***ARF ADOPTION APPLICATION - (CANINE)***

Thanks for applying to adopt a dog through ARF! This application will walk you through our adoption process. Pet ownership is a serious and long-term responsibility. Dogs have an average lifespan of 10 to 15 years and some live much longer than that. The policy of the Animal Rescue Foundation of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. (ARF) is to ensure that each person who adopts a pet not only be aware of the commitment but be capable of and willing to accept that responsibility - morally, physically and financially. It is quite true that not every person who desires a pet should own one. The application process is not meant to judge or intend to have an applicant have to prove how fit of a home they are, rather it’s ARF’s way of trying to match adoptable dogs with an adoptive home that’s the best fit for the pet. If all applicants are just as good a fit for a pet, then ARF volunteers will defer to the application that came to us first.

Interested adopters must either own their home– or – rent and have permission in writing from their landlord (either in a lease or separate note). Applicants will meet the dog at a foster home or outreach event. If that visit goes well, ARF volunteers will set up a second appointment to process the adoption. ARF volunteers will also conduct a brief mandatory home visit prior to adoption, either as a separate visit or part of one of the first appointments. This brief visit should take only a few minutes – ARF just wants to physically see where our rescued dogs will be living.

All household members must meet and/or be aware of the pet prior to the adoption. ARF does not do same-day adoptions, as we want to ensure that adopters are not making an “impulse” decision. By requiring two separate appointments, this also ensures that the adopter is given the appropriate time to prepare for the companion pet that is about to enter their home (i.e. purchase leash, collar, crate, toys, food, etc.).

ARF’s adoption donation for each dog over 1-year-old is $200. The adoption donation for puppies is $400. The adoption donation is for the animal only, not as a down payment towards vet care or the spay/neuter, etc. Adoption donations help offset some of ARF’s veterinary and adoption promotion costs, which run well more than $200 per rescued dog. Each dog adopted from ARF SEPA has been examined by a veterinarian, vaccinated and has been spay/neutered if old enough.

All dogs must be kept indoors and given appropriate access to a yard and/or leashed walked for appropriate exercise. Some breeds or specific dogs may require adopters to have fenced-in yards. Adopters must also agree to yearly veterinary exams, vaccinations and continual care of their pet. ARF SEPA will follow-up with adopters after adoption to ensure that adopted pets are thriving. ARF SEPA reserves the right to remove any adopted pet at any time if ARF SEPA feels the adopted pet is not being cared for properly, is being neglected or is in harm’s way for any reason.

**PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS PAGE FOR YOUR REFERENCE AND SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING PAGES AS YOUR OFFICIAL APPLICATION TO ARF SEPA.**

The following questionnaire has been designed to aid both you and ARF SEPA in deciding if you and your family are adequately prepared to assume the type of responsible ownership which we are endeavoring to ensure for our adoptive animals and to find the best possible match between the potential adopter and the animal.

Completion of this form does not constitute an agreement to adopt. ARF SEPA, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to decline any adoption. Thank you for thinking rescue first.

**ADOPTION APPLICATION - (CANINE)**

**Applicant Information:**

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

(City/ State/ Zip)

Home Telephone: Cell:

Email address:

**Household Information:**

Please list the names and ages of all permanent residents of your home (adults/children):

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Type of home you live in:

House Apartment Condo/Townhome Mobile home Other

**NOTE: If you rent we will need a written note from your landlord approving a dog, contact information for your landlord, a copy of lease, and additional information if requested.**

How long have you lived in this home?

Do you rent or own this property?

If you rent, please provide your landlord’s name/phone number:

Do you have a yard? (Please select one)

Yard with fence

Yard with invisible fencing

Yard with no fence

No yard

How many hours a day will the dog be alone?

Please list the current pets in your home (Species, Breed, Name, Age, Sex)

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**Veterinary Information:**

Name:

Address:

(City/ State/ Zip)

Telephone Number:

Answer Yes or No to the following questions if the answer is No, please explain:

Have all of the dogs and cats in your home been spayed/neutered?

**\*All pets in the home are required to be spayed or neutered and be up to date on shots before we will consider you for adoption. (Unless due to a medical reason, which we will discuss during the vet reference check)**

Have all the dogs and cats in your home been kept up to date on vaccinations?

Are you familiar with heartworm disease?

Do your dogs have any behavioral or health issues?

Have you ever had a pet pass away? If yes, please explain the circumstances.

What would you do if you discovered after adoption or any time during the life of your dog they had an expensive health condition?

**Canine Information:**

Name of the dog you want to adopt:

Second preference of a dog you would adopt:

Where did you hear about us from?:

**Reason for adopting a dog (Please mark all that apply):**

As a companion

As a family pet

To breed with my dog

To train/use for hunting

To train/use for agility

To train/use as a therapy dog

To train/use as an assistance dog for the disabled

To use as a guard dog

For a jogging/hiking partner

To interact with friends and family

As a gift for a friend

As a companion for my dog(s)

As a companion for my cat(s)

As a companion for my child/children

Other (please explain):

**My adopted dog will…**

(Please mark all that apply):

Be kept outside most of the time

Be kept indoors most of the time

Be left outside while we are not home

Be kept inside while we are not home

Be crated when we are not home

Have free reign of the house when we are not home

Be taken to obedience classes

Be trained by me

Taken on frequent car rides

Be kept on a lead line, cable, or runner in the yard

Be mostly interacting with adults

Be interacting frequently with children

Must be housebroken prior to adoption

Will be housetrained by me

Take trips/ vacations with me

Stay with family when we go on vacation

Stay in boarding when we go on vacation

Stay with a pet-sitter when we go on vacation

Be given away to a family member or friend if it’s not a good match for us

Be turned into the shelter if we can’t keep it

Be returned to ARF-SEPA if we cant keep it

**Please take time to think, be honest with yourself and us when answering this question. What behavior or issue are you absolutely NOT willing to deal with at the time of adoption or at any time in your dog’s life? (Please mark all that apply):**

Housebreaking

Chewing

Jumping

Pulling on leash during walks

Counter surfing

Obedience training

Fear of men

Fear of women

Fear of children

Mouthiness (may snag your hand or arm instead of toy during playtime)

Growling

Barking

Rough play with your dog

High energy level

Food/ toy aggression (not willing to share with other dogs)

Food/ toy aggression (not willing to share with people)

Whining/crying

Blindness

Deafness

Separation anxiety

Diabetes

Special diet

Long term medication use

Incontinence/ leaking urine

Car sickness

Unable to climb stairs

Heart condition

Skin allergies

Food allergies

Nail trimming

Ear cleaning

Grooming

Fleas

Ticks

Heart worm preventative

I will do whatever it takes to help this dog adjust and work with a trainer and my vet to resolve any issues.

Other:

What accommodations will you make for our dog when you go on vacation?

How do you discipline your animals?

Describe how you handle a “potty” accident.

Are you open to a trainer if behavioral challenges arrive?

In the event you predecease your pet, what arrangements do you have in place regarding their care and who will become their primary caregiver?

Have you ever had to give up a pet? If yes, please explain the circumstances.

What would cause you to return a dog?

Are you aware that it could cost $1000 or more to care for a dog?

**If you decide not to keep the dog, please contact ARF first and do not bring the dog to an SPCA or other facility unless instructed to do so in writing by ARF. If for any reason you are unable to keep this dog, do you agree to contact ARF first?**

***Please sign and date this application. Please keep page 1 for your reference and please return pages 2-4 to ARF, as instructed to do so via email, fax or in person to an ARF volunteer. (Please note that email is preferred)***

***Please note that adoption decisions are based solely on what is deemed by ARF to be best adoptive situation for our rescued pets. In the case where there are two interested parties in the same pet, ARF SEPA will make a decision based on the pet’s needs and personality traits. In the case where two interested parties are equally qualified to adopt and are equally as good a fit for the pet, the inquiry or application received first will be the approved applicant. After we receive your application, an ARF adoption counselor will contact you (preferably via email). Please email ARF at*** [***info@arfsepa.com***](mailto:info@arfsepa.com) ***with any questions/comments, etc. that you may have.***

***Thank you for applying, and please continue to think rescue first!***

*Name/Signature Date*