



Humane Animal Rescue Solo Puppies in Care & Beyond Policy

Objective: To promote the well-being and healthy development of solo puppies under six months of age by ensuring they are placed in homes with at least one resident dog companion, thus mitigating the risks associated with single puppy syndrome and providing a supportive social environment.

Policy Statement: All solo puppies under six months of age admitted into Humane Animal Rescue must be placed in foster and adoption homes where there is at least one resident dog present. This policy is designed to address the social and behavioural needs of young puppies and to provide them with appropriate companionship and stimulation during their formative months.

Guidelines:

1. **Foster Placement:** Upon admission of a solo puppy into our care, efforts will be made to place the puppy in a foster home where there is at least one other dog present such as a resident dog already in the home or placing the puppy with other puppies like litter mates.
2. **Adoption Criteria:** Prospective adopters interested in adopting a puppy 6 months or under must meet the requirement of having at least one resident dog in their home. This ensures that the solo puppy will have canine companionship and the opportunity to learn from and interact with another dog.
3. **Behavioural Assessment:** Prior to adoption, all puppies will undergo behavioural assessment by foster carers to evaluate their temperament and compatibility with other dogs. This assessment will help match them with suitable resident dogs in potential adoptive homes. If the foster carer is unsure of the best homes required, HAR can provide an animal behaviourist trainer to complete the assessment.
4. **Education & Support:** HAR will provide educational resources and support to adopters on the importance of socialisation for puppies, the risks of single puppy syndrome, and techniques for introducing a new puppy to resident dogs. This may include guidance on force free training, supervised interactions, and managing multiple dogs in the household. This support will be provided in the adoption agreement, on our social media channels, by our case managers, and in our adoption handbook.

5. **Monitoring & Follow up:** We will maintain regular contact with adopters to monitor the progress of dogs in their new homes and provide ongoing support during the trial period & beyond. This may include assistance with behaviour modification, addressing any challenges related to multi-dog households, and ensuring the well-being of both the dog and resident dogs. We will also provide adopters with a session with our animal behaviourist trainer, at HAR's expense, as requested.
6. **Exceptions:** In exceptional cases where it is not feasible to place a solo puppy with another resident dog due to specific circumstances or medical reasons or behavioural reasons, alternative arrangements may be considered on a case-by-case basis. However, every effort will be made to prioritise the socialisation and welfare of solo puppies according to this policy. Puppies under 6 months will only be placed solo with the recommendation of an animal behaviorist trainer.

Implementation: This policy will be communicated to all staff members, volunteers and adopters involved in the placement and care of solo puppies. It is integrated into our adoption procedures and will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness in promoting the welfare of animals.

By adhering to this policy, our organisation is committed to providing solo puppies with the best possible chance for socialisation, development, and lifelong well-being by ensuring they are placed in homes where they can benefit from the companionship and guidance of other dogs.