



## **Should I adopt a Greek street cat?**

Before you think about adopting a street cat from Greece, please consider the following points:

- Under Greek animal welfare law, all street animals are under the care of the municipality, who are responsible for their welfare. You should get permission from the municipality before you take a cat off the streets, otherwise this can be an offence and seen as stealing.
- You will need to take the cat to a local vet to see if it has a microchip and therefore may belong to someone. The vet can also advise you of the municipality's stray programme and if there is a local charity already caring for the cats in the area.
- The next step would be to have the cat vaccinated, microchipped and to have a pet passport issued. The overall cost that you can expect to pay to have the cat vaccinated, microchipped, a passport issued and then transported back to England is in the region of £500, depending on your location in Greece. Please see this link for more information on pet passports <https://www.gov.uk/bring-pet-to-great-britain/pet-passport>

The GCWS does not deal directly with adoptions, for further help with the adoption process please visit Greek Animal Rescue <https://greekanimalrescue.com> or you can email them at [info@greekanimalrescue.com](mailto:info@greekanimalrescue.com)

### **Other considerations before you make the decision to adopt:**

Even though it might seem like the kindest decision to adopt a street cat, it's worth considering the following associated welfare issues that can arise from adopting a street cat.

- There is a lot of stress associated with long distance travel for cats, and the upheaval of moving the cat away from its current territory can be very stressful for cats.
- The different climate of a new country and the population density/dynamic can be hard for the cat to adjust to.

- The demands associated with living inside in a house, possibly with other cats (or other pets) in very close proximity can cause behavioural problems as can restricted access outdoors if the cat has been used to free-roaming.
- There can be exposure to or the introduction of new parasites and disease associated with the introduction of an animal from a foreign country.
- Adopting from abroad will have an impact on the re-homing and adoption centres in the UK, which are already full of cats who need a home.
- The costs involved in adoption may be better spent supporting the local cat charities in Greece, your donation could help in feeding, neutering and providing much needed health care for many cats within a colony.

*“International Cat care believe that it is not in the best interest of street cats to transport them huge distances to new homes. Due to a lack of early socialisation with humans, many street cats would not adapt well to life as a pet cats. The high level of stress associated with such changes in lifestyle are likely to lead to the development of behavioural problems such as inappropriate toileting or aggression. Money may be better spent supporting local or international TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) groups to improve the lives of cats in their resident environment”*

**We thank for for your support  
GCWS**

