

# Ready to Adopt?

*Thank you for choosing to Adopt a Rescued Dog!*

## **Please Read in Full**

Adoptable dogs in Akita Angels' Adoption Program can come to us from owners who have relinquished their dog to us, or we rescued from a public shelter. This means we have no first-hand knowledge about the dog's history prior (health, temperament, or past behavior) prior to being rescued).

Before a dog is placed into our Adoption Program, we do as much research as possible into the dog's history via shelter notes or written information that we obtain from their prior owner if the dog was relinquished us. Prior to being placed into our Adoption Program, each dog is carefully evaluated and tested to determine if the dog can benefit from any behavioral modification or training. Each dog is also examined and/or vetted by a licensed veterinarian, and any medical concerns are addressed.

By doing our due diligence, we seek to make a good match between an adopter and a dog and ensure that a particular dog is a good fit for you, your family, and lifestyle. We make no guarantees as to the overall or future health, temperament, or behavior of any animal. We also make no guarantees on whether a dog is a purebred or a mix, and if it is a mix, what other breed(s) it may be.

While you and your family have made a decision to adopt a dog, remember - the dog you wish to adopt has no idea who you are, or why he/she is leaving who or what they have come to know, and why they are going home with you. Many changes in a very short time can be frightening to a dog regardless of its age, temperament or history. When bringing a new dog home, give him/her plenty of time to adjust to the routine, energy level, sounds, smells, etc. of their new home. Remember - the success of any adoption depends on your level of commitment and dedication to your new four-legged family member. So, give them a few days to rest, relax, and have some time alone. Let them have a space that is theirs and do not be alarmed if the dog is shy or does not seem to immediately bond with you or does not eat (or hardly eats) for the first day or two. This is normal! We have extensive experience with Akitas and other large breeds and provide unlimited, no-cost advice, coaching, and support to our adopters for the life of the dog. If you ever have any questions or concerns at all, please call us!

Dogs are sentient beings and regardless of age, require quality time in your home and as a member of your family - you are now their family, you are now their "Pack." Many behavioral issues occur when a dog is left alone or isolated from its family for long periods of time, causing them to experience stress. This is normal! We find that when people contact us about issues "with their dogs" most of the time it is because of something the owner is, or is not, doing.

**Adoption Process: Please visit [www.akitaangels.org](http://www.akitaangels.org) under “ADOPT” to review our Adoption Process.**

Complete the Application in full - applications that are incomplete will be automatically rejected. If you need more space or wish to include additional information, please use a separate sheet of paper and number the pages. Once your application is received, we will contact you to go over your application and answer any questions you may have. If we think there is a fit between you and the dog you are interested in, we will schedule a mutually convenient time for you and the dog to meet and get to know one another in a relaxed environment. If you have another/other dogs, we expect that you will bring them to the appointment so they can be introduced properly and we can evaluate their demeanor towards one another. Other people who live in the home, such as other family members, children, or a roommate(s), must also attend the appointment or at least meet the dog prior to finalizing an adoption.

The Adoption Application is detailed and is not designed to invade your privacy but ensures that we get the information we need to make the best possible match for you and a dog. Some adopters find the application helpful since it helps identify potential issues that they may not have considered before and this opens dialogue between us. Much of our work focuses on minimizing, or correcting, dogs with behavior-related issues, and we have found that in 90-95% of cases, by working with the owner, they can more effectively work with their dog to minimize unwanted behaviors.

Akita Angels primarily rescues Akitas, but we also rescue large, dominant, high-risk and/or primitive-breed dogs. Dogs that fall into these categories are highly intelligent, strong-willed, can be unsocial or aloof to new people or situations and can often have a strong prey drive. Please know that regardless of how experienced you are with the breed of dog you are interested in, or, how well behaved the dog is, many Rental and/or Lease Agreement and Homeowner’s Associations may have “Breed Bans” or “Size (of dog) Restrictions”. Many Homeowner’s Insurance companies will have breed bans on certain dog breeds regardless of how old the dog is or where you got the dog from. Should you find that your insurance company does have a breed ban on the dog you’re interested in, contact us! We can refer you to a list of major insurance companies that do not have such breed bans.

Large, dominant and/or primitive-breed dogs are “pack” animals and may accept another dog in the family (sometimes even a cat!) but are not the type of dogs that one would take to a dog park or other off-leash environment, and should never be taken to parties or other events where other off-leash dogs are present. Because any dog, regardless of breed, can be unpredictable, we cannot make guarantees about how a particular dog will react to other dogs, cats or other animals in your home, yard, on your property, or outside the home in public so we strongly caution you that an Akita, as with any dog breed, may not recognize another dog or cat as a family pet and in mere moments can cause injuries to another animal that can result in severe injury or death. The same applies to the resident dog (or other animal(s)).

Some dogs, even older ones, can be taught to live with cats and other small animals, however introductions must be completed carefully and an adjustment period must be expected. We can provide tips and guidance on integrating your dog with other animals, but recommend that you never leave your dog alone with other animals during this stage. We also strongly advise that you never leave a dog - regardless of breed, size or temperament - with an infant, toddler, small child or children - even for a moment. We also strongly advise that you never take a dog to a dog park or other off-leash area because of the high incidence of dog fights and injuries, and because they are full of viruses, bacteria, other diseases that can make your dog seriously sick.

All Animals are spayed and neutered prior to adoption. In some cases, dogs (or puppies under 3 months of age) may have spay/neuter deferred for age or health reasons and will require a separate Spay/Neuter Agreement and a trust deposit placed to ensure the puppy is spayed or neutered no later than 6 months of age. These dogs are released under a "Foster to Adopt" agreement and the adoption is not finalized until the certificate of spay/neuter is received by our rescue. Once proof of spay/neuter is provided, your trust deposit will be returned often on the same day and no later than 3 business days. Puppies under 12 months of age require a series of vaccinations which will be started by us when they turn 8 weeks old, but the adopter will complete the vaccination series with their own veterinarian and at their own expense.

Akita Angels is an IRS-approved, 501C3 tax-exempt, non-profit animal-welfare organization. Every member of Akita Angels is an uncompensated volunteer. Our administrative expenses include insurance, website fees, P.O. Box Rental, banking fees and office supplies. Your donation allows us to help Akitas and other large, dominant-breed dogs and their families in need. We will discuss adoption donations with you and suggest a donation that is appropriate for the dog you wish to adopt. Adoption donations can range from \$250-\$500 with \$350. Exceptions to this are dogs that are pedigreed or those that are adopted through one of our other programs such as "Seniors for Seniors" or "Pets for Vets." Adoption donations cover the cost of shelter pull fees, transportation, boarding, veterinary care, grooming, high-quality food, and microchipping. All dogs are examined by a licensed veterinarian prior to adoption and we provide you with a complete copy of any medical/behavioral/shelter or other records we may have on the dog. We ask that if you are able to donate more than the suggested adoption donation, please consider doing so as this helps us provide valuable help to more dogs and their families in need. We welcome your donation of time as well. If you are interested in lending a hand or becoming one of our "Angels" please let us know.

Adoption donations / trust deposits can be made with a Money Order, Cashier's or Personal check or a Bank Transfer through ZELLE (available at all major banks) but funds are considered received only after the funds have cleared our bank. You can also send funds through PayPal however please add 5% to cover PayPal Fees. Our email address for ZELLE or PayPal is: [angels@akitaangels.org](mailto:angels@akitaangels.org)

**Have Questions?** Please email us and include your telephone number and the best time to call.