



The Adoption Agreement is designed with one purpose – to protect the companion animal that is coming into your care. **To adopt, you must be 21 or older.** Three verified and acceptable references may be provided for an exception to this policy.

YOUR NAME

NAME OF ADOPTEE

ADDRESS /CITY/STATE/ZIP

EMAIL

PHONE

I/We, the above named person and/or persons, hereinafter referred to as “adopter,” agree to adopt this dog/cat, a hereinafter known as “dog or cat,” and release The ARK Animal Rescue (“The ARK”) and its board members and volunteers, jointly and severally, from all claims for personal injury and/or property damage to myself or others associated with this adoption. In consideration of an adoption fee in the amount of \$ _____, the adopter acknowledges and further agrees to these provisions. **(Kittens/Puppies - \$75 Dogs/Cats - \$95)**

The welfare of this dog/cat is the sole responsibility of the adopter. The adopter agrees to give the dog/cat good care which includes premium food, a constant source of fresh water, sanitation and grooming, requisite shade, clean and secure housing, overall safety, and all the tender care that this dog/cat deserves.

Adopter will keep this dog/cat as a house pet and family member only. This dog/cat is not permitted to live in any area that is not protected from the elements including severe cold and heat and rain. **No adopted dog or cat will ever be chained.** Dogs will never be permitted to run loose unsupervised. Adequately sized crating can be used when adopter is not home, but for no more than 8 hours a day. Cats will be kept indoors at **all times** unless a screened-in porch or similar type enclosure is available. The dog or cat will never be permitted to ride loose in the back of a pick-up truck or left in a vehicle in extreme heat or unattended.

Following adoption, this dog’s/cat’s health is the full responsibility of the adopter. The dog/cat will receive proper care by a licensed veterinarian throughout its entire life, including annual exams as well as all other preventative and treatments in accordance with veterinary recommendations for the life of the dog/cat. Adopter will arrange for immediate veterinary care in the event of illness or injury. **Adopter will notify The ARK shelter of the name and telephone number of the veterinarian in the event that information is not available at the time of adoption.** Adopter will be provided a complete medical history of the dog/cat at the time of transfer.

As may be required by the adopter’s county or municipality of residence, adopter will legally license this dog or cat and will do so within ten (10) days of adoption. Adopter agrees that any dog will not wear a pinch, cleat or choke collar when the dog is

unsupervised due to risk of injury. Adopter will keep the dog's collar and tag clearly identified immediately upon adoption and at all times with soft fabric or leather collar holding its license tag, and identification tag with the pet's name, owner's name, address and telephone number. No collars shall be placed on cats, **NO EXCEPTIONS**, due to risk of injury to the cat.

Breeding of this dog/cat is strictly forbidden. If this dog/cat is not already spayed or neutered at the time of adoption due to its age, adopter agrees to do so within thirty (30) days of reaching six (6) months of age and to send a copy of the spay/neuter certificate/receipt to The ARK Animal Rescue within ten (10) days of completion. Adopter understands that this is a **REQUIREMENT** and not an option. (If the paperwork has not been received as agreed upon, a member of the board of directors will contact the adopter.)

() This dog/cat is already altered, and the above provision does not apply.

() This dog/cat must be spayed or neutered. This animal's approximate spay/neuter deadline is _____.

I understand that I will be contacted by the board of directors for return of the dog/cat if he/she is not altered by the deadline. Please see documentation included in your packet to return to the shelter. **Adopter Initials:** _____

EMAIL YOUR SPAY/NEUTER CERTIFICATE TO:
arkeepers@gmail.com

Adopter understands that no one can predict how a dog/cat will react to a new situation. Therefore, adopter will exercise prudence and caution in introducing this dog/cat into the new situation until the dog/cat has become fully adjusted to its new environment and adopter has had an opportunity to become familiar with this dog's/cat's unique personality. **This usually takes a month for dogs and can take several months for cats.** Adopter assumes full responsibility for the conduct of this dog/cat and for any damage to persons or property. The ARK Animal Rescue makes no explicit or implied guarantees in reference to the health or temperament of the dog/cat. The dog/cat is adopted "as is" and the adopter assumes all responsibility for treatment of any and all existing conditions or any other physical, medical or temperament changes that may occur in the future. **A note on cats: As an additional condition of adoption, no cat shall have its claws removed. Declawing creates behavioral problems (biting and aggression) in most cases.** **Adopter Initials:** _____

This dog/cat will not be used for rituals, racing, fighting, medical or experimentation purposes. It will be nothing other than a house pet, companion and family member.

Adopter understands that The ARK Animal Rescue, at its discretion, may contact him/her for further verification of this dog's/cat's welfare. Adopter will cooperate by providing whatever information is requested and the adopter will permit The ARK Animal Rescue to visit the home at a reasonable day and time or contact the veterinarian, if so requested. If the adopter no longer wishes to keep the animal or cannot keep the animal for any reason, the animal must be returned to The ARK at the adopter's expense.

REPOSSESSION

Adopter understands that in the event he/she does not follow the terms of this agreement or adopter neglects or abuses the dog/cat, The ARK Animal Rescue or another animal authority has the right to take possession of the pet. **The adopter agrees to pay The ARK rescue shelter any and all expenses, including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees, in enforcing the terms and provisions of this agreement.**

I certify that I have read and understand the terms of this adoption agreement by signing below.

Adopter's Signature

Date

Name of Veterinarian

City