

# Hooves & Paws Rescue, Inc.

## Dog/Puppy Adoption Contract

This agreement is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_\_, by and between Hooves & Paws Rescue, Inc., hereinafter referred to as “rescuer,” and \_\_\_\_\_ hereinafter referred to as the “adopter.” The adopter hereby understands, promises, and agrees that in receipt of this dog to forever release, discharge and covenant to hold harmless rescuer and by other person, firm, or organization charged or chargeable with responsibility or liability, their heirs, administrators, executors, successors, and assigns from any and all claims, damages, and costs, expenses, loss of services, actions and causes of action belonging to the said adopter, arising out of any act or occurrence from the present time and particularity on account of the adoption of:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth/Approximate Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

hereinafter referred to as “this dog” or the “dog.”

The adopter hereby declares that no representations about the nature of the adopted dog, nor any representations regarding the nature and extent of legal liability or of financial responsibility have induced the adopter to sign this contract.

In consideration of a donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, the adopter acknowledges the provisions as defined:

### **Fee**

The donation is not a fee or sale price, but a request to defer or reimburse rescuer for any and all medical expenses, or any other expenses incurred by the dog or rescuer to consider the dog for adoption.

### **1 Collars and Tags**

The dog will not wear a pinch (cleat) collar or any similar article around the neck for the purpose of any basic training, any basic correcting, or for permanent use of identification. The pinch (cleat) collar is **only** to be used to correct a behavior problem which is an isolated incident and only under the guidance of a professional dog trainer, then not to be used for any other reason. The dog shall at all times be required to wear a nylon belt buckle collar with the rabies tag, identification tag (displaying the home address and the county license). The

chain collar (often referenced as a choke chain or referred to as training chain) will only be used to walk the dog on a leash.

A leash is required when the dog is taken out in a public area which enforces a leash law, any area which requires total control over the dog at all times, and any area which requires the dog to be leashed at all times when walked in a residential area.

## **2 Transfer of Ownership**

The dog **shall not** be sold, given to, or adopted to anyone else, nor shall there be any transfer of ownership to any firm, corporation, or organization of other homeless animals, such as another rescue facility, or research facility. The dog adopted from rescuer must be returned to rescuer if for any reason the adopter can no longer keep it. **Violation of this agreement will result in court costs and attorney fees payable by the adopter if necessary for to rescuer to redeem the dog.**

## **3 Training**

The adopter promises that under no circumstances will the dog be trained to develop a dual personality, as defined: no protection, attack, schutzhund, or guard dog training is permitted. The dog will not be encouraged to show any aggressive or agitated behavior. The dog will be a family member only and only participate in good citizen, basic obedience, search and rescue, therapy dog training, or service dog training.

The dog will not be maintained as property or for the purpose of being a deterrent due to size, appearance, or display and encouragement of territorial behavior.

## **4 Environment**

The dog shall reside indoors, in the adopter's home, and live as a family member and companion only. The dog will not be kept outdoors during the adopter's working hours, or at any other time left alone outdoors while the adopter is not at home. The dog may be confined to a room such as a bedroom or basement or any other room of adequate size and protected from the elements of weather. The adopter is not to expose the dog to harmful objects, poisons, or other living creatures that may endanger the dog's life.

The dog **may not** be crated. An outside shelter such as a dog house is not acceptable as residence but can be used only when needed in extreme heat, cold, or rain when the dog is let out into the yard for short periods of time and only when the adopter is at home.

## **5 Health Program**

The rescuer's dog adopted as a puppy shall begin heartworm preventative at four(4) months of age when receiving the rabies shot as required by law. The dog shall remain on heartworm preventative indefinitely throughout the entire lifespan of the dog. Rescuer reserves the right to verify with the adopter's veterinarian that the heartworm preventative has been purchased and that the dog has a yearly blood test for this purpose. The dog shall also have yearly booster shots of DHLPP and bordetella. The adult dog when adopted will be seen by a veterinarian within five(5) days of the adoption date to start the heartworm preventative program and to get a fecal test done to be sure the dog is free of parasites. Rescuer reserves the right to check with the veterinarian at anytime to verify that all the basic health requirements are being done. Renewal of rabies vaccine is required by law and therefore by the terms of this contract

## **6 Important Notice Temperament**

Rescuer makes no explicit or implicit guarantees in reference to the health and/or temperament of the dog. The dog is adopted "as is" and the adopter assumes all responsibility for treatment of any and all existing conditions or any other conditions of physical or temperament changes that may occur. Rescuer will provide the dog with the basic vaccines and heartworm test before adoption if the age and current health of the dog permits. While the rescuer makes every effort to place only healthy animals, the rescuer cannot guarantee the health of any animal and shall not be held responsible for any medical expenses which may be incurred, hereby expressly excluding any implied or express warranties of merchantability or fitness for any particular purpose, including, without limitation, any warranties regarding health, temperament or whether the animal is housebroken.

## **7 Remedy For Non-compliance**

It is agreed that rescuer shall retain superior title in said animal limited to and for the express purpose of assuring the animal's well-being and only exercise its superior claim in the event it appears to rescue that the proper and humane care as specified in the above adoption provisions is not being afforded said animal, in which case the animal may be taken through a claim and delivery proceeding. The adopter further agrees that if there is any breach or default of the terms of this contract, and the dog must be redeemed through a claim and delivery service, that the adopter will be held liable for all court costs and fees for the adopter's attorney and for rescuer's attorney. This has been read to the adopter and explained to the adopter. The adopter has read this, understands and agrees to this and is signing this contract.

## **8 Cosmetic Surgery**

Unless directed by a licensed veterinarian for reasons related to the health and welfare of the dog, cosmetic surgery will not be performed under any circumstances, including but not limited to tail docking or ear cropping.

## **9 Transportation**

The dog will not ride in the back of a pickup truck under any circumstances including those such as in a cage/kennel, or tied. The dog shall not remain in any vehicle in extreme heat, with windows down, or unattended for any amount of time.

## **10 Adequate Fencing**

The adopter agrees that the definition of an adequate fence is a fence that encloses a yard or a large pen, larger than the outdoor kennels. An adequate fence is one that prevents the dog within to go out of the area by jumping, digging, or exiting through gates not properly secured. The fence will prevent any other animal from entering the property the dog lives on and will be secure enough to prevent intruders or small children from easily gaining entry. The adequate fence does not include a split rail, electric, or invisible fence. A shock or electric collar is not acceptable. A kennel environment is not acceptable for housing, safety, or the emotional well being of the dog. If the dog should be able to jump over, or dig under the fence it is no longer an adequate fence and must be repaired by raising it to six(6) feet or sealing any and all weak spots immediately. This decision on whether a home is adequately fenced will be made by **rescuer, not** by the adopter.

## **Rescuer's Reservation Of Rights**

Rescuer reserves the right to follow up on this adoption to inspect the animal and where the animal is kept for the sole purpose of determining compliance with the terms of the within contract by making a personal visit to the premises of the adopter at anytime during the entire lifespan of the dog. If the terms and conditions of this contract are not upheld by the adopter and/or any misrepresentations have been made to by the adopter, rescuer reserves the right to terminate this contract and the adopters will agree to allow a representative of rescuer to reclaim the dog without notice or refund. The adopter further agrees to pay liquidated damages in the amount of fifty dollars per day for every day that the adopter fails to comply with the agreement terms or willingly surrender the dog at time the incident has become knowledge to rescuer. Rescuer's reservation of rights also includes not adopting a dog into an area or environment that may endanger the life of the dog, which includes relocating with the dog after the adoption agreement. If the dog becomes lost, seriously injured, and/or permanently disfigured, or for any reason the dog dies the rescuer must be notified immediately.

## **10 Adopter's Acknowledgment of Terms**

I hereby acknowledge receipt of the above described animal and therefore agree to the following terms:

- A. The dog is not to reside anywhere without a fenced yard.
- B. The dog will not be chained to a doghouse or chained outside to any type of object or outbuilding.
- C. The dog is not to live in a garage, doghouse, or any type of outbuilding.
- D. Shelter from weather must be provided for the dog at any time that the dog is outside if the weather is extreme heat, extreme cold, or any other weather conditions that may endanger the health of the dog.
- E. The dog is not to remain in a crate while indoors.
- F. While the adopter is at home, the dog is not to remain solely in one room, not to be confined to either the crate or a room, and must have free roam of the house as a family member.
- G. The dog is not to be left with small children **at anytime** when unattended by an adult.

- H. The adopter must provide rescuer with the name of the veterinarian the dog is going to and notify rescuer if there is a change.
- I. The dog must remain on heartworm preventative all year round.
- J. The dog shall not be trained, encouraged, nor misrepresented for the purpose of protection, aggression, or any aggravated display of behavior.
- K. The dog is to have adequate food, water and shelter at all times.
- L. The adopter shall refrain from physical abuse of the animal and from otherwise treating the animal in an inhumane manner.

