

# Pet care

This information is about [pet care](#) when you have cancer. It can be difficult to look after a pet when you have cancer. You may need to plan for their care.

You may be worried if you:

- are struggling to look after your pet or are no longer able to look after them
- have to go into hospital for a time
- have to move into a nursing or residential home
- do not know who will look after your pet if you are no longer able to care for them.

This can be an upsetting time. You may need to think about who could help with caring for your pet.

## Tips for managing pet care

- Find out who can help. Ask friends, neighbours and family members who live nearby or anyone your pet knows and trusts. Family members farther away may also be able to help, but it will take more planning. They may be able to care for your pet in your home.
- Talk to [your local vet](#). They may know of a local volunteer support scheme or fostering service.
- Local animal charities and organisations may be able to help. You may be able to find them online or in the local newspaper.
- National pet organisations, such as [The Cinnamon Trust](#) and [PetPals](#), may be able to help. If you are using a charity, read any reviews and recommendations. Check whether they have had any animal training, including in animal first aid, and if they are DBS checked and insured.
- Ask a hospital social worker for advice. Your [local social services department](#) has a duty to protect your property if you are admitted to hospital. This includes any pets, if there is no one else to take care of them. You may be charged for this service.
- If you can pay for pet care, you may want to consider a local boarding, fostering or pet-sitting service. Or you could try a kennel or cattery. However, they can be expensive and may only be suitable for short periods of time. See the list of organisations on the next page.
- Someone could come to your house each day to walk, feed and spend time with your pet.
- If you have to go into a nursing or residential home, try finding one that will allow pets. The [Cinnamon Trust](#) and [Elderly Accommodation Counsel](#) have details of care homes and retirement housing in England, Scotland and Wales which consider residents with pets.
- If you have to find a new home for your pet, use an organisation or charity that specialises in finding the right home, such as [National Animal Welfare Trust](#).
- You may want to [plan ahead](#) in case you become unable to care for your pet. Make sure your wishes are recorded somewhere or written in your will. We have more information about [making a will](#).
- Plan for an emergency. Think about who may be able to look after your pet in case you have to go into hospital at short notice. Write their details on a card that you keep in your wallet. You could also write down your vet's details.
- Give as much information as you can to anyone looking after them. For example, tell them about your pet's food, routine, health issues, how you reward them and any special diet.
- If friends or family are unable to take your pet, many national pet charities, including Cats Protection, Dogs Trust and the RSPCA have rehoming services. You will need to register your pet.
- If you are worried about vet bills if your pet becomes unwell, [contact your local vet](#) and explain what you can afford. They may offer options at a reduced cost.
- You can also talk to your vet or any of the organisations listed on the next page about how to help reduce your pet's stress levels.

## Macmillan Cancer Support resources

We have more information on our [website](#), including audiobooks. Or you can order our free booklets and leaflets on [be.macmillan.org.uk](http://be.macmillan.org.uk) such as:

- [The cancer guide](#).

We produce information in a [range of formats](#) and [languages](#). To order these, visit our website or call our support line.

## Further Macmillan support

If you have more questions or would like to talk to someone, call the Macmillan Support Line free on **0808 808 00 00**, 7 days a week, 8am to 8pm. Or visit [macmillan.org.uk](http://macmillan.org.uk) where you can [chat to us online](#).

Deaf or hard of hearing? Call using NGT (Text Relay) on **18001 0808 808 00 00**, or use the NGT Lite app. Speak another language? Telephone interpreters are available. Please tell us in English the language you would like to use.

Our free [Macmillan Buddy service](#) can arrange weekly calls or visits with a friendly volunteer who understands what you're going through.

Or if you want to share your experiences or ask questions, you can find others who understand on our [Online Community](#).

## Other useful contact details

- Blue Cross – visit [www.bluecross.org.uk](http://www.bluecross.org.uk)
- Borrow My Doggy – visit [www.borrowmydoggy.com](http://www.borrowmydoggy.com)
- Cats Protection – visit [www.cats.org.uk](http://www.cats.org.uk)
- Cinnamon Trust – visit [www.cinnamon.org.uk](http://www.cinnamon.org.uk)
- Dogs Trust – visit [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)
- DogBuddy – visit [www.dogbuddy.com](http://www.dogbuddy.com)
- Elderly Accommodation Counsel – visit [www.housingcare.org/elderly-uk-pet-friendly-homes](http://www.housingcare.org/elderly-uk-pet-friendly-homes)
- National Animal Welfare Trust – visit [www.nawt.org.uk](http://www.nawt.org.uk)
- National Association of Registered Pet Sitters and Dog Walkers – visit [www.narpsuk.co.uk](http://www.narpsuk.co.uk)
- PDSA – visit [www.pdsa.org.uk](http://www.pdsa.org.uk)
- Pet Fostering Service Scotland – visit [www.pfss.org.uk](http://www.pfss.org.uk)
- PetPals – visit [www.petpals.com](http://www.petpals.com)
- RSPCA – visit [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)
- Rosie's Trust (Northern Ireland) – visit [www.rosiestrust.org](http://www.rosiestrust.org)
- Scottish SPCA – visit [www.scottishspca.org](http://www.scottishspca.org)
- StreetVet – visit [www.streetvet.co.uk](http://www.streetvet.co.uk)