



# RSPCA aim to end euthanasia of rehomeable animals the RSPCA PLEDGES



## We need you to help us achieve our goal

Thursday 23 February 2012

The RSPCA has vowed to end the euthanasia of any rehomeable animal in our care during the next five years - and we are counting on the public to play its part in helping us achieve that goal.

With too many animals for too few available homes, although we hate having to do it, the RSPCA sometimes has no option but to put some animals to sleep.

But today the country's biggest animal welfare charity has unveiled bold plans to work towards ending all euthanasia of rehomeable animals in our care by 2017, as part of five pledges to improve the lives of millions of pets, animals in laboratories, farm animals and wild animals.

James Yeates, head of the RSPCA's companion animals department, said: "We are trying to tackle the reasons why animals come into our shelters, and the reasons why we have got so many animals with so many problems, that cause us to put some of them to sleep.

"By tackling those problems, ideally we will free up resources which we will then be able to reinvest in further solving those problems.

"There are lots of things members of the public can do, including supporting rehoming charities, like your local RSPCA branch and the national RSPCA. Also, if you are considering getting a dog, don't go out and buy a puppy. Try and rescue a dog that is in need of a loving home and be part of the solution, rather than part of the problem."

Although the overall trend in the euthanasia of rehomeable cats and dogs has gone down during the past 20 years, in 2010 we had to put 33 per cent more dogs and 28 per more cats to sleep than we did in 2009.

To push that number down during the next five years, we want to see the following:

- Fewer cats, dogs and rabbits needing to be rescued in the first place
- More good homes available for rehoming animals
- More people choosing RSPCA animals for pets
- A drop in the number of rehomeable animals being euthanased

The RSPCA has highlighted four key areas where we intend to improve to help reduce the number of rehomeable animals that are put to sleep:

- Increase the number of animals we rehome, by improving our customer care
- Reduce the number of animals that are returned to our centres and branches by providing better support for adopters
- Develop fostering programmes for those animals looking for new homes
- Promote microchipping to help reunite stray animals with their owners and reduce the number of unclaimed animals

But to achieve our goal we need the public to help by doing the following:

### Press office

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- Plan ahead and plan carefully – getting a pet is a long-term commitment
- Make sure you understand what a pet will need before you get one
- Get your pet from the RSPCA if you can
- Get your pet neutered and microchipped
- Visit our website – [www.rspca.org.uk/pets](http://www.rspca.org.uk/pets) - to find out about your pet's needs
- Support our work by making a donation, volunteering and helping with our campaigns

We intend to track our progress each year by publishing statistics each year which will show how much closer to reaching our target we are. The set of first statistics will be released this August.

-ends-

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