



Danaher Animal Home

**Mission
Statement**



AFFILIATED



About Danaher

The Danaher Animal Home is a registered charity based in Wethersfield on the Essex and Suffolk border, set on 5 acres of land. We have over 45 dedicated staff members within our organisation and a large volunteer network who work hard to support us in delivering our mission objectives.

Each year we take in hundreds of lost, abandoned or ill-treated animals and whilst affiliated to the RSPCA, the Danaher Animal Home is an independent charity entirely responsible for raising its own funds.

50% of the funding required to run the Home is generated by our six retail stores in Braintree, Witham, Chelmsford, Dunmow, Sudbury and Haverhill. Our staff and volunteers have a calendar of fundraising events which also help generate income to support the Home, in addition to vital donations received from the public and local businesses.

The regular support we receive from the RSPCA inspectorate, RSPCA branches and their teams is highly valued, as is their contribution towards rehoming costs, which enables us to find new loving homes for so many animals each year.

Mission Statement

To provide a safe and secure temporary home for animals in need, whilst making every effort to find them a permanent new home with loving owners.

To embrace our four core values throughout our daily activities:



Rescue

Provide shelter and reduce suffering.



Rehabilitate

Meet the animals' necessary medical, mental and welfare requirements.



Rehome

Identify loving 'forever' homes where they will be happy, safe and well looked after.



Educate

Promote kindness to all animals and help improve standards of animal welfare.





Our Values

Our values are based around the '5 Freedoms' set out by government and adopted by animal welfare groups around the country:

- 1** Freedom from HUNGER and THIRST.
- 2** Freedom from DISCOMFORT.
- 3** Freedom from PAIN, INJURY and DISEASE.
- 4** Freedom to EXPRESS normal BEHAVIOUR.
- 5** Freedom from FEAR and DISTRESS.

We endeavour to ensure that the animals we care for are afforded every opportunity to enjoy their five freedoms throughout the duration of their temporary stay at Danaher.

How We Rescue

The majority of Danaher animals are brought to us from RSPCA Branches and the RSPCA Inspectorate, usually arising from welfare or cruelty concerns. We also take stray dogs, by prior arrangement, from Braintree District Council and other local authorities as required. Occasionally, when space allows and by prior arrangement, we may take in animals directly from members of the public.

All animal arrivals can only be accepted at our Thorley Farm centre, near Wethersfield.

We are committed to a non-selective intake policy. This means that irrespective of breed, condition, temperament, age or health, provided we have space, we will accept any animal we are equipped* to care for. Where appropriate, we will make every effort to reunite said animals with their families or work towards placing them in new forever homes.

*We accept dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, gerbils, hamsters, degus, small birds and other small companion animals. We are unable to accommodate horses, poultry, farm or exotic animals. Please visit www.rspca.org.uk to search for details of organisations that may be able to help in such circumstances.




How We Rehabilitate

On arrival, all animals are assessed by our in-house veterinary team and animal care team in order to determine any health and/or behaviour concerns. A timetable is then put in place for appropriate treatment and/or training in order to facilitate the best possible outcome for the animal. There is no time limit on how long this process can take.

We are devoted to providing the best possible care for our animals throughout their stay and our policies and processes have been carefully established to ensure that all animals receive the best chance at a safe, secure and content future.

Our non-selective intake policy means we deal with a variety of animals, many of whom have complex medical and behavioural conditions. Every animal is treated on a case-by-case basis and we do everything possible to provide them with a second chance at a forever home, however difficult that may prove.

In addition to ensuring all animals are respected and treated with kindness and empathy, we provide species-appropriate enrichment, diet, opportunities for play and timely expert veterinary and behaviour care.

A woman with brown hair, wearing a blue polo shirt, is smiling warmly while holding a small tabby kitten. The kitten is looking up at her. The background is a brightly lit room, possibly a veterinary clinic, with a rainbow sticker on the wall.

Treatment for our animals is evidence, ethics and expertise based to ensure that every decision made for each animal is right for their welfare.

Meeting the welfare needs of our animals also means ensuring that our team is protected from physical and mental harm. We strive to ensure our entire team, including volunteers, receive adequate training, regular wellbeing checks, guidance and coaching to ensure we can provide the best possible care for our animals.

How We Rehome

After going through our assessment process, animals deemed suitable for rehoming will be cared for as long as necessary to find the right forever home. We may utilise other rehoming centres within the RSPCA to help us do so.

Danaher does not impose time limits on any of our animals and, while our average length of time from intake to rehoming is two months, the process can be as short as a few weeks or as long as several months.

Although animals with medical and behaviour conditions can take much longer to rehome, provided we can keep them content and comfortable (in line with our expert veterinary advice), we always work hard to find them new homes. In some cases, we are able to place such animals in foster homes.

To meet our goal of placing our animals in loving, responsible and secure households, where possible we undertake home visits, ask all members of the household visit us to meet the animal, and check the welfare (including vaccination and neuter status) of any existing pets.

We ensure that every animal rehomed is neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, and free from parasites. Exceptions may occur if, to carry out such measures, would directly contradict current veterinary advice.

We endeavour to work towards a world in which no rehoming animal is euthanised. However, where problems persist and we are unable to meet an animal's welfare needs and/or we cannot be confident of rehoming them safely and responsibly then, with great reluctance, we also accept that it sometimes may be in the animal's best interests for it to be put to sleep. Such decisions are never taken lightly and take into account circumstances affecting the welfare of the animal at the time and our best assessment of the future. Decisions such as these are always based on a full veterinary and behavioural evaluation and consultation with relevant team members. Please refer to our full euthanasia policy for further information.

On occasion, we may be asked by the courts to take action if, for example, a dog is determined to be on the list of breeds banned in the UK, or if a dog poses an immediate threat to the safety of the public, the police or other responsible person. In such cases, the court may order that the animal be lawfully destroyed. If we suspect an animal in our care falls into the category of banned breeds, we are legally obliged to inform the police.



How We Educate

Danaher is committed to helping educate the next generation to be kinder to animals. We do this by participating with the RSPCA Generation Kind initiative and undertaking our own in-house education programme. In particular, we strive to work with children to educate them on the importance of providing for an animal's five welfare needs.

Subject to resources, we will endeavour to; visit places of education to deliver inspiring and interactive presentations on animal welfare, encourage children to interact with animals and ask questions in relation to caring for animals, and where possible, we work with schools and other bodies to arrange visits to Danaher so children and young people can understand the work we do in promoting education.

We provide and support work experience placements for those people considering a career in animal welfare.



Audit of Performance of Trustees, Management and Staff

The animal facilities are all licenced by the RSPCA and this licence is renewed annually. The company operating the site (The RSPCA Danaher Animal Home which is limited by guarantee) and the Directors/Trustees of such company are legally responsible to ensure that the site is run within the demands of our memorandum and articles, the law, the Charity Commission and the above licence.



Danaher
Animal Home

Thorley Farm, Heddingham Road,
Wethersfield, Essex, CM7 4EQ