



# Dog Adoption Contract

Congratulations, you are adopting a Save-A-Mutt rescue dog!

Save-A-Mutt (the "Charity/Rescue/we/us"), a Washington 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, and the undersigned (the "Adopter" or "you"), in consideration of the mutual covenants in this Agreement and other good and valuable consideration, intending to be legally bound by this Agreement, agree to the following:

**1. The Dog:** We are placing the following described dog/puppy with you, the Adopter, for the adoption by you as a companion dog and family member:

Rescue Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Adopted Dog** \_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_ F\_\_\_ (Hereinafter ADOPTEE or Dog)

Breed/Mix/Color/Markings \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Adoption Donation:** To assist us in continuing our rescue work, Adopter agrees to make a donation of at least \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Price** \_\_\_\_\_. This donation is immediately used to pay the ongoing costs of rescuing stray and shelter animals, including food, veterinary care, kenneling costs, transport, etc. Your donation may be tax deductible.

**3. Care of the Dog:** You agree that this Dog is being adopted as a family member and will be given extensive house privileges; i.e. sleep inside the house, be allowed freedom of the house when the family is home, and will NOT be restricted to the yard for long periods of time. You agree to provide the Dog with fresh water, wholesome dog food, adequate outdoor exercise, affection and shelter. No alteration to the animal's appearance is permitted (i.e. docking of tails or ears, tattooing).

**4. Veterinary Care:** You agree to keep all vaccinations recommended by your veterinarian or by state law; maintain flea/tick control, AND ensure the Dog receives preventative medication to protect against heartworm if moving to an area where heartworm is prevalent. You agree to provide the best available care to the Dog in a timely manner. Any and all medical issues and costs, are your responsibility.

**5. Behavioral Issues that might lead to abandonment of the animal:** (i.e. biting, destruction, escapism, fearfulness, dominance) Adopter agrees to contact Save-A-Mutt to follow the recommendation in resolving any issues as an effort to maintain custody of the adopted animal.

**6. Identification:** Your dog has been microchipped, and you will need to register. Please make sure if you move or change your phone number you will change it with the microchip company and notify Rescue.

*\*Save-A-Mutt is a 501(c)3 charity. Your donation may be tax deductible.*



**7. Leash/Collar Etc:** You will abide by all leash laws based on jurisdiction. Do not allow Dog to roam free unsupervised. The Dog will **NEVER** be tied up as a long term containment solution. Adopter understands restraining a dog by tying it to a fixed post or wire run is unsafe and may cause unpredictable behavior. You will not leave the dog crated and/or otherwise confined for extended periods of time, except for sleeping at night.

**8. Transportation:** The Dog will be properly restrained, preferably in a secured crate or seat harness when transported in any vehicle. Adoptee will never be transported in the back of an open vehicle or pick-up truck.

**9. Lost Dog:** You agree to make an immediate and serious effort to find the Dog if it becomes lost, filing lost reports with animal control authorities/animal shelters/local veterinarians. Please contact us for additional support and advice. Adopter understands that if the loss was the result of negligence or failure to comply with the covenants of this Agreement, Save-A-Mutt reserves the right not to return the Dog, or the adoption fee.

**10. No Right to Transfer:** If at any time in the future you cannot continue to provide proper care for the Dog, you will **NOT** abandon, give or sell the Dog to another person, company, organization, medical research, pound or animal shelter. You agree to do one or more of the following:

- A. **Obtain approval** from Save-A-Mutt to transfer the ownership of the Dog to a friend or relative. Rescue must approve the new adopter who may be required to sign our agreement; OR
- B. Return Adoptee to Rescue.

**Return Policy:** If Adopter decides to return the Adoptee to the Rescue - upon notifying the Rescue, the Adopter will receive paperwork to begin the return process. Adopter will give Rescue (14) days to secure a foster from the time the paperwork is **completed and returned to rescue**. The Adopter will provide safe and loving care of the Dog until returned, including and not limited to boarding if necessary, paid by the Adopter. Save-A-Mutt is a foster based rescue with no facility - all dogs are housed in foster homes. We will attempt to get the returned dog into a foster home sooner than the (14) days, but that may not be possible and the dog will be placed in a boarding facility. **\*\*Save-A-Mutt is a companion animal rescue. Our foster-based program is designed to place adoptable dogs in homes. This means, any dog that has a bite history, on humans and/or animals, is encouraged to be humanely euthanized by the Adopter. If the Adopter is unable to provide that service, Save-A-Mutt will have the euthanasia done at our veterinary office.**

A full refund, less \$75 administrative costs will be refunded if Dog is returned within (7) days. \_\_\_\_\_Initial.

**11. Euthanasia:** You may **not** euthanize the Dog except in cases of Dog's terminal illness/injury, a bite history, or old age accompanied by pain and suffering. Any euthanasia must be performed by a licensed veterinarian. If you can't afford a medical procedure, i.e. orthopedic issues, you must contact Rescue **before** euthanizing.

**12. Follow Up:** Adopter understands and agrees that Save-A-Mutt is fully entitled to make follow-up emails or phone calls to ensure the dog's placement is successful. In addition, Save-A-Mutt may contact your veterinarian to ensure vaccines and any other required care has been received by Dog. \_\_\_\_\_Initial.

**13. Health Care Warranty:** I understand that Save-A-Mutt cannot and does not make any representation of warranties, either expressed or implied concerning the temperament, habit, health, or background of this animal and that I have no rights to reimbursement of medical or professional fees. I have been provided with Pet Insurance information and am highly encouraged to maintain this insurance for the life of the Dog. I assume full responsibility to provide proper veterinary care for this animal and if I cannot, I will relinquish the Dog to Save-A-Mutt, with no refund. In addition, if I do not get pet insurance and must return the Dog to Save-A-Mutt for medical reasons, I will pay a \$250 relinquishment fee. \_\_\_\_\_Initial.

**Breed Descriptions:** The Rescue makes no warranty as to the breed of the Adoptee. We attempt to identify the breed based on appearance of parents, if available, and on physical attributes of Adoptee. The Rescue makes no warranty as to the final size of any puppy or young dog. We attempt to categorize the size of Adoptee, if underage, as small, medium, large and extra large, but not all categorizations may be correct. In some cases, we will preform a basic DNA test on the Adoptee and will provide Adopter with those results.

**Right to Reclaim:** Adopter understands and agrees that Rescue reserves the right to reclaim adoptee if any of the above conditions are not met to the satisfaction of Rescue. Adopter further understands and agrees that any expenses incurred by Rescue in exercising its rights under this provision will be paid by Adopter in addition to any liquidated damages required by other provisions of this Agreement.

**Release & Indemnification/No Liability:** Adopter hereby releases Save-A-Mutt from any and all liability for personal injury, property damage, legal fees, or veterinary care, or any other expense or liability incurred by Adopter as a result of this adoption. Adopter agrees to indemnify Save-A-Mutt from any and all such claims and to pay, without limitation, any costs related to such injury, damage, or liability, including, in the case of litigation, any attorneys fees incurred by Save-A-Mutt in its defense.

**Breach of Agreement/Liquidated Damages:** In the event that you do not comply with the terms of this Agreement, or the Dog is abused or neglected, we hold the right to recover the Dog from you upon demand, and the Dog will be surrendered to us immediately. In addition, without waiving any of our rights under this Agreement, if you do not surrender the Dog to us, you will owe us a payment in the amount of \$2,500 agreed between us as just and reasonable liquidated damages to compensate us for our costs and expenses in connection with your breach of this Agreement and we reserve our rights to reacquire the Dog.

**Entire Agreement/Modification/Binding Effect:** This Agreement is the entire agreement between you and us, and supersedes any prior understandings between you and us with respect to the subject matter of this agreement. No modification of this Agreement will be valid unless in writing duly signed by both you and us. This Agreement is binding upon you and your heirs, assigns, successors, personal representatives and executors.

**Photo Policy:** Adopter agrees that photos taken at time of adoption, and/or shared on our Facebook / Social Media platforms, both public and private, may be used in marketing Save-A-Mutt. Adopter has the right to notify Rescue if they don't want any photos shared. We do not use photos with faces of children under the age of 18, unless OK'd by Adopter.

**By Adopter:**

Signed & Agreed \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Save-A-Mutt:**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Save-A-Mutt Optional Care Provision for: Adopted Dog date                     

Deposit in effect only if checked, Adoptee please read and sign/initial highlighted area:

**Obedience Training:** Save-A-Mutt recommends training for all dogs, regardless of size and breed. We have provided a handout with a variety of trainers we have used in the past. If you need assistance finding a trainer in your area, don't hesitate to contact us.

- Training can build a stronger bond between you and your dog! Spending time together in classes can increase your level of trust with each other.
- Training makes life easier and less stressful at home when certain behaviors are under control.
- Training improves communication with your dog. Training classes give you the opportunity to learn more about their individual personality and how to best understand them.
- Dog training isn't one size fits all. It can be focused on improving specific behaviors, or it could be teaching you about your dog's specific breed and their needs.

Adopter agrees to provide obedience training for the dog at their cost. Any additional costs are the responsibility of the adopter. If the dog is returned to the rescue for behavioral issues and no training was completed, the Adopter will be financially responsible for the cost to complete training.

**Training Deposit (only if checked):** The Rescue has determined that your dog is required to attend Dog Training and/or Obedience Classes. Your additional deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ will be refunded to you upon completion of a class of your choosing. Your Rescue Dog needs to attend this class **within 6 months** of your adoption date. Please provide a copy of the completed training certificate or receipt.

**Adopter:** Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**SAM:** Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Puppy classes MAY NOT start until the puppy is 16 weeks old and fully vaccinated. The only exception to this rule is if you attend a class that is strictly designed for underage puppies in an environment that controls the risk of diseases like Parvo and Distemper. DO NOT take your under-vaccinated puppy to a class at Petco or Petsmart, even if they say it is acceptable.*

