**What is the first step towards adopting a Shar Pei?**

To begin the adoption process, please complete the Adoption Form. This is brief but includes some of the more important facts we need to know before deciding.  It is in your best interests that you are honest with your answers and don’t put what you think we want to hear. The completed form will be sent to one of our volunteers, who will then contact you to discuss adoption and to organise a home check.

**What happens next?**

We will discuss your specific situation, e.g., whether you have owned a Shar Pei before, how the dog is to be accommodated, any other pets you have, how much time you will be at work/have available to spend with your dog and your family commitments. Generally, this will elaborate on the details you provided in the form.

After talking things through with us, if you decide that you still want to go ahead, we will arrange a convenient time to visit you at home to do a home check. We may also contact your vet for a reference. Remember that as we are all volunteers, many of us have day jobs, so we cannot always arrange an immediate visit. We will, however, do our best to meet with you as soon as possible.

After completing your home check and receiving your vet reference, if appropriate, we can discuss in more detail any dogs that may be suitable for you. If a dog is unavailable then, we will contact you when one is.

When you agree to adopt a dog, we will require a £xx deposit to show your commitment.  For dogs travelling from the EU, we also require that the transport fee of £xxx be paid 7 days before the travel date.

**Will I get a dog that is suitable for me?**

When placing a dog in a new home, care is taken to ensure that there is a good match between the dog, its new owner and the new home environment in which it will be living. Not every dog will be right for a given environment, and not all potential owners will be right for a given dog.

**Sometimes, we get requests from individuals who attempt to give us a detailed description (often highly unrealistic) of a dog they would like us to provide them with, and whilst we do try to find a dog that fits in with the wishes of the prospective new owner, dogs do not ‘come to order’, they are all individual and have their own personalities.  We are always concerned when someone is looking for a particular colour of dog:  a Shar Pei is a Shar Pei, whether it is fawn, blue etc,**

Both the dog and its new owners will have much to learn from each other and will require time to adjust, but if approached with a practical and realistic attitude, adopting a Shar Pei can be a deeply rewarding experience.  There are always people available to offer help and advice if you are unsure about any situation.

**What can I do to prepare for the arrival of my new dog?**

To help you prepare for the arrival of your rescue dog, we have put together some helpful information, which you will find via the following links:

**The arrival of your new best friend!**

If all goes well and we are able to place a suitable dog with you, we will contact you again to arrange a suitable day and time to unite you with your new companion. You may be asked to travel to meet with a volunteer to pick up your new dog, and/or you may be asked to pay the transport costs (particularly for dogs from the EU). On accepting your new dog you will be asked to fill in and sign an adoption form which sets out the legal conditions of adoption from SPRSS.

To help you through the initial stages, we will keep in touch to see how your new dog is settling in and how you are managing. During this period, we will do our best to ensure you get any support and guidance you need. Telephone support is available, so there is no need to worry about being left alone to cope with any problems. Almost all placements succeed, and some of our adopters even return for more!