



Oak Tree Farm, Wetheral Shields, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA4 8JA. Tel: 01228 560082.

Web: [www.oaktreeanimals.org.uk](http://www.oaktreeanimals.org.uk)

Registered Charity 1169511

## Do you have more animals than you can cope with?

### The first step is to accept help 😊

We all love dog and cats. That's why we work for an animal charity. We also understand why people enjoy being round lots of animals. Because we work for an animal charity!

Running our charity and keeping those animals mentally and physically healthy takes a lot of time and care, and we often come across situations where owners have acquired more pets than they have the time and care to look after. Some species (especially cats) are by nature solitary, so just being kept in numbers is in itself immensely damaging. We are mainly interested in trying to help in these situations to the benefit of owners and animals.

If you think the above description matches you, please give us a call on 01228 560082. If you are concerned about confidentiality, please ask to speak directly with one of our community team.

### Why is it a problem?

Having too many animals can be an issue for:

- Your own health and welfare,
- The quality of life of people around you who are affected by the animals,
- The mental health of your animals,
- The physical health of your animals,
- The wider animal community, especially if your animals have contagious diseases and are able to transmit this to other animals.

In many cases, the conditions of the animals/their environment could be considered cruelty in law.

### What can Oak Tree do?

We will initially respond by arranging a visit to you. It is unlikely that we can begin providing aid on our first visit, though if there are animals in a bad way we may ask you to let us remove these to see a vet and/or to come into our care permanently.

We generally aren't in a position to take in lots of animals in one go straight away as we are usually full to capacity. We will, however, begin to make arrangements in the background to try to manage our own spaces, work with our waiting list, and find spaces in other rescue charities around the UK. We may also want to initially stop further population growth by getting the animals neutered. After this they may need to come back to you for a short time until we can find space either on-site or at other charities.

### Will you put the animals to sleep?

We never euthanase healthy, rehomingable animals, irrespective of what circumstance they have come from or the quantity involved. We will, however, always follow our vets' instructions.



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### **What do we promise?**

- We'll be discreet – we have unmarked vehicles available to avoid drawing attention
- We'll never have TV crews with us!
- If you cooperate and show us consideration, we will not refer cases for prosecution.
- We will always try to leave you with a small number of healthy, neutered animals at the end.
- We will stay in touch with you in the future to ensure that you are not having problems.

### **What do you need to promise?**

- To be fair and discreet – and to not portray us unfairly in conversations with others.
- To let us see all the animals at the first visit, and be truthful about the numbers.
- To show us respect and consideration, and especially to be aware of our time deadlines so that we aren't delayed.
- To not acquire more animals once we have become involved.
- To take full responsibility for any animals you are left with, including veterinary care.
- To cooperate with ongoing care and support after the intervention.
- To respect our decisions about which animals are appropriate to come into our care and which are better off remaining.

### **Why do you not initially prosecute or refer cases to the RSPCA, SSPCA or council?**

We are not a law enforcement body and our main aim is to support owners and get the best result for their animals. Sometimes, there are better ways to do this than going to court. We do, however, sometimes have to resort to reporting cases to enforcement bodies if owners withdraw cooperation or when people begin acquiring more animals. This is always an absolute last resort and only if we have tried every other approach.

### **Why do you move animals to other centres?**

We don't often have the staff or space to take in large numbers of animals on an ongoing basis, so we use other rescues to help us. Sometimes, when all the animals from a home are of similar age and appearance, it makes sense to transfer them to other locations where they don't have animals of that type, as they are more likely to get adopted. These are centres we have previously visited, with trained and qualified professional staff, who operate the same animal care and rehoming policies as ourselves. We have a network of friendly centres we can call on when we need help.

**Please contact us on 01228 560082 to find out more about getting help.**

We welcome donations and support from those we have already helped, and from anyone else who believes in the value of this work, to ensure the programme continues.