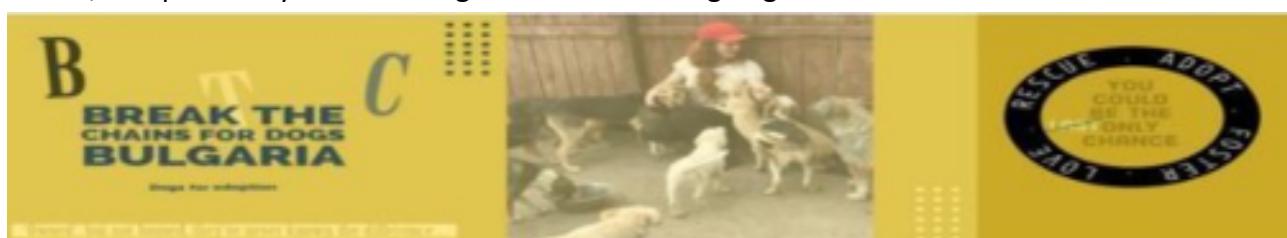
9. Current dog legislation means that all dogs, no matter what breed, are at risk if they are found to be out of control or hurts or threatens another animal or person whether in a public place or in the home, and owner prosecution can and will follow any incident of a dog being found to be out of control.

10. The Owner must ensure that the dog is **NEVER** left alone with children, particularly young and/or vulnerable children, and animals. Any dog can find themselves in a conflict situation if left unsupervised and any dog can and may use their mouth to communicate when they have no other way to do so. The Owner must take full responsibility and ensure that the risk for things going wrong for the dog is minimised by supervising all interactions with both humans and animals at all times. We understand that realistically there will be times when your animals may be left alone together. You understand that this will be when they know each other and it is safe and sensible to do this. Not for example on arrival or before all animals have settled.

11. If your dog should escape or stray, please inform us immediately. We recommend that you also inform your local dog warden via your local council and any local rescue centres and vets immediately, giving your dog's microchip details and a full description. You are also advised to contact national rail or the equivalent in your surrounding areas and local farmers. Your welcome pack also contains a section about lost dogs and who to contact ('Dog lost recovery') and you must do so immediately after your dog is missing.

12. Any dog will take time to adjust to a new home. Any dog can show unbalanced, stressful and/or territorial behaviour until they find their feet and settle in. Firmness, kindness and clear compassionate guidelines must be in place at all times, and the dog must be allowed the time and patience they need to settle into their new home.

13. Any problematic behavioural issues demonstrated by the dog must be notified to us so that we are able to advise and guide as to next steps. The Owner must not allow unwanted behaviour to escalate and potentially become a problem without seeking assistance. We will offer advice, training techniques and guidance as to how to deal with any issues, and potentially refer the dog and Owner for ongoing work with a recommended



professional trainer or alternatively, if you prefer, seek the advice of a trainer of your choice. The costs for any training required are an adopters responsibility. We strongly recommend that the Owner ensures that any trainer who is consulted at any stage utilises positive reward-based training methods. The dog must not be subjected to any training which causes pain, fear or harm. If we require verification of the full programme you booked with a qualified trainer you agree to provide it along with their contact details. You must seek assistance within one week of noticing any issues that you feel are a problem for you.

14. Should Break the Chains for Dogs Bulgaria consider that the placement of a dog is no longer tenable for any reason whatsoever, the owner agrees that the dog will be claimed by and returned to Break The Chains for Dogs Bulgaria without delay.

15. We may want to check on the progress of the dog within their new home. You give permission for the welfare/home checker to return for a home visit in person or virtually if requested.

16. I understand that if I cannot wait for RBU (rescue back up) I must place the dog with my nominated support (I am still the owner and responsible for their care & to abide by this contract) or board the dog with a reputable local boarding kennels the cost of which will be my responsibility until back up can be made available. I understand that I cannot request back up for the first three weeks of settling the dog in. Any exceptions to this agreement are at the welfares discretion. I understand that back up is provided for a period of time determined by the welfare. Any exceptions to this agreement is at the welfares discretion. I must complete and return an 'intake questionnaire' in this instance. I understand that rescue back up is not to be interpreted as a trial adoption or that it is there for a change mind. It is for mitigating circumstances only, and the welfare will consider this at their discretion. You may be asked to provide verification. The responsibilities of ownership are given to the owner and this contract outlines what your legal obligations are. Rescue back up is provided when the owner has followed their legal contractual obligations outlined here. I understand that if I've accepted funding towards any part of my adoption process to give a dog a forever home that this will need to be reimbursed back to the welfare if I decide I can no longer provide that permanent home. This must be reimbursed with immediate effect so that it can help another animal. I understand that I must undertake the responsibility of hiring a professional pet courier to transfer the animal to their new location and cover any costs incurred as a result of this if required by the welfare. I agree that if in the event I can no longer pay for boarding and couriers etc. after this agreement is signed it is my responsibility to finance costs incurred through re-homing via alternative sources whether friends, family etc. If my nominated support cannot assist post home check it is my responsibility to find an alternative. I understand that any exception to this is at the welfares discretion. I agree to wait for rescue back up (the dog to be re-homed) and I know this is not instant and that it can take time.



17. I understand that the photographs I send to the welfare to update them may be used in the public domain. I understand that the telephone number and address relating to my adoption process may be shared with third parties in the interests of the welfare of the animal.

18. If I've asked to foster with a 'view to adopt' the same terms and conditions apply as a standard adoption. I will inform the rescue within six weeks of the dog arriving if I would like to make the adoption official.

If you have been provided items for your foster dog by the welfare BTC or in receipt of any kind of donations – please ensure these are not passed on to the new adoptee of the dog. Do not enter into any negotiations regarding harnesses, leads, beds, etc. unless they are your own and suitable for the dog. If enquiries about these items are made by the owner please refer them to the rescue. The items must be returned to the rescue via your contact, or kept if you intend to foster another dog for us. If there are any exceptions to this we will notify you.

If any medication (such as worming tablets) were provided and have not been used during the foster period then these should be handed back to the welfare unless otherwise stated. Thank you in advance.

It is a lifetime responsibility to adopt an animal, so please think very carefully ensure that you are in a position to meet all of the dog's needs for life before you agree to adopt. If you cannot keep the dog, **YOU MUST INFORM US**.

We will take urgent steps to find a placement but you must allow us time to enable us to find an empty space/re-home and work with us if you are required to return the dog.

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO EUTHANISE OR PASS ON OR SELL A DOG ADOPTED FROM THE WELFARE TO ANYONE ELSE DURING THE LIFESPAN OF THE DOG.



*** Please Ignore this section unless you are adopting from a foster situation***

In the case of payment post arrival of the animal such as *foster to adoption* the date for settling the balance is as follows (agreed by yourself & the welfare) _____

In the case of two or more instalments the schedule of payments is:

_____ by ____/____/____ _____ by ____/____/____
_____ by ____/____/____ _____ by ____/____/____

Please note these can not be altered as the welfare has to plan around all outstanding monies that they are kindly agreeing to wait for.

Owners name printed _____

Owners signature _____

Welfare signature _____

- I confirm that I have read this **Contract of Adoption** and agree to abide by all of the terms and conditions set out and any additional conditions communicated to me by the team/volunteers of Break the Chains for Dogs Bulgaria.
- I understand that even if I need to return the animal, my donation/ fee is utilised at the point of adoption to fund animal care and/or transport and is therefore not refundable.

Owner Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date of Signature: ____/____/____ Adoption / transport fee £_____

