



# ADOPTION HANDBOOK

Welcoming a rescue dog into your heart and home

**Thank you for considering adopting a rescue dog from Soi Dog Foundation. The fact that you're here means you care – and we're truly grateful.**

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The majority of our dogs were born on the streets and have never lived in a home. That means they may need a bit more time, patience and understanding as they adjust to their new life with you.

But you're not alone in this. Our adoption coordinators are here to support you every step of the way – from choosing the right match to preparing for their arrival and beyond.



# UNDERSTANDING THAI STREET DOGS

While you may be familiar with the term “mixed breed,” the street dogs found in Thailand are a little different.

Unlike mixed breeds that come from deliberate cross-breeding, Thai street dogs have bred freely for generations with no human selection. Many are what’s known as “village dogs” – not a mix of any recognised breeds, but native, naturally evolved dogs.

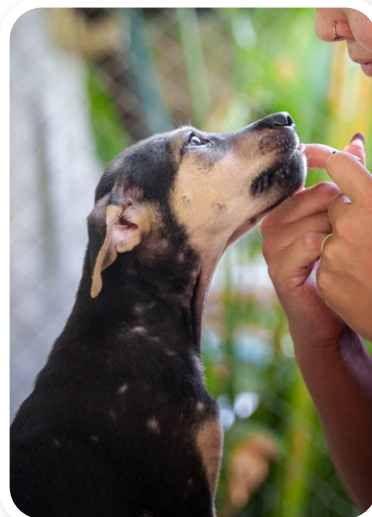
This makes them unique, smart and incredibly adaptable.

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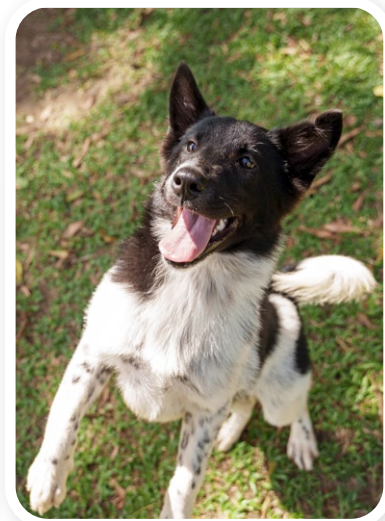
## You’ll often find these common traits:



**Independence** – used to thinking for themselves.



**Cautiousness** – they prefer to observe before they trust.



**Intelligence and adaptability** – once they feel safe, they learn quickly.

Because their lineage hasn’t been shaped by humans, these dogs show an incredible range of appearances and personalities. Each one is truly unique.

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**Once trust is built, the bond is deep strong and very rewarding.**

# DID YOU KNOW?

**When you adopt, you're not just changing one life – but two.**

Every adoption creates vital space at our shelter to rescue another dog in need.



**Adopting a rescue dog is meaningful, and it comes with real responsibilities. Before you begin your adoption journey,**

## **HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

**Do I have time to help a dog adjust to a brand-new life?**



**Is my home safe and suitable for a rescue dog?**



**Am I prepared to cover all costs (food, veterinary bills, transport, emergencies)?**



**Can I commit to a dog for life, not just until my situation changes?**



You don't need to have all the answers right now. We'll go through everything together and help you find the dog that best fits your lifestyle and expectations.

# THE ADOPTION PROCESS

## 1 Initial enquiry

Submit an adoption enquiry, answering some initial questions about your family, lifestyle and ideal companion.



## 2 Interview

Join a video call with one of our adoption coordinators to help find your perfect match. Discuss the dog's medical history, behavioural needs and more.



## 3 Home assessment

Complete a home visit – either in person or virtually – with one of our staff or volunteers to ensure you have everything in place to welcome a rescue dog.



## 4 Adoption agreement

Sign the adoption agreement, confirming your commitment to the care of your chosen dog.



## 5 Travel arrangements

Let our logistics team arrange your dog's journey to you. Collect your new best friend from a pre-arranged location and enjoy a lifetime of happiness together!



# BENEFITS OF ADOPTING FROM SOI DOG



No adoption fee\*

*\* Adopter simply need to cover the travel costs.*



Lifelong adoption support



All animals are spayed/neutered,  
fully vaccinated and microchipped



Travel arrangements managed  
by our experienced logistics team



Full disclosure of medical history  
and behaviour assessment



The rewarding feeling that you've  
changed the life of a homeless  
animal

My new start   
begins with you 

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU – THE ADOPTION INTERVIEW

The adoption interview is our chance to get to know each other and establish what kind of dog would best match your home and lifestyle.

## We'll talk about things like:

- Your daily routine and work schedule.
- The type of home you live in (house, apartment, garden space).
- Your past experience with dogs (it's okay if you're new – we'll guide you through the whole process); and
- What kind of companion you're hoping for.

If you already have a dog in mind, we'll go through their medical and behavioural information. If not, we'll shortlist a few dogs that suit your lifestyle, and a second interview can be arranged to discuss further if necessary.

**Our goal is simple:** to find the right dog for you, and to help you feel confident and prepared to welcome them.

## MEDICAL

Every dog receives a full health check prior to adoption. We'll share their health report with you, along with any other relevant information you should know.



Once you've reviewed the report, we'll ask you to sign a medical waiver so we can move forward with the adoption.



If you have questions, or if you'd like extra clarification, we're more than happy to arrange a call with our veterinary team.



If there is any change in your dog's health at any point during the adoption process, we'll let you know right away and discuss next steps together.

# BEHAVIOUR

Understanding our dogs is key to successful adoptions.

- Each adoptable dog is assessed by our behaviour and enrichment team, who have years of experience working specifically with Thai street dogs.
- These assessments help us understand each dog's personality, comfort levels and any areas where they may need support so we can match them to the right home.
- If you have cats, we are happy to help identify which dogs might be a good fit for your home.
- We also offer post-adoption advice. Whether it's general tips for helping them settle in or more specific concerns about their behaviour in the long term, we're always here to support you.



# HOME VISIT

Once we've found your perfect match, we'll arrange a home visit to help you prepare for their arrival.

Depending on where you live, the visit will either be conducted **in person** with one of our experienced volunteers or previous adopters; or **virtually** via video call if we don't yet have a local volunteer nearby.

## DURING THE HOME VISIT, WE'LL:

- Talk through how to set up your home safely;
- Share useful tips; and
- Answer any questions you might have.

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**The goal is for you to feel confident, supported, and ready for this special journey ahead.**



## TRAVEL PREPARATION AND JOURNEY HOME

Once your adoption is confirmed, our team will start arranging everything your dog needs for travel, including health checks, rabies titer test.

We'll keep you updated throughout the entire process, so you always know what's happening.

Depending on your country, your dog may travel with a **flight buddy** or as **cargo**. Either way, our experienced logistics team will handle every detail and make sure your dog travels safely and comfortably.



### **\*Rabies Titer Test (RTT)**

Before travel, all dogs must undergo a rabies titer test (RTT) – a blood sample to confirm they've developed enough rabies antibodies.

Waiting period varies by country, and your adoption coordinator will share an exact timeline for your destination.

- For example:**
- USA: 28 days
  - Europe, including the UK: 3 months
  - Singapore and Japan: 6 months

We'll let you know as soon as your dog's passes the RTT and keep you updated throughout the waiting period.

## **ARRIVALS AND COLLECTION**

When your dog arrives, you'll simply collect them at the arranged airport or pickup location. We'll make sure you have all the information you need so the handover is smooth and stress-free for both you and your dog.



**Note:** Prior to travel, we recommend checking with our logistics team to ensure your dog's travel crate fits in your vehicle. For safety, your dog should remain in the crate until safely inside your home.

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## **AFTER YOUR DOG ARRIVES**

Your dog is about to experience a completely new world. They may never have:

- Climbed stairs
- Slept indoors
- Heard household appliances such as washing machines and TVs
- Been around strangers

# FIRST WALKS AND SETTLING IN

## FIRST DAYS

For the first 48 hours, please avoid taking your dog for walks outside your home – especially in busy or unfamiliar areas. If you have a secure garden or enclosed area, short walks or toilet breaks are fine. Make sure your dog is wearing their full safety equipment (harness, collar, ID tag and double leads).

This quiet time helps them decompress, get used to new sounds and smells and start feeling safe.

If you're unsure about when to take the next step, just reach out – we're here to help.

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT

During the settling-in period, some dogs may be startled by new sounds or sudden changes. Using proper safety equipment keeps them secure while they adjust.

We recommend:



**A 3-point harness**



**GPS tracker**

(Tractive or Fi depending on your region) and ID tag



GPS tracker

**A double-lead system:**

(one lead on the harness and martingale collar or slip lead).

\* For more details, see the '**Safety equipment protocol**' document.

## COSTS AND TIMELINES

Each country has different regulations for importing dogs. Your adoption coordinator will provide you with a personalised estimate based on your location and the travel options available.

### Timeline:

Pre-adoption process:	<b>1-2 weeks</b>
Medical/travel prep:	<b>2-6 weeks</b>
Flight availability:	<b>Varies</b>
<b>Total time:</b>	<b>4-16 weeks</b>

This is a general estimate, and some cases may take longer depending on individual circumstances.

Please refer to the '[Travel Options and Costs](#)' document for the latest information.

## POST-ADOPTION SUPPORT

Our support doesn't end when your dog arrives home.

Whether you're a first-time dog owner or someone with years of experience, we're here to help with:



**Lifetime support** from our adoption team;



**Behaviour advice**, from settling in to more complex needs; and



**Medical questions** – while your local vet will be your main point of care, we're always here to support you, whether you need clarification, lose a document or wish to connect with our medical team.

## FINAL NOTES



Soi Dog charges no adoption fee.



We're transparent about health and behaviour.



Adopters cover transport costs.




If you feel you can no longer care for your dog, please **contact us** first – never rehome on your own.

Thank you ♥ ♥  
for reading!



# FAQs



**Are your dogs house-trained** 

Most are not, but they learn quickly.

**How long is the process of adopting** 

**1-4 months** depending on destination.



**Do I pay an adoption fee** 




**No**, but adopters need to cover transport costs.

**What if I already have pets** 

**Let us know!** We'll help find the right match.



**What happens if my dog doesn't settle right away** 

That's completely normal. Many of our dogs have never lived in a home before, so everything feels new at first. Give them time, keep routines calm and consistent and reach out to our team if you'd like extra guidance.

## Can I change my dog's name

**Yes!** Many adopters choose a new name once their dog arrives home. Just remember it may take your dog a little time to learn it, so keep using it gently and often, paired with treats and praise.



## What food should I give my dog

When your dog leaves the shelter, we'll let you know what they've been eating here so you can transition gradually to your chosen food. Sudden changes can upset their stomach, so we recommend mixing the two foods for a week or so.



## What if my dog is scared or tries to hide

**Don't worry** – this is very common, especially during the first few days. Give them space and quiet, avoid forcing contact and let them come to you when they're ready. Most dogs learn quickly that home is a safe place.



## Can I let my dog off-lead

**Not right away.** Many dogs have strong survival instincts and may bolt if frightened. Keep your dog on a lead at all times when outdoors for at least the first three months (or longer if they're nervous). Once your dog has built a strong bond and reliable recall, you can discuss off-lead options with a behaviour professional.



## Will my dog get along with other pets

We'll do our best to match you with a dog suited to your household. Introductions should be calm and gradual, with plenty of supervision. Every animal adjusts differently, and our team can share tips for making the process go smoothly.



## What vaccinations will my dog have

All dogs are **fully vaccinated** before travel – this includes rabies and core vaccines such as distemper, parvovirus and leptospirosis. You'll receive full medical records when your dog arrives.



## What if I move to another country later on

Many adopters relocate with their soi dogs. Our logistics team can help guide you through travel requirements and paperwork for your new destination.



## Can I visit the shelter before adopting

**Absolutely!** Visitors are always welcome at our shelter in Phuket. It's a great opportunity to meet our dogs in person, see how we work and understand more about their stories.



## What if I can no longer care for my dog

Please **contact us** first. We'll help you find a safe solution and ensure your dog continues to receive the care they deserve. Never rehome on your own – **we're here to help.**



# TESTIMONIALS



“

When you're looking online at adopting a dog, it's quite daunting. But what was great about the whole process with Soi Dog was the support and all the information, photos and videos that we were sent. It made us feel really that we knew Flossy even though we'd never met her, which was really reassuring. Adopting her is absolutely hands down the most rewarding thing that we have ever done. ”

Flossy, UK 🇬🇧

“

We recommend Soi Dog Foundation to anyone who asks about adopting a dog. The process was clear, upfront and they have been so supportive. Boon has settled seamlessly into our family unit. We can't imagine our lives without her. It's as if she's always been a member of our family. It brings us so much joy to watch her achieve milestones and how excited she gets when she does. ”

Boonpratarn, USA 🇺🇸





“

We are convinced that the reason Ivorie and Maikied adapted to our home so quickly is because the Soi Dog staff and volunteers genuinely care for each dog as an individual. They do not simply rescue animals – they take the time to understand each dog’s personality and carefully consider compatibility with each family’s lifestyle. Even now, every time we look at their faces, we cannot help but think, ‘How did we become so fortunate to share our lives with such wonderful companions?’ ”

Ivorie and Maikied, Japan 🇯🇵

“

With two young children, an older resident dog and a house with a lot of stairs, we weren’t an easy match, but the time and effort Soi Dog took to understand different aspects of our lives set us up for success. It’s been such a pleasure watching our newest family member come out of his shell and adjust to his new life. To anyone considering adopting a soi dog, we can’t recommend it more highly. ”

Eamon, Switzerland 🇨🇭




**THANK YOU FOR OPENING YOUR HEART  
AND HOME TO A SOI DOG.**


You’re not just giving a dog a second chance  
– you’re giving them their first real home.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU**

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