

**MY INITIALS NEXT TO EACH REQUIREMENT BELOW WILL SERVE TO SHOW THAT I ACKNOWLEDGE EACH STATEMENT AND AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THIS ADOPTION.**

\_\_\_ I understand that I am not PURCHASING a pet but ADOPTING and SAVING THE LIFE of an orphaned animal, therefore there is NO TRIAL PERIOD and will be **NO refund for ANY reason** other than the pet being **terminally** ill (and this is confirmed by one of our vets). The dog/puppy I am adopting will be left alone daily for \_\_\_ hours.

\_\_\_ I do hereby adopt this animal for MYSELF and MY FAMILY (not as a gift or companion for anyone OUTSIDE the home at the address below) and agree to take good care of it and protect it from abuse, neglect or abandonment and to keep the animal as a house pet and not allowed to run free, to provide proper medical care and to provide proper mental stimulation and love. I understand that my adoption is a LIFETIME commitment and I will NOT give up on my newly adopted pet for any reason - other than TERMINAL illnesses or SEVERE aggression, which has been confirmed by a Licensed Vet and/or PROFESSIONAL TRAINER OR BEHAVIORIST.

\_\_\_ I am prepared to keep this pet for its entire life and I am prepared for all aspects of pet ownership both emotionally and financially (\$400-\$1,000 yearly not including emergencies). HOWEVER, If I do choose to give up my pet, I MUST return it to the shelter and not give it to anyone else, and I **may be charged a surrender fee dependant on my reason for surrender, medical and vaccination history, length of time I have owned the pet, and the condition of the pet when I surrender him/her. I must also call the shelter before returning the pet due to space and availability restrictions.**

\_\_\_ I understand that if I surrender this pet back to the shelter, or give him/her to anyone else, that there will be NO REFUND for any reason AND there is no exchange for another animal for ANY reason. I am making an educated decision to adopt this pet and will not hold the shelter or its staff/volunteers responsible if I change my mind or circumstances arise and I can no longer keep the pet.

\_\_\_ By signing this contract I acknowledge that the entire family is in agreement of this adoption, that I am 21 years of age or older, that I own my own home or have written landlord's permission and that there are NO PET ALLERGIES (that cannot be controlled with medication) in the home where the pet will reside. I also understand that I will not receive a refund and can not exchange the pet, IF I AM or MY family develops or has existing allergies to the pet OR if a landlord does not allow me to have a pet.

\_\_\_ **ASI makes no guarantees or statements regarding the pet's age, breed, health, or temperament.** While ASI has made every effort to provide accurate history and assessment of the pet, ASI is not able to guarantee the pet's age, breed, medical status, behavior or disposition. ASI is available for consultation, advice and assistance pertaining to the health, training and compatibility of the pet. Adopter agrees to release ASI and its members or representatives of any and all possible claims arising from injury or damage caused by the pet to any person or property. **Adopter accepts this pet as is with all defects, either observable or unobservable, and assumes all risk for the pet upon signing of this contract. I understand that the shelter CAN NOT & WILL NOT guarantee the health, breed, temperament or age of this pet** and agree that I should never leave my pet unattended with children. Because I understand that my pet may need help in the transitional period and possibly even YEARS from my adoption date, I agree to work with a PROFESSIONAL & ACCREDITED trainer or behaviorist if the pet has or develops behavioral problems at the time of my adoption and/or the years coming.

\_\_\_ I am willing to give my pet an unlimited time to adjust to his/her new home and I understand that there may be behavioral issues with my new pet, such as hiding, shyness, not eating, growling, diarrhea, accidents, destructiveness and a variety of other issues. I was advised and will be provided documentation about crate training or litter box training and tips and tricks to help a new pet adjust to his home. It is my responsibility to follow the shelter's suggestions and do research on making my pet a better member of my family. Many of these important tips can be found in my adoption literature pack and on their website [www.sterlingshelter.org](http://www.sterlingshelter.org)

\_\_\_ I understand that though this pet may appear healthy at this time, it may in fact be in the 1st stages of an Upper Respiratory Infection/Kennel Cough, Skin problems, ear/eye Infection, Parasitic infection, Distemper, Parvo virus or have a variety of other medical problems - some of which may be contagious to other pets or humans. It is suggested that I keep other pets away from my newly adopted pet until a complete check-up AND FECAL sample has been done for him/her and this is why the shelter has advised me to obtain a physical for my newly adopted pet within 14 days of my adoption or 10 days post-op if surgery was performed (unless otherwise indicated). Any of the Healthy Pet hospitals provided to me will perform a free post adoption checkup. **(All vaccinations, tests, fecals any treatments, and medications will still be at my own cost.)** If I choose to take the animal to any other vet FOR ANY REASON it will be at MY OWN COST. It is also recommended that I use proper hygiene (wash hands after contact) with my new pet/s and avoid allowing the pet to lick humans in the face and mouth.

\_\_\_ This mandatory adoption fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is to pay for my pets medical care / boarding and care while AT THE SHELTER. As well as any services performed, vet care, care for other pets in the shelter, food, heat, electric, phone, staff, and general expenses. (The shelter runs strictly on adoption / surrender fees and these fees are what pay any and all bills incurred by the shelter. I understand the shelter has done all that they can for my pet medically prior to him/her leaving. **I am FULLY responsible for any and all medical bills incurred by my pet and I will NOT be refunded any money for any reason.** It has also been recommended to me that I seek any medical care for my pet through participating Healthy Pet hospitals. I also agree to have A FECAL SAMPLE (at my cost) run at the 1st health check, as this is crucial to uncovering any possible parasites that may harm my pet, other pets or humans. I agree to have my pet seen by a licensed veterinarian yearly and updated on any vaccinations and follow suggestions regarding vet care for my pet.

\_\_\_ I hereby agree that any default of these conditions by myself will immediately void all rights and interests I have gained in the animals and that I will turn it back over to the shelter and should the shelter have to initiate any action, legal or otherwise, to regain such animal, I agree to indemnify and reimburse said shelter for all attorney's fees and witness expenses including travel and loss of pay involved therein.

\_\_\_ If my new pet bites, I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE for the quarantine time OF 10 DAYS. I must also notify the shelter, dog officer and/or my town's Board of Health. If the pet bites or does any destructive damage to me or anyone else, from this date and time, I understand that is my responsibility and agree not to hold any person, employee, director, officer or volunteer of the shelter, liable.

NOTE: The Animal Shelter Inc. has limited information on these animals and CANNOT and WILL NOT guarantee the health, breed, age or temperament on these animals. Turnover rate at the shelter is incredibly high; some animals are here for short periods of time. The shelter trusts the surrendering family to provide accurate and truthful statements regarding their animals. However some animals are stray and we often find that people do not tell the truth about why they are surrendering their animal. Please understand the Animal Shelter Inc. is dedicated to placing happy and healthy animals. Please make sure your decision is not taken lightly and understand this is A LIFETIME COMMITMENT. We work hard to place these unwanted animals into a home for life and there are NO REFUNDS AND NO EXCHANGES.