

The Paws & Connect Matching Process



Creating safe, enduring and mutually beneficial relationships



A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS



Paws & Connect

Coordinates the process, facilitates conversations and considers compatibility.



Young Person & Family/Carer

Share lived knowledge of needs, routines, supports and aspirations.



Rescue Partner

Provides animal information, history, temperament and care requirements.



Relevant Professionals

Contribute expertise where needed and with appropriate consent.



Together

Make an informed matching decision centred on the wellbeing of both.



1

INITIAL CONVERSATION & REFERRAL

- Understand interest and motivation
- Explore expectations and experience
- Discuss routines, commitments and support
- Identify what conditions would help this relationship succeed

Purpose:

To understand the young person and family and determine the next steps.



2

FAMILY & ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT

- Family commitment and adult support
- Stability, resources and long-term capacity
- Home environment and safety
- Other pets, schedules and lifestyle
- Emergency and contingency planning

Purpose:

To ensure the family and environment can provide safety, stability and the practical support the animal needs.



3

ANIMAL PROFILE FROM RESCUE PARTNER

- History, temperament and behaviour
- Health, age and activity level
- Needs, triggers and sensitivities
- Experience with young people and other animals
- What this animal needs from a human companion
- Type of home and relationship likely to suit

Purpose:

To understand the animal as an individual and the kind of home and relationship where they are likely to thrive.



4

COMPATIBILITY DISCUSSION

- Bring together young person, family, environment and animal information
- Consider lifestyle, needs, temperament and support
- Identify potential strengths and challenges
- Determine whether a meeting is appropriate

Purpose:

To consider whether there is a good potential fit worth exploring through a supervised meeting.



5

MEET, OBSERVE & REFLECT

- Supervised meeting in a safe environment
- Observe interactions and body language
- Consider comfort, communication and boundaries
- Give time to reflect

Purpose:

To see how the young person and animal respond to each other in real time.



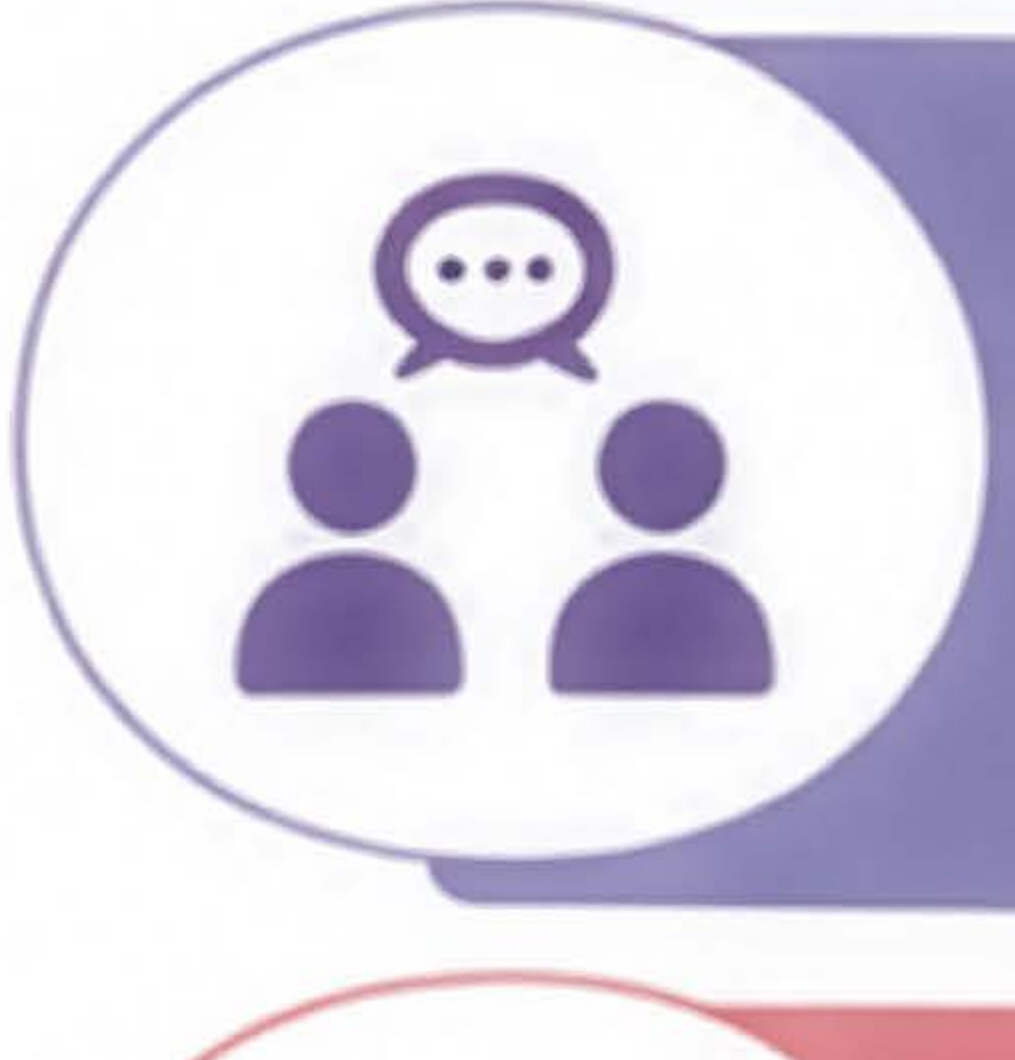
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SUPPORTED PLACEMENT

- Gradual transition into the home
- Clear expectations and routines
- Resources and guidance provided
- Everyone knows who to contact for support

Purpose:

To give the relationship the best possible start with the right support in place.



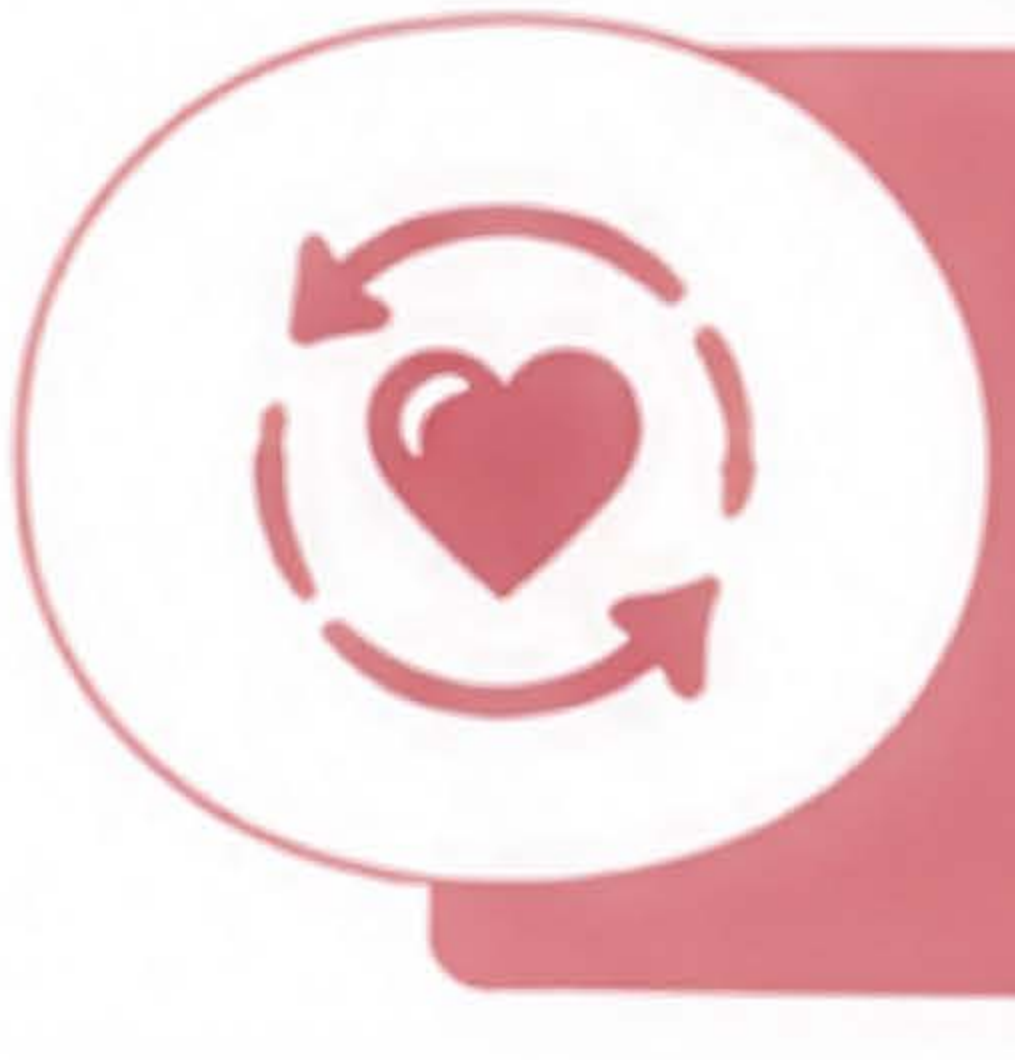
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SUPPORT & REVIEW

- Regular check-ins
- Practical and emotional support
- Behavioural guidance when needed
- Review how the relationship is developing

Purpose:

To help the relationship grow and address challenges early.



8

CONTINUE, ADAPT OR REMATCH

- Continue to support a growing relationship
- Adapt plans and provide additional support if needed
- If the match is not working, plan a safe and kind transition to an alternative solution
- Welfare of both always comes first

Purpose:

To ensure the best possible outcome for both the young person and the animal.

Ongoing support and review throughout the relationship



GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Good matches take time, compassion and collaboration.
Every relationship is unique.

