



Canine Adoption Contract

Please read the following carefully. This is a binding, contractual agreement that you are making with Peace Ridge Sanctuary.

In adopting an animal from Peace Ridge Sanctuary (PRS) I understand that I am being held to a commitment and standard of care outlined by the following and I agree, totally and completely, to act in accordance to the following terms:

1. I acknowledge that caretaking for an animal is a daily, long-term effort which must be routine and taken as a priority each and every day. By adopting an animal from PRS I agree to maintain a strict regimen of care for the animal that absolutely provides for the animal's physical, psychological and emotional needs, and well-being. I also agree that it is the job of the adult in my family (when applicable) to take primary responsibility for this animal- animal care will not be fully delegated to a child.

2. I agree to have the animal spayed and/or neutered (if applicable) during or before their sixth month of life, or at the earliest reasonable age according to my veterinarian.

3. I will not have the animal caged or crated for more than an average overnight period of 8 hours, and I will not cage or crate the animal for more than ten hours in any 24 hour period. I understand that PRS is adopting this animal to me with the expectation that the cage or crate is only used for overnight or safety during the day, and not to be overused for confinement during both the daytime and night-time hours. (Crates are an important safety tool, but no one should live in a crate).

4. I will maintain an environment for exercise and out of cage experience for the animal on a daily basis and will hire or enlist appropriate, trustworthy help to aid in this exercise or out of cage experience for the animal daily, if I am not able to do so myself. I agree by signing this contract that the animal, if canine, will be walked at least twice a day for at least 20 minutes per walk, and be given access to the outdoors in a secure, contained area (fencing) for other daily un-tethered enrichment activities. I will not chain or tether the dog to a doghouse or otherwise. The dog will sleep at night inside our family home. I also agree that the dog will not be allowed to run loose. We will not use shock collars, citronella collars, prong collars, or punitive devices to contain or "train" the dog. I agree to not use electronic fencing.

5. I will keep up on a set of training techniques and/or behavioral program that will help maintain a positive long-term relationship with the animal and will avoid using punishment techniques that inflict confusion, pain or isolation. I also will not hire professionals who use punitive

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techniques. I acknowledge that PRS has started working with the animal using positive reinforcement and some basic obedience was begun. I agree to educate myself about these and other positive-association only approaches prior to taking the animal (canine) home so I (and my family, if applicable) can continue with these or other similar techniques. I will not at any time engage in protection training with the PRS adoptee.

6. I guarantee that myself, my family, and/or any other associates will not be allowed to engage in negative interactions with this animal, or teach the animal behaviors that would potentially put in jeopardy the animal's place in my home and/or in society. If there is a child in the environment, the child will not be allowed to roughhouse, hug, corner, tease, sit or lay on, hurt, or otherwise put the dog's best interest in jeopardy. I will not engage in behaviors or allow others to engage in behaviors that compromise the health of the adoptee, including using lawn pesticides, smoking (any substances), partying, or being aggressive with the adoptee.

7. I will have the animal vetted by a licensed veterinarian annually at minimum and whenever health concerns are apparent, without fail. I will not withhold veterinary care for any reason. If for any reason I am not able to provide this care, I will contact PRS immediately. I will have the animal vaccinated and licensed as applicable and according to the laws of the state of my permanent residence. I will provide routine preventative care, such as monthly heartworm preventative, as well as seasonal tick preventatives.

8. I agree that I will not have the animal de-vocalized, cropped or otherwise aesthetically manipulated (tattooed or branded).

9. The animal will be fed a high-quality food that fits their needs throughout the span of its life (for example- growth, maintenance, senior). The animal's nutritional requirements will be taken seriously and adjusted to fit the needs of the animal if an issue should arise or I am advised to do so by my veterinarian. (For example- high quality means NOT Beneful, Pedigree, or generic brands, etc.- because of the potential health problems from these low-quality foods)

10. I will not have the animal euthanized for any other reason than for terminal illness which inflicts pain and/or severe discomfort to the animal, in the case of an accident where the animal will not recover, or when age or sickness has levied extremely poor quality of life for which there is no treatment. I acknowledge and agree that an animal should not be euthanized for behavioral reasons or because of my own "lifestyle choices." I agree to contact PRS prior to making the decision to euthanize the adoptee.

11. I agree not to board the animal. We have seen dogs go through psychological trauma when boarded in traditional kennels- dogs who have come from shelters cannot tell the difference. You've dropped them off in a noisy kennel environment and you left. It's happened to them before. We've seen adoptees have some very bad experiences with this sort of thing, and we do not want our dogs to experience the re-traumatization that can and does happen when they are left at boarding kennels. We can provide information about house sitters, home type boarding facilities, etc.

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12. I will keep a legible identification tag (with name and contact information) on the dog that I am adopting at all times. If by some chance the animal becomes lost, I will notify Peace Ridge Sanctuary within 6 hours so that PRS can help look for the animal and put out alerts.

13. I understand that it is my job as the adopter to keep my dog safe and this includes ensuring all interactions with children (my own and/or any other children my adoptee will be in contact with) will be closely supervised ***and controlled*** at all times.

14. I agree that if I am no longer able to care for or home the animal, I will return the animal promptly to PRS. I also agree by signing this contract that I am not able to pass the animal along, or relinquish the animal to anyone but PRS if there comes a time where I am no longer able to care for the animal.

15. We attest that I/we understand that PRS makes no guarantees or statements regarding any dog's age, breed, health, or temperament. While PRS has made every effort to provide accurate history and assessment of all of the dogs, PRS is not able to guarantee any dog's medical status or history, behavior or disposition. I/We hereby release PRS and its employees, directors, members, and all representatives of any and all possible claims arising from injury or damage caused by any dog adopted by me/us to any person or property or relating to the health or temperament of the dog, including any expenses related thereto.

By signing this contractual agreement I promise that all information given in the adoption application is true, and I have not withheld or falsified any information I have given. I understand and agree that if at any time PRS finds that I have falsified application information or broken the contractual agreement, that I may have to return the animal to the custody of PRS.

Printed Name: _____

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

If there are two adopters, please both fill out.

Printed Name: _____

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

Please also initial on all pages of the contract prior to returning.

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