

## About us

**Dogs Trust Freedom Project** is a dog fostering service for people fleeing domestic abuse. We know that pet owners fleeing domestic abuse are often unable to take their dogs into a refuge with them so in many cases, they may feel unable to leave their home until they know there is somewhere safe for their pets too. Dogs Trust offers a solution by providing free and confidential foster care, enabling the owner to flee, safe in the knowledge that their dog will be loved and cared for until they can be reunited.

Since 2004, we have helped over  
**1,100 PEOPLE**  
to flee domestic abuse by fostering  
**1,400 DOGS**



## The statistics



On average the police in England and Wales receive  
**OVER 100 CALLS**  
relating to domestic abuse  
**EVERY HOUR.**

(HMIC, 2015)



In **2017/18**, Police Scotland recorded almost  
**60,000 CASES**  
of domestic abuse.

(Scottish Gov. 2018)



On average  
**TWO WOMEN**  
are **KILLED**  
by their partner or ex-partner  
**EACH WEEK**  
in England and Wales.

(ONS, 2018)

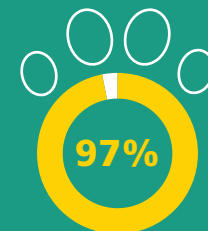
A survey carried out by Dogs Trust in 2019 showed that:



of domestic abuse professionals were aware of domestic abuse cases where a pet has been killed.



of domestic abuse professionals were aware of domestic abuse cases where pets have also been abused.



of domestic abuse professionals believe that threats to pets are used as a tool to attempt to coerce and control someone.

## Our services

The Freedom Project runs in the highlighted areas. We can help anyone fleeing into or out of these areas.



Our service is completely free and covers the cost of...



Dog food and treats



Grooming



Dog equipment such as toys, bedding, collars and leads



Veterinary fees, such as preventative treatments and any veterinary care the dog may need if they become unwell

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*I suffered psychological and physical abuse for over 3 years. In the last year he started harming the dogs. I couldn't protect them and myself.*

*I secretly planned to leave. My support worker helped me to secure foster placements for my dogs – the Freedom Project was my only means of escape. In many ways it was my life saver – in time he would have killed me and my dogs. I am thankful to Dogs Trust because they did everything to secure safe, loving homes for my dogs.*

*Without the Freedom Project, the abuse would have gone on and on. My abuser knew how much the dogs meant to me and knew I wouldn't leave him because of them.*”

Caroline\*  
Freedom Project Client



\*Real names have not been used



## Contact us

If you would like more information on our service, please get in touch with your nearest Freedom Project team.

**Greater London  
and the Home Counties**  
0800 298 9199

**North East of England**  
0300 303 3497

**North West  
of England**  
0300 303 4139

**Scotland**  
0808 169 4315  
**Yorkshire**  
0800 083 4322

We could not run this service without the help of our generous supporters and donors. If you would like to donate and support the work of our Freedom Project, please call **0207 837 0006** or email us at [freedomproject@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:freedomproject@dogstrust.org.uk).

### For advice & support please contact:

Freephone 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline  
**0808 2000 247** or visit  
[www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk)

Scotland's Domestic Abuse and forced Marriage helpline  
**0800 027 1234** or visit [www.sdafmh.org.uk](http://www.sdafmh.org.uk)

[www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk](http://www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk)



Photography by: Richard Murgatroyd and Kevin Johnson  
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## Volunteering with us

We could not run this service without the vital support and dedication of our wonderful volunteer foster carers. If you are interested in joining our Freedom Project fostering team, please contact us to find out more.

“Dogs are a great talking point and a fantastic way to meet new people. We know there are many benefits to walking and caring for a dog, however fostering also enables you to care for a pet in your own home without the expense and lifetime commitment. We visit our volunteers regularly and are on hand to provide advice and support.”

Diane  
Freedom Project Regional Manager



“

*For Mum and me, the Freedom Project made complete sense. We get all the benefits of having a dog in our lives, with the added bonus that we know we are not just helping the dog, but we are potentially saving someone's life. It's amazing to feel a part of this.*”

Becki, Freedom Project Foster Carer

### A dog's journey

**1** We receive a referral and will match the dog to a foster home.

**2** We liaise with the owner and their support service to collect the dog from a safe location.

**3** The dog is placed straight into a loving volunteer foster home and given time to settle in.

**4** The dog receives a full health check and will be neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.

**5** We visit the dog regularly and send the owner updates and photos.

**6** As soon as the owner is safely rehoused, we will collect and reunite their dog.



# Freedom Project



**A dog fostering service for people fleeing domestic abuse**