



Protecting Animals Within San Antonio (P.A.W.S)

2822 Peppermill Run
San Antonio, Texas 78231
www.sapaws.weebly.com

Adoptable animals are profiled on www.sapaws.rescueme.org
Phone: 210-445-8585, Fax: 210-828-1878

2015 APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION

Dog's name: _____
Rescue name: _____
Adopter's name: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____ ZIP Code: _____
Cell number: _____ Work phone: _____
Home number: _____ Spouse's number: _____
E-Mail: _____ Spouse name: _____

HOME

Own Home

Rent—HOME or APARTMENT (circle one)

Do you have to pay a pet deposit? **YES NO**

If you RENT: Landlord name and phone number: _____

Does your home have a fenced yard? **YES NO** If Yes: **FRONT BACK BOTH**

If yes, what kind: Chain Link (how tall) _____

Privacy Fence (how tall) _____

Other (Explain/describe) _____

OTHER PEOPLE LIVING IN YOUR HOUSE

Please list all members of the family/those living in your household:

Name: _____ Relationship _____ Age _____
Name: _____ Relationship _____ Age _____
Name: _____ Relationship _____ Age _____
Name: _____ Relationship _____ Age _____

OTHER DOGS LIVING WITH YOU

NAME	TYPE/BREED	AGE	NEUTERED/SPAYED	
			YES	NO
			YES	NO
			YES	NO
			YES	NO

OTHER PETS LIVING WITH YOU

NAME	TYPE (Cat/Bird/etc.)	AGE	NEUTERED/SPAYED (IF applicable)	
			YES	NO
			YES	NO
			YES	NO
			YES	NO

VETERINARIAN YOU USE

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Are all of your cats and dogs up-to-date on their vaccinations? **YES** **NO** **SOME**

ACCOMMODATIONS

Where will the dog stay during the day? Inside Outside

Where will the dog stay at night? Inside Outside

If the dog stays **outside** at any time, is there a shelter/dog house of some kind? **YES** **NO**

Please describe: _____

If the dog stays **inside**, what will you have for its comfort?

Crate Stand-alone dog bed Separate Room Sleep on someone's bed

On the average, how many hours per day is the dog going to be left alone? _____

REFERENCES (Please supply two references who are not relatives)

NAME: _____ Phone: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

NAME: _____ Phone: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

If you have no veterinarian reference, please give an additional personal reference:

NAME: _____ Phone: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

Do you want your dog(s) microchipped? YES NO

Your dog will come with the microchip implanted already and the tag/microchip number attached to the vet paperwork. Please call the number/go to the website on the tag to put your information into their database. Until you do that, your dog is still registered to PAWS in Texas.

Please purchase an ID tag (at any pet store or Walmart) and put your dog's name and your contact information on it. Put this ID tag, the rabies tag, and the microchip tag onto the dog's collar immediately! That way if the dog gets scared/bolts soon after adoption, ALL your contact information is there and the finder can contact you quickly!!!

Thank you!

Date: _____

ADOPTION AGREEMENT

The following are the terms which you agreed for the adoption of the dog called _____.

- I agree to take adult dogs to the vet within 30 days and puppies within 1-2 weeks of adoption to continue heartworm & flea prevention and /or well care. _____

- I agree to foster this dog if there is any reason the dog is not adjusting well. I agree to foster until the dog can be returned to P.A.W.S and to contact Christine Hetherly-Thigpen immediately with this issue. I will be held in violation if I surrender, dump or rehome it without permission. _____

- I agree to release rescue organization from liability for this animal's care and behavior once I adopt and receive the dog/puppy. _____

- I agree that this is a rescue dog, and most likely a stray. Therefore I understand that the rescue has no knowledge of dog's abilities beyond our experience with the dog in our foster homes. I also understand that the dog comes with limited medical history. _____

- I agree to work with a dog trainer to help ensure the success of the dog adoption. _____

- I agree to communicate and update P.A.W.S with the dog's progress and if there is a change of contact information or address. _____

- I agree that P.A.W.S has the right to retrieve a dog in my care if it is determined that the dog has been neglected in any way. _____

Name Printed

Signature

Phone Number

Date

Email

If you do not get this dog/puppy, would you like us to keep you on an e-mail list to receive the info about our most current dogs/puppies that become available before they hit the internet?

___ YES

___ NO

ADOPTING A RESCUE DOG

If you are an inexperienced dog owner, do not choose a large dominant dog or a dog with high energy level unless you are committed to six months of steady, patient, consistent training and a dozen years of daily walks of a mile or more.

Be prepared to walk the dog at least twice a day and to clean up his/her waste. For a dog to be able to sleep well it needs to exercise well. They may not be any background or information on the dog—not even the dog’s original name or age or even what crossbreed it actually is. Exercise is the key to curbing any unwanted behaviors and begins the bonding between dog and owner.

Remember your new dog will be stressed, worried and uncertain of you, your family and the new surroundings and environment. He/she must have time to adjust. This period of time is usually 2-3 weeks.

Taking on a rescued dog, you will be taking on his/her past, too, and this could be an unhappy one. Your rescue dog may exhibit the following behaviors:

- Not eating
- Initial reluctance to stay in collar or walk on leash
- Whining in crate/separation anxiety
- Chewing when left alone with free range in the house
- “Marking”

All of these behaviors can be solved through training and spending time with your new rescue dog. The enclosed information will help you with what to expect over the next 30 days, to help make this transition as easy as possible.

TIPS

FIRST DAY

We know moving is stressful—and your new dog feels the same way! Give him time to acclimate to your home and family before introducing him to strangers. Make sure children know how to approach the dog without overwhelming him. It is imperative to avoid smothering new dogs with attention their first few days home. It is understandable that owners are fascinated by their new pets and want to make the new addition feel welcome and happy; however constant togetherness sets the dog up for a fall when normal life is finally resumed. It is far better to avoid high contrasts in home and away time, the rule of thumb being many absences, beginning with extremely brief (>1 minute) ones and gradually progressing to longer over the first few days.

EXPECT ACCIDENTS. Rehoming, in and of itself, can cause innocent housetraining accidents—the dog is unsure whether the same rules apply in the new home. Give your new addition some space to get used to his new environment. Coming into a new home with new people, new smells and new sounds will throw even the most housebroken dog off-track, so be ready just in case. This is usually when marking occurs so just make sure to take him outside frequently at first.

When you pick up your dog, remember to ask what and when he was fed. Replicate that schedule for at least the first few days to avoid gastric distress. If you wish to switch to a different brand, do so over a period of about a week by adding one part new food to three parts of the old for several days; then switch to half new food, half old; and then one part old to three parts new. For expert advice regarding your dog's diet, please check with your veterinarian. When you bring your new dog home, leash walk him so he can take in the smells of the turf and relieve himself. Pick a special place and encourage him to potty there. Be patient; it may take 10 or 15 minutes. Always praise warmly when he relieves himself in an approved spot.

Next, enter the house and show him around. Keep him on leash. If he lifts his leg, give him a quick leash correction (yank on the leash and release) and tell him "No" to disrupt the action, then take him outside immediately. Offer him a treat for going in the right place. Remember, your dog will be excited and

anxious about his new home. Don't be surprised at panting and pacing, housetraining accidents, excessive drinking or chewing, or gastric upset.

Next, take him to his crate. Encourage him to sniff around; reward him with small treats for entering and staying in the crate. Keep soft bedding and safe toys in the crate; rotate the toys for variety.

CRATE FACTS. Housetraining problems are the top reason people give up dogs. Crates aid in housetraining because of dogs' den instincts: they avoid messing where they sleep. Crating is cruel only if the dog is physically uncomfortable or if left too often or too long. Limit crating to 4-5 hours maximum a day.

Important: Teach your dog that good things come in the crate. Place appealing toys in the crate; feed in the crate. Stay in the room a while and praise when the dog rests calmly in the crate. Resist letting the dog out if she cries. However, if she has to relieve herself, honor that. Over the transition period, gradually open the crate door and increase the number of rooms to which she has access.

If you plan on crate training your dog, leave the crate open so that he can go in whenever he feels like it in case he gets overwhelmed. We recommend crating the dog for the first few weeks to help with the anxiety and stress. Usually dogs will begin chewing on things when left alone, so the crate provides a safe area where they can rest and not get too destructive. Leave your dog with a Kong toy or an everlasting treat and they should be fine.

From there, start your schedule of feeding, toileting and play/exercise. From day one, your dog will need family time and brief periods of solitary confinement. Don't give in and comfort him if he whines when left alone. Instead, give him attention for good behavior, such as chewing on a toy or resting quietly

For the first few days, remain calm and quiet around your dog, limiting too much excitement (such as the dog park or neighborhood children). Not only will this allow your dog to settle in easier, it will give you more one-on-one time to get to know him and his likes/dislikes.

If he came from another home, objects like leashes, hands, rolled up newspapers and magazines, feet, chairs and sticks are just some of the pieces of "training equipment" that may have been used on this dog. Words like "come here" and "lie down" may bring forth a reaction other than the one you expect. Or maybe he led a sheltered life and was never socialized to children or sidewalk activity. This dog may be

the product of a never-ending series of scrambled communications and unreal expectations that will require patience on your part.

FOLLOWING WEEKS

People often say they don't see their dog's true personality until several weeks after adoption. Your dog will be a bit uneasy at first as he gets to know you. Be patient and understanding while also keeping to the schedule you intend to maintain for feeding, walks, etc. This schedule will show your dog what is expected of him as well as what he can expect from you.

If you encounter behavior issues you are unfamiliar with, call us and we will be happy to refer you to a dog trainer or make a home visit.

HELPING WITH ANXIETY

How to treat minor separation anxiety

Don't make a big deal out of arrivals and departures. For example, when you arrive home, ignore your dog for the first few minutes then calmly pet him. Leave your dog with an article of clothing that smells like you, such as an old T-shirt that you've slept in recently.

Establish a safety cue—a word or action that you use every time you leave that tells your dog you'll be back. Consider using an over-the-counter calming product that may reduce fearfulness in dogs.

How to handle a more severe problem

Use the techniques outlined above along with desensitization training. Teach your dog the sit-stay and down-stay commands using positive reinforcement. This training will help her learn that she can remain calmly and happily in one place while you go to another room.

Create a "safe place" to limit your dog's ability to be destructive. A safe place should:

- Confine loosely rather than strictly (a room with a window and distractions rather than total isolation)
- Contain busy toys for distraction
- Have dirty laundry to lend a calming olfactory cue or other safety cues

Congratulations! If you follow these tips, you'll be on your way to having a well-adjusted canine family member.

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE ADOPTING A DOG

- Is the dog house-trained?
- Is it accustomed to using a dog door?
- Is it crate-trained? If so, do they have a crate they will give you or sell to you?
- Does the dog like to ride in a car?
- Has the dog been obedience trained? When, where, and by whom?
- Will the rescue let you take the dog for a walk on a leash, to see how well it heels?
- Are its vaccinations up to date? Do they have a vaccination record that you can take to your vet?
- Will they let you have the dog examined by your vet before making a final decision?
- Has the dog experienced any health problems? Does it have any known allergies? Ear infections? Digestive issues? Skin problems? How are its teeth?
- What do they feed the dog?
- How often is the dog used to eating, and how much?
- How does the dog behave around other dogs? Around small dogs? Cats? Kids?
- Is the dog nervous in storms or frightened of lightning and thunder?
- Can the dog climb stairs?
- Does the dog bark at vacuum cleaner or door bell?
- Does the dog dig in the yard?
- Does it try to break out of gates or dig under fences, or jump fences?
- Does it bark, cry, or get into mischief when left alone for a few hours?

The answers to these questions will help set expectations and help you fully prepare for the addition of a new family member. We'll also answer any other questions you might have!