

ADOPTION CONTRACT FOR ANIMAL RESCUE FUND OF MISSISSIPPI

RULES FOR ADOPTION:

Applicants must:

1. **Have a reference from a veterinarian.** The vet will provide information that previous pets were kept up to date on shots, given proper care when sick and information as to the demise of any pets under the owners care.
2. **Provide adequate living conditions:** If the dog is to be an outside dog, the dog must be a breed that can withstand the extreme temps and weather conditions and the home must have adequate protection from the elements.
3. **Proper Restraint and Supervision:**, all dogs must be properly restrained and controlled on and off their property and may not be allowed to run at large. An ARF representative will conduct a site inspection of your property prior to adoption. **Prospective adopters will be required to provide proper outdoor restraint and suitable shelter as defined in this section even if the intention is to have the dog as an indoor pet.** A fenced yard is recommended for all dogs. Chain or rope tie-outs are not an acceptable or humane solution due to potential risk for injury. Dog kennels are acceptable options, provided they allow adequate space for the dog to move about freely and must be of adequate strength to securely restrain the dog. Adequate shelter from the elements is also required and must be accessible from where the dog is contained.
 - a. **Requirements for Suitable Shelter:** Housing must be constructed of materials to adequately protect the animal from weather elements i.e. wind, rain, sun and heat and cold. Dog houses must be of adequate size to enable the dog to comfortably stand upright and turn around. Make sure materials are pet safe as some wood and paints can be toxic to animals. Bedding must be provided as well as a dry place for the animal to rest. Dog houses must be placed in an area on the property where it will be shaded throughout the day. In addition, the doghouse needs to be constructed in such a way that proper ventilation is allowed.
 - b. **Requirements for Fencing:** Material must be specifically designed to safely and adequately confine the dog. Hog wire and

most livestock fencing are inappropriate as a means to adequately confine dogs. Fence height needs to be adequate to contain the breed chosen (based on adult size). Fencing must be constructed in a way to ensure the dog cannot dig, climb, jump or otherwise escape the enclosure.

- c. **Requirements for Kennels:** Materials must be specifically designed to safely and adequately confine the dog and prevent the dog from digging, chewing, climbing or otherwise escaping the kennel. The kennel must be of adequate size for the breed of the dog and must allow the dog to move about freely while inside. In addition, it may be necessary to attach shade cloth to the kennel sides to protect the animal from wind, rain, sun and heat. A dog house or other suitable shelter shall be provided within the kennel to allow the dog a place to rest (see requirements above).

- 4. **Income:** All applicants are to have adequate income to provide care for an animal.

5. All applicants must be at least 21 years of age.

- 6. **If the applicant rents,** a letter from the landlord must be provided that the animal is acceptable in the property and the applicant has paid the appropriate fees.
- 7. **Life changes:** If the adoptors situation ever changes and the animal can not be cared for anymore, the animal must be returned to ARF, adoptor can not rehome the pet.
- 8. **Animals Will Be Placed As Companion Animals Only.** They are to be accepted as family members, receiving proper nourishment, medical care and attention. Adoptors must be financially able to provide for the animals needs, including, food, supplies, licenses, and veterinary care. Be certain that you have adequate time to spend with your new pet, including time for training, exercise and grooming. Continuous confinement without adequate exercise or human interaction is not acceptable
- 9. **All Dogs and Cats Must Be Spayed Or Neutered. No exceptions will be made!** All animals being adopted from ARF must be spayed or neutered for the health and well being of the animal, and to make a positive impact on the community's pet overpopulation problem. Most will be sterilized before they are released to their new home. In the event that

you take home an intact dog or cat, you will be required to return the animal for the sterilization surgery at a time that will be determined at adoption. Failure to have the pet spayed or neutered will result in confiscation by an ARF.

10. **All Animals Should Have Proper Identification.** At the time of adoption, you will receive a temporary collar and the animals medical records. Your pet should wear adequate tags indicating it's vaccination records and your contact information. Your pet should wear these at all times. Secondary identification, in the form of a permanent numerical tattoo or a microchip placed under the skin is encouraged.
11. **Other Pets At Home.** Currently owned animals should be up to date on vaccinations and all shall be sterilized your veterinarian will be contacted to verify your existing pet's health.
12. **Pets As Gifts.** Animals are not to be adopted as gifts. Instead, we encourage people to purchase gift certificates so that potential adopters can choose their own animal. The certificate does not waive the recipient from having to undergo the adoption process, and the shelter can refuse adoption to a recipient who fails to meet the minimum standards for adoption.
13. **All Dogs and Cats Should Be Examined By a Veterinarian Within 7 Working Days From the Date of Adoption.** If the exam indicates that the animal is sick or has a serious illness, the shelter should be notified immediately. Animals can be returned to the shelter within 2 weeks of adoption for health related reasons, and may be offered a refund or the adoption of another animal.

Animal Rescue Fund of Mississippi reserves the right to check on the welfare of the adopted animal, and to insure the adoption policies are being met. If at any time you cannot care for the pet you have adopted, you must return the animal to the Animal Rescue Fund of Mississippi. The animal will be taken back immediately.

Animal Rescue Fund of Mississippi is a private, non-profit organization. All adoptions are made at the discretion of ARF of Mississippi and any adoption may be denied at the staff's discretion.

I _____ agree to the above provisions and agree that:

1. Animal will be trained with love rather than submission and spanking/hitting.
2. Animals actions may be unpredictable to people
3. Animals and children should be closely supervised when together. And animals only defense at times when children play too rough is to snap at the child. Animals acting as animals will in these circumstances will not be punished, rather the adult human will be the responsible party and will take the child and the animal out of the situation and be given a proper time out for temperaments to cool.
4. ARF makes no claims or representations as to the temperament, health or mental disposition of any animal put up for adoption. We can only go by the animal's behavior while in our care. The manner in which you treat and train your adopted pet will result in its reactions.
5. No animal in my care will be used in dog fighting or as bait for dogs or "hunting" training. Or any other manner with is unlawful or places the animal in pain or danger.
6. No cat adopted through ARF will be declawed and all other pets living with potential adoptee shall be altered.
7. In the case of dogs, all adoption homes shall have a secure fenced yard, which is adequate to prevent escape or the animal coming into harm.
8. No dog adopted through ARF shall be allowed to roam freely without a leash or outside of the secure fenced yard. EVER

I hereby accept possession of and responsibility for the animal being adopted, and hereby release and discharge ARF from liability for any injury or damages to any person or property caused in the future by said adoptee, and from any causes of action, claims, suits or demands that may arise as a result of such damages

I understand that this animal I am adopting from Animal Rescue Fund of Mississippi (ARF) must be spayed/neutered.

I agree to take this animal to a private veterinarian for health examinations and annual visits. If the animal becomes ill or needs medical care, I agree to have the animal treated by a veterinarian at my own expense, unless otherwise agreed upon between ARF and myself. I agree to have my adoptee protected from fleas and ticks with veterinarian recommended preventatives and not "grocery store brands" (i.e. hartz or sergeants)

I agree to be a responsible pet owner and to provide kind, humane care and treatment for this animal, including proper food, water, shelter and love. I agree to provide this animal with all the necessary vaccinations and veterinary care. I agree to keep this animal on heartworm preventative throughout its life.

At no time will I chain or tie out this animal, I agree that if at any time I can no longer care for or keep this animal, I will contact ARF for their assistance in either placing the animal or return it to ARF care. It is imperative that this clause be remembered and agreed to in this adoption.

I understand that a 2-week adjustment period is needed for the animal to adoptive family. If, at the end of the 2 weeks, the adoptive family feels that they will be unable to keep the animal, they should notify ARF immediately.

I understand that ARF has the right to investigate this animal's home and to remove the animal if the terms of this adoption Contract are not being met.

I agree to notify the ARF as soon as possible if the animal becomes lost or stolen.

I agree to notify ARF should I move or have a different phone number from the one on this Contract.

Any material misrepresentation in the ARF pet adoption application constitutes a breach of this Contract.

Liquidated Damages Clause: Adopter agrees to pay the ARF the sum of \$200.00 as liquidated damages in the event the Terms of this Contract are breached. This liquidated damage value is agreed to for the purpose of establishing the base value of the animal and does not bar the ARF from seeking return of the animal by judicial process or other legal means.

ATTORNEY FEES AND COURT COSTS: Adopter agrees to pay reasonable attorney fees and court costs in the event this matter is forwarded to court or to an attorney for enforcement.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED: _____.

ADDRESS: _____.

CITY: _____ . ZIP CODE: _____.

Phone number: _____ . EMAIL ADDRESS: _____.

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: _____.

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME: _____.

TYPE AND BREED OF ADOPTEE: _____.

ESTIMATED AGE OF ANIMAL: _____. SEX OF ANIMAL: _____.

COLOR OF ANIMAL: _____.

IF SAID ANIMAL HAS NOT BEEN SPAYED OR NEUTERED I AGREE TO
SPAY/NEUTER BY: _____.

VET. ADOPTER PLANS ON USING: _____.

PHONE NUMBER (VET) : _____.

ARF QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ADOPTION

1. Who is the pet for? _____.
2. Do all members of the household want a pet? _____.
3. Do you work? _____. How many hours will the pet be alone? _____.
4. Do you own or "rent"? _____.
5. Do you have a fenced yard? _____. if yes, is it secure against escape? YES NO
6. Will this pet be indoors or outside only, or a combination? _____.
7. What other type pets do you now have? _____.
8. what types of pets have you had in the past? _____.
9. How long did you have them? _____.
10. What happened to them? _____.
11. How do you plan on housetraining? _____.
12. How do you deal with unacceptable behavior? (i.e. chewing, snapping, digging) _____.
13. Why do you want to adopt a pet? _____.