

Addotta Privacy Policy

Effective date: 31 August 2026

Last updated: 31 August 2026

1. Who controls your personal data?

The data controller for Addotta is Mr Matthew Mizzi, operating as Addotta, of Ta' Vargat Residence, BLK A, PH 1, Triq Rokku Buhagiar, Zurrieq, ZRQ1643, Malta. Email: contact@addotta.mt.

This Privacy Policy explains how Addotta processes personal data through its mobile application, website, APIs, and related services.

2. Who this Policy applies to

This Policy applies to adopters and pet owners, shelter representatives and staff, people submitting adoption applications, people contacting Addotta, and visitors browsing public Addotta content.

Shelters receiving adoption applications are separate and independent data controllers for the information they receive. Their own privacy policies and retention practices may apply.

3. Personal data we collect

Account and authentication data may include email address, password hash, account status and roles, email-verification and password-reset information, Google or Facebook sign-in information, session and refresh-token information, account timestamps, and application platform such as Android, iOS, or web.

Profile data may include first and last name, mobile number, date of birth,

Pet-preference and matching data may include preferred pet type, age and size, compatibility with people or animals, and willingness to care for animals with additional needs.

Adoption-application data may include name, email, mobile number, selected animal and shelter, household composition, children's age ranges, property and landlord information, living arrangements, current and prior pets, pet-care experience, routine, travel, emergency and relocation plans, financial readiness, views about neutering and post-adoption updates, and free-text answers. Please do not provide more personal or sensitive information than necessary.

Shelter representatives may provide shelter name, registration, address, contact details, social-media or website links, animal profiles and photos, instructions including payment links, bank details, IBANs, BICs, cheque details,

When you upload an image, we may process the image, filename, file type, update, attachment, and deletion status. Images may currently be stored using accessible. Do not upload images containing private information, sensitive personal data, or location details you do not want disclosed.

We may also process support emails, account-closure requests, messages, data may include client platform, login and security events, IP address and user-agent information where recorded by providers, request times and status codes, security logs, file-upload identifiers, diagnostic information, and aggregated performance metrics.

4. Data we do not currently intentionally collect

The current Service does not intentionally collect precise device GPS location or location history, address-book contacts, payment-card details, advertising identifiers, biometric data, or private user-to-user chat messages. Shelter addresses and event locations may be displayed, but Addotta does not need your device location to do this.

5. How we use personal data

We use personal data to create, verify, secure, and manage accounts; provide pet discovery and matching; process and share adoption applications with selected shelters; manage shelter and animal profiles; show public content, adoption-related emails; provide support; prevent fraud, abuse, and security incidents; maintain and troubleshoot the Service; and comply with legal obligations or respond to legal claims.

6. Legal bases for processing

We process data where necessary to provide the Service or perform a contract with you; for legitimate interests such as security, misuse prevention, operation, and reliability; to comply with legal obligations; or with consent where consent is legally required. You may object to processing based on legitimate interests where applicable.

7. Pet recommendations

Addotta uses questionnaire answers, preferences, animal attributes, and interactions to recommend animals. This is a discovery feature only. It does not make legally binding decisions, approve or reject adoption applications, or make similarly significant automated decisions about you. Shelters make their own adoption decisions.

8. Who receives personal data

When you submit an adoption application, the selected shelter receives your application and contact details. We use or may use DigitalOcean Spaces for image and file storage; ZeptoMail for transactional email delivery and email delivery/open/click tracking; hosting, infrastructure, database, security, and support providers; Google for Google Sign-In or Google Maps; Meta/Facebook for Facebook Login; OpenStreetMap and map-tile providers; and professional advisers where necessary.

Public shelter, pet, event, article, image, social-link, and donation information may be accessible to anyone. We may disclose information to comply with law, protect people, animals, Addotta or users, investigate fraud or security incidents, or establish, exercise, or defend legal claims. We do not

sell personal data.

9. Email tracking

Addotta uses ZeptoMail to deliver transactional verification, password-reset, clicks. We use this information to confirm important communications, diagnose consent is required by applicable law for this tracking, we will request it or adjust the tracking accordingly.

10. International transfers

Addotta's primary API, database, and file-storage infrastructure is hosted in Frankfurt, Germany, within the European Economic Area. Some providers, including Google, Meta/Facebook, and ZeptoMail, may process limited information outside Malta or the EEA. Where required, we will use an adequacy decision, Standard Contractual Clauses, or another lawful transfer mechanism.

11. Data retention

We retain identifiable account, profile, application, and interaction information while your account remains active. We do not currently apply a fixed expiry period to active accounts. You may request account closure at contact@addotta.mt.

When an account is closed, Addotta irreversibly anonymises the account and associated information so we can no longer identify who it belonged to. We do not necessarily delete all historical records after closure. Properly anonymised records may be retained indefinitely for historical, operational, statistical, security, and service-integrity purposes.

Short-lived authentication, verification, password-reset, session, and pending-upload records are removed or expire according to their technical lifecycle. A shelter that received an adoption application may keep its own copy under its own privacy policy and legal obligations.

12. Your rights

Subject to applicable law, including the GDPR, you may have the right to ask whether we process your data; request access; request correction; request erasure or anonymisation; request restriction; object to legitimate-interest processing; request portability where applicable; withdraw consent; and complain

To make a request, email contact@addotta.mt. We may verify your identity before responding. We normally respond within one month, subject to lawful extensions.

You may complain to the Office of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner, Floor 2, Airways House, High Street, Sliema SLM 1549, Malta. Website: <https://idpc.org.mt>.

13. Children

Addotta accounts are intended only for people aged 18 or over. An adult applying relevant. We do not knowingly permit children to create accounts.

Contact us if

14. Security

We use reasonable organisational and technical measures designed to protect personal data, including HTTPS communications, secure storage for supported revocable refresh tokens, encryption of selected data, role-based access controls, and security and operational logging. No system is completely secure; you should protect your device and credentials.

15. Cookies and local storage

Addotta uses token-based authentication rather than an application login cookie. The app may use local storage for authentication state, language, theme, appear to use advertising or behavioural-analytics SDKs. Third-party sites opened from Addotta may use their own cookies and tracking tools.

16. Changes to this Policy

We may update this Privacy Policy when the Service, providers, or legal obligations change. We will publish the updated version and revise the Last updated date. Where legally required, we will provide additional notice or seek renewed consent.

17. Contact

Mr Matthew Mizzi, operating as Addotta Ta' Vargat Residence, BLK A, PH 1 Triq Rokku Buhagiar Zurrieq, ZRQ1643, Malta Email: contact@addotta.mt