



## DOG ADOPTION APPLICATION

**Dog's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's license number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you at least 21 years old? ( ) yes ( ) no

If answer is No, legal guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Provide two references that are NOT members of your immediate family or living with you:

Personal reference #1: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ years known: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal reference #2: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ years known: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live in: ( ) house ( ) apartment ( ) with parents ( ) mobile home ( ) dormitory?

Do you: ( ) Own ( ) Rent

If you rent, does your landlord allow pets? ( ) Yes ( ) No

Landlord's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently have any other pets? ( ) Yes ( ) No

Have you ever owned a pet/pets? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If answered yes, what do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

Are they/were they kept up to date on vaccines ( ) Yes ( ) No

and spayed/neutered ( ) Yes ( ) No

How would you describe your dog owning experience?

\_\_\_ I have had dogs of my own as an adult

\_\_\_ I grew up with dogs or have worked with them but have not had my own as an adult

\_\_\_ I have never had one or have limited experience with dogs

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How many dogs have you owned in the past 5 years? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to the other dog(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children in the home? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If answered yes, number of children \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Is the animal primarily going to be kept ( ) indoors, ( ) outdoors or ( ) both?

Share your reasons for wanting this/a dog? (check all that apply)

( ) family pet ( ) child's companion ( ) gift for someone else

( ) companion for another pet ( ) companion ( ) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you prepared to train a dog, if needed? Including house training and/or obedience training and pet parent training ( ) Yes ( ) No

What is your activity level? ( ) high ( ) medium ( ) low ( ) not active

Are you prepared for exercising a dog that may have high energy, what would you do to keep the animal active to meet its needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a fenced in yard to help give them room to exercise if you are not able to walk regularly?

( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) other: \_\_\_\_\_

Where will you keep the animal when you are not home? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you do with your pet when you go on vacation? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you prepared for a commitment for the full life of the pet which includes proper diet, bedding, annual veterinary visits and care for unforeseen illnesses, grooming, training, boarding when you go on vacation etc? ( ) Yes ( ) No Est. monthly budget for the new pet: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently? (Check all that apply):       Employed full time       Employed part- time

Unemployed       Seeking employment       Retired       Student

Other, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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The "Rule of 3" or "3-3-3 rule" means that you can gauge the time it might take for your dog to fully acclimate to his new home in threes: 3 days, 3 weeks, and 3 months. (please refer to attached info for more details). During this time there usually are shifts in the pet behavior and stress levels, and with proper pet parenting these shifts are all for the better. Some pets take longer than others to adjust to their new home. This may especially be true if other pets are involved.

Are you willing to give your new pet the appropriate amount of time, structure and attention to adjust to his/her new home?    Yes       No

Your current veterinarian? \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\* by providing your email address you agree to receive information from The Sweet Life Animal Rescue

Last but not least: If your dog got out / was lost, what would you do? \_\_\_\_\_

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All info was given truthfully and to my best knowledge.

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Signature / Date

## The Rule of Threes or 3-3-3 Rule of your new dog adapting to the new surrounding

### The First 3 Days

Think of your new dog's first 3 days as their time to decompress as they transition from a shelter or foster home into your home. This period can be overwhelming for many dogs, especially those that were not previously in a home environment. Make sure to **start with a long walk** in your neighborhood on that very first day. A long walk establishes the boundaries of your relationship and how to walk well with you and listen. This also helps your rescue dog adjust to their new environment, including all the sights, smells, and sounds of their new neighborhood. Once your walk ends, it is time to bring them into the house, but don't take off the leash just yet. Your new dog should be following your directions and not wandering. Slowly bring them from room to room. Spend a few minutes in each room and once the inside tour is finished, do the same with each exterior space. During the tours, **petting, eye contact and talking are not recommended** since your new dog will already be overstimulated by the new environment and new people. **The less stimulation you can create the better their transition will be.** Think of your home like it is the first time at Disneyland for your dog. This extreme level of excitement requires **calm energy from you.** As exciting as a new member of your household can be, it's important to establish your relationship, starting off on the right foot. You can have moments of excitement, but in general your **calm energy should be given to your dog** at all times in the first 3 days especially, but the same goes for the first 3 months.

Once the tour is complete, it is now time to **establish some basic boundaries** for your rescue dog! Continue to lead them on leash to their feeding area, with some water and a little food. This establishes an area that your dog is familiar with. After the feeding area is introduced, take your dog to its bedroom. If it is a crate, let your dog investigate that space by smelling, walking around, or just being curious. Open the crate and throw some treats in the back. It is possible your new dog may just walk right in after them! If he settles into the crate, feel free to remove the leash and shut the door. This will give him some time to decompress. If he seems anxious, you can always leave the door open and allow him in and out access. If, however, you choose not to crate your dog, let him off the leash and let him investigate the area. If he immediately lies down on his new bed and ignores the family, do not worry! This means you completed the process correctly and he is already comfortable in the pack! Remember that your dog feeds off of your energy: if there is high energy excitement in the household it is easy for many dogs to take on this excitement. So remind your children to stay calm around the new family member and refrain from excited screaming or shouting.

Remember your new dog won't know what you expect from them, where to go potty, or whether they're allowed on the furniture. They might not know that your shoe is not a chew toy, or that the kitchen trash is not where your dog is supposed to find their dinner. These are rules that your new family member has to learn, always remember that and don't expect them to know these rules without training. Your dog will settle into your routine with time and patience. The first 3 days are important to give them space to explore, rest and establish boundaries! It is normal for your dog to sleep a lot in the first few days, not want to eat, and not crave interaction from their new family as they adjust. Take comfort in knowing that it gets better as the weeks go on.

### After 3 Weeks

After 3 weeks, your dog is starting to get used to your comings and goings from the home, learning the daily routine, and starting to figure out the timing for their next meal. Your dog will learn that you walk with them at the same time every morning, and that they go out for regular potty breaks. You'll start to see more of your dog's true personality and less of their first response - whether that was fear, excitement, stress or some combination when you first brought them home. They will begin to feel settled in their new home. When they start to feel more comfortable, they will start to test the boundaries you've established. Remember to give **calm feedback when they misbehave** and be sure to praise each success. This is the time when you can start to work on basic commands, and you might have begun to narrow down your dog's behavior problems (if any). If you have uncovered some, then this is the time to consider training classes or seek help from a professional dog trainer. Keep in mind that you really can't expect your dog to be absolutely perfect right from the beginning, but any issues will become less frequent and less stressful with the help of a professional. And remember: Consistency is key to all dog training!

### After 3 Months

When you get to 3 months with your rescue dog, most dogs know they are "home." It may seem like a long process to get there, but with patience they will learn to trust you, understand their routine and build a bond. You can use affection as a resource for good behavior. It is very important not to ease up on training sessions, the more the better, and if any issues arise, it's best to seek out help sooner rather than later.