

# PAWS Adoption Application



Adopter's First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please list up to 3 dogs you would like to consider adopting. If you are interested in just one specific dog, please do not list any others at this time.

\_\_\_\_\_

House Number & Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License Number \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License Issuing State \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Name (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Partner's Occupation (If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's or Secondary Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Partner's or Secondary Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Do you rent or own your home? \_\_\_\_\_ If you rent, what is your landlord's name? \_\_\_\_\_

Landlord's Email Address (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Landlord's Phone Number (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Below, please list all human family members who live in the household. Include yourself and your partner (if applicable).

Name	Age	Gender

How did you find out about PAWS or the specific dog you are interested in adopting?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you or any of the family members listed above have allergies to dogs? \_\_\_\_\_

If you or a family member has allergies to dogs, are they controlled through medication?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list all current animals under your care (any dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, reptiles, rodents, or outdoor animals) below:

Name	Species	Breed	Sex	Age	Weight	Spayed or Neutered? (Yes/No)	Energy Level (Low/Med/High)	Date of Last Vet Visit

*Important: All dogs, cats, and small animals living in your home must be spayed or neutered and current on vaccinations prior to the adoption of a PAWS dog unless there is a documented reason from a veterinarian.*

*Below, please list the veterinarian that cares for your current and/or previous animals. Please contact your veterinarian and provide them permission to speak to us. If you (or your parents) have never had animals, please list a personal reference that is a responsible pet owner.*

Vet clinic info (name, address, phone number) if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Other vet clinics used (name, address, phone number) if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the last two dogs or cats that your family has owned and are no longer living with you (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any characteristics of a dog that are important to you, such as age, sex, size/weight, breed, and energy level.

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Who will the dog need to get along with? Check the box for all that apply.

- Children       Adult females       Adult males   
Cats       Small dogs       Large dogs

*Important: Matching a dog's energy to its human's is extremely important to ensure a mutually fulfilling relationship. Though all dogs need some amount of daily exercise and stimulation, the amount of attention required of the human guardian to allow a dog to remain calm and balanced varies widely. Higher energy and younger dogs need to drain energy every day, especially in the morning if they'll be on their own all day while their humans are away. If you won't consistently have the time and energy needed for such a dog, look for a lower energy or older dog.*

How much time and energy can you comfortably provide your dog every day? \_\_\_\_\_

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What kind of exercise and enrichment activities would you like to do with your dog? \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there usually lots of activity in your home, with friends coming and going, or is your home more calm and quiet? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have any family members or pets with special needs? If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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Where do you plan for your dog to sleep at night? \_\_\_\_\_

Dogs are social animals and most want to spend as much time as possible with their human family. Are you and your family often on the go to places your dog can't accompany you? How many hours per day will your dog be without a human companion?

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How will your dog get its needs met (elimination, exercise, socialization) when you need to be away for more than 9 hours?

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Do you have a securely fenced outdoor area? If so, please describe (type and height of fence). If not, please explain how you will ensure that your dog does not run away. \_\_\_\_\_

How will you teach your dog which behaviors you deem unacceptable? \_\_\_\_\_

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What will you do if your dog inappropriately chews, digs, barks, or eliminates? \_\_\_\_\_

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What will you do if your dog is inappropriately reactive to other animals or people? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who will care for your dog when you are out of town or on vacation? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Important: Proper care for a dog includes annual veterinary exams and vaccinations, monthly heartworm prevention, seasonal flea & tick prevention, periodic dental cleanings, healthy food and treats, toys, training, grooming, pet sitting, doggie day care, boarding, etc., as well as any non-routine or emergency veterinary care. Be sure to factor in additional costs like pet rent, carpet cleaning, and potential repairs to property damage. These expenses can easily add up to more than \$2000 per year.*

Are you financially prepared to handle the common costs associated with a dog's care? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are you prepared to make a commitment to care for your dog for its lifetime of 10 – 20 years? \_\_\_\_\_

Should something unforeseen happen whereby you are no longer able to serve as your dog's guardian, who will take over this responsibility? \_\_\_\_\_

Under what circumstances would you no longer be able to keep your commitment to be your dog's life long owner? Please check all that may apply.

Have to move where dogs are not permitted

Change in work schedule or lifestyle that doesn't allow sufficient time to care for your dog

Change in personal relationship or members of household (e.g., marriage, new baby, new children, divorce, begin living with someone who doesn't get along with your dog)

Your dog is too much for your children (e.g., jumping, knocking down, nipping)

Your dog is aggressive to other dogs or cats

Your dog is aggressive to people

Your current pets don't get along with your dog

You get a new pet that doesn't get along with your dog

There are too many animals in your household

Someone in household is allergic to your dog

A child goes to college or moves out

Illness or death of a family member

Your dog has too much energy

Your dog pulls on the leash

Your dog is not house trained

Your dog barks too much

Your dog chews inappropriately, digs, or is otherwise destructive

Your dog has separation anxiety

Your dog develops unwanted behaviors requiring an investment of time and education to help the dog overcome them (may require taking training classes and/or consulting with a professional behaviorist)

Your dog bites a dog or cat

Your dog bites a human

Your dog becomes injured or ill and requires medical treatment

None of these apply

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

### **Adoption Information**

- PAWS strives to do what is in the best interest of the dogs in our care. This includes doing all we can to ensure that a potential adopter's environment, energy level, knowledge, experience, and commitment are all a match for what's been observed to be the care and leadership needs of each dog we rescue. Our goal is for each dog's adoption to be its last, so we take time to determine whether a particular dog will thrive with a particular person or family.
- It can take several days or even weeks to finalize an adoption once we receive this non-binding application. We first review your application and do a veterinary reference check. If you rent, we verify that your landlord or property manager approves of you having a dog. Your application is then forwarded to the volunteer who is fostering the dog you are interested in adopting. The foster will contact you to arrange an initial meeting if you haven't yet met the dog at one of our adoption events.
- If multiple applications are received for the same dog at the same time, applicants will be considered until there is an adoption pending. PAWS will make its best effort to determine which of the applicants will be the best match for the dog. We may continue to work with all approved applicants to find another dog in need of a great home if the first choice is unavailable.
- If after meeting the dog and hearing the foster's observations you are interested in pursuing adoption, we'll schedule two PAWS volunteers to bring the dog to your home at a time when all members of your household can be present. We do our best to ensure that there will be no surprises after adoption by disclosing all known issues and providing all veterinary records. To give puppies and their guardians the best shot at enjoying a great life together we ask adopters of dogs less than 6 months old to commit to attending a puppy class within 30 days of adoption. Should you desire to adopt a dog with a known behavior issue, we may make the adoption contingent upon your agreement to hire a professional behaviorist if you aren't able to sufficiently modify or manage the behavior.
- After the home visit, even if everyone agrees that it's a perfect match, we will ask that you contemplate your desire to adopt overnight, taking into consideration that this is a lifelong commitment that will likely require significant time, energy, and

financial resources. Should you decide that you're willing and able to make this commitment, we'll schedule a time and place to finalize the adoption. To optimize the transition for both you and the dog, we strongly advise that the adoption be done at such a time that allows for a responsible adult to be continuously available to your new dog for the first 72 hours.

- Our adoption fee is \$250. PAWS dogs are examined by a veterinarian, spayed or neutered, microchipped, licensed, vaccinated as recommended by our veterinarian, heartworm tested, and on monthly heartworm and seasonal flea & tick preventatives. The average cost of these services at a veterinary clinic in the Midwest is over \$450.

### **Return and Adoption Fee Refund Information**

- Our goal is to make every adoption a permanent one that is fulfilling for both you and your dog. We make every effort to ensure an adoption is a great match between the dog and adopter.
- Should circumstances arise whereby you feel that your only option is to surrender your dog, PAWS will do its best to assist you in finding your dog a new home. We require that you contact PAWS before giving away, transferring ownership, or surrendering your dog. PAWS retains the option to reacquire your dog if we determine we have the resources to adequately care for, rehabilitate if necessary, and find your dog a new permanent home. If we are able to take your dog in, please understand that it may take several weeks before we can take possession as time may be needed to secure an appropriate volunteer foster home. We will advise you on how to manage any issues short-term in order to keep your dog, humans, other pets, and property safe during this period. Should you be unable to continue to care for your dog in your home, you may choose to board your dog at a reputable boarding or veterinary facility at your expense until a foster home can be secured. If PAWS does not have the resources to adequately care for your dog, we will do our best to assist you in finding an appropriate alternative.
- If you have made every reasonable effort to find a way to keep your dog, PAWS' Board of Directors will consider your request to receive a partial refund of up to 50% of the adoption fee if your request is made between 3 and 8 weeks of adoption. PAWS will not reimburse any expenses you incurred after accepting legal guardianship of your dog upon signing our Adoption Contract. Please submit your request via email or postal service, thoroughly detailing the circumstances and steps taken in an attempt to remedy the situation. You will be notified of the Board's decision via email or postal service within 4 weeks.

### **Should I choose to adopt a dog from PAWS...**

- I will affirm to the best of my ability to commit to being the dog's caretaker, leader, and legal guardian for its lifetime. I will be responsible for all aspects of my dog's life, which include providing appropriate nutrition, indoor shelter, healthcare, exercise, training, socialization, enrichment, affection, supervision, and control.

- I will agree to make an appointment with a licensed veterinarian within 30 days of adoption for an introductory meeting, and give them my dog's previous vet records provided by PAWS at time of adoption. I also will agree to get a prescription for monthly heartworm preventative to be given year-round, and will give my dog flea & tick preventative seasonally. I understand wellness checks should be done annually and vaccinations need to be kept up to date.
- I recognize that the joy and benefits of having a canine companion are optimized when a dog's guardian invests sufficient time, energy, and resources, particularly in the first days, weeks, and months.
- I acknowledge that dogs are a species separate from humans with different means of communication, though like us, are capable of experiencing and expressing a range of emotions and behaviors like calmness, happiness, and joy, as well as over-excitement, anxiety, insecurity, fear, and aggression. I understand dogs may express unwanted and potentially dangerous behaviors that may need to be safely and respectfully addressed and/or managed.
- I recognize that there is potential risk and liability in serving as a dog's guardian, and understand that dogs can be destructive to property, and can cause injury and even death to other animals, including humans.
- I am aware that every dog has the potential to bite, and that statistically, children under 12 years of age are most at risk. I understand that close adult supervision is always necessary when dogs and children are in each other's presence.
- I understand that a dog's guardian is ethically and legally responsible for their dog's actions.
- I recognize that dogs are highly social animals that require daily focused attention, exercise, and training. I accept that one may need to further develop their canine training skills and knowledge of canine body language and behavior management through books, videos, training classes, and consultation with a professional canine behaviorist who utilizes positive reinforcement techniques.
- I agree that a dog's guardian should make every reasonable effort to resolve any issue that would prevent them from keeping their dog and providing it a good quality of life.

By signing my full name below, I affirm that all of the information I have provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and that I agree to all of the conditions and responsibilities described in this document should I choose to adopt a dog from Powell Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_