

Privacy & Safety Policy for Adopters and Fosterers

Issued by Pause For Paws Animal Sanctuary & the VSP Alliance

1. Network-Based Information Sharing

Pause For Paws and the **Volunteer Sanctuary Partner Alliance (VSPA)** operate as a **community-powered network**, not a centralized shelter. This means:

- Your adoption or foster application and your email address may be shared directly with the **current caregiver** of the dog you are interested in.
- This is necessary to ensure the caregiver can assess compatibility and make informed decisions about placement.

2. Protection of Personal Information

To safeguard your privacy:

- **Personal identifiers** such as your **phone number, home address, and any legal documentation** will be **redacted** before being shared with the caregiver.
- Only **adoption-relevant information**, such as your household setup, pet experience, and whether the dog will be kept indoors or outdoors will be transmitted. Your email will also be transmitted to open a line of communication between you and the current caregiver of the dog in question.

3. Role of Pause For Paws & the VSPA

Pause For Paws and the VSPA serve primarily as **logistics coordinators and network facilitators**. We do not directly manage every adoption or foster placement. Instead:

- The **meet-and-greet** and final arrangements are coordinated **between the applicant and the current caregiver**.
- If requested, a **Pause For Paws liaison** may attend the meet-and-greet to support the process. However, as a **volunteer-based organization**, this service is **not guaranteed**.

4. Safety Guidelines for All Parties

We strongly encourage all members of our community to prioritize safety:

- **Never share sensitive personal information** (e.g., financial data, legal documents, or home access details) without verifying the identity and role of the recipient.

- If you feel **uncertain or suspicious** about any interaction, contact the **VSPA Management Team** immediately by emailing them at vspalliance@gmail.com. We are here to help mediate, investigate, and ensure the safety of all parties involved.

5. Respectful Conduct & Community Trust

Pause For Paws Animal Sanctuary and the VSPA are built on **mutual respect, transparency, and ethical care**. We ask that all adopters, fosterers, and caregivers:

- Communicate clearly and respectfully
- Honor commitments made during the adoption or foster process
- Report any concerns or misconduct promptly

Stay safe, stay kind, and thank you for being part of a network that protects and uplifts our animal companions. For questions or concerns, please contact the VSPA Management Team at any time.