

Humane Society of El Paso Animal Adoption Contract

VETERINARY CARE AND HEALTH DISCLAIMER

I understand that the HSEP highly recommends that any pet(s) that I currently own be fully vaccinated prior to taking home a new pet. The HSEP and its employees cannot assure the health, age, breed, size or temperament of the animal being adopted.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ANIMAL MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR WHICH SYMPTOMS ARE NOT APPARENT OR DETECTABLE AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION. I AM ASSUMING FULL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY AND ALL POSSIBLE HEALTH CONDITIONS, EXISTING OR ACQUIRED.

The stress of adjusting to a new home and family may bring on illnesses within an animal that were not symptomatic or detectable prior to adoption. Diarrhea and coughing, or hacking, are common symptoms that may develop in the first few days in a new home, though other symptoms may develop, as well. These symptoms may be due to change of diet, change of routine or a weakened immune system brought on by the stress.

The HSEP recommends that the adopted animal be examined by a private veterinarian within 2 weeks of adoption.

The most common *serious* infectious diseases that a dog from a shelter may be harboring are parvo and distemper. The most serious infectious diseases for a cat are feline leukemia and feline aids. None of these diseases are zoonotic, or transferable to humans. A reasonable incubation period for most illnesses is 2 weeks. Because of this incubation period and the seriousness of parvo, distemper, feline leukemia and feline aids, **if the adopted dog is diagnosed by a veterinarian with parvo or distemper within 2 weeks of the adoption date, or if the adopted cat is diagnosed by a veterinarian with feline leukemia or feline aids within 2 weeks of adoption date, I may return the pet to the HSEP, no later than _____, and receive a waiver of the Impound Fee in effect and a refund of the adoption fee paid.** I will also be relinquishing ownership and all rights to the pet, as by Texas State Law (Vernon's Code 828.012), shelter veterinarians cannot treat an animal that is known to be owned. **The HSEP will not provide reimbursement for any veterinarian expenses for adopted pet or for any household pets or pets that my adopted pet may come into contact with. If my adopted cat or dog had boosters that were due but were not received, health disclaimer will be void.**

Adopter's Initials _____

RETURN POLICY

I understand that it requires a commitment of time, resources and patience in adopting a new pet into my household. It may take anywhere from 1-3 months, or more, to integrate my new pet into my family and for my new pet to understand our rules and routine. The HSEP Adoption Counselors may be able to provide consultation and support in this transition, but it is ultimately my responsibility to help my new pet adjust and adapt to its new home.

If after taking my new pet home, I believe that it is not a good fit for my family, I understand that I may be able to return the pet to the HSEP via our surrender services at hselpaso.org. **HSEP will not schedule any returns of adopted animals during the first week after adoption. After that, the ability for HSEP to take in the return of a recently adopted animal will depend on a number of factors, including:** any COVID-19 directives that are required to be followed at the time, the time elapsed since adoption, kennel space, the availability of staff to process the return and any other unforeseen issues that may arise. **I will be required to pay the return or impound fee that is in effect at the time.**

Adopter's Initials _____

STERILIZATION

A PRE-SURGICAL EXAM BY A VETERINARIAN IS DONE WHEN THE HSEP IS PERFORMING THE STERILIZATION SURGERY. The sole purpose of the pre-surgical exam is to determine the animal's suitability to undergo sterilization surgery. The pre-surgical exam is not meant to convey any guarantee of health status of the animal. **UNDETECTED AND PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS MAY EXIST AND THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF EL PASO AND THE EXAMINING VETERINARIAN EXPLICITLY DENY ANY ASSURANCE REGARDING THE HEALTH OF THE ANIMAL.**

Adopter's Initials _____

MICROCHIP REGISTRY

My adopted pet has been microchipped and the information has been registered with FoundAnimals.org and with the City of El Paso Animal Services Department. The microchip may have also been registered with the microchip manufacturer, and if so, that information will be provided to me separately. I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that all microchip registration information is accurate. It may take 2-3 days after adoption for my information to be transferred to the microchip registries. I understand that it is my responsibility to check with each registry to ensure that they have uploaded my pet's microchip information into their databases. Further, I am aware of the importance of ensuring that my pet wear identification at all times, so that if he or she gets lost we can be reunited, and of the importance of updating any of my contact information with the microchip registries, should it change.

Adopter's Initials _____

CARE AGREEMENT

I understand that the HSEP cannot guarantee the behavior or temperament of any animal. I understand that this could mean that I may have to get professional assistance, at my own expense, which could include professional training or medical treatments.

The HSEP cannot guarantee the size of my new pet (how big he/she may become) if I adopt a puppy or kitten. I am willing to assume responsibility and take care of the animal no matter how large he/she may become.

I understand the commitment of having a pet, and I will be able to provide the time and finances (which could be anywhere from \$500 to over \$1000 a year) required for proper care, including training and medical care, for the lifetime of the pet.

I can afford and will take my adopted pet to a veterinarian for medical care at my expense.

I was informed of the 30 day free trial pet insurance offer, and I must activate it within 24 hours of the adopted animal being examined by a personal veterinarian.

Adopter's initials _____

LEGAL AGREEMENT

I hereby release, and agree to hold harmless, the HSEP, and its officers, directors, employees, agents, insurers and attorneys from and against any and all claims, demands, damages, actions, causes of action, costs, losses and expenses arising from, related to or in connection with the pet, as well as my breach of any provision set forth herein or in an agreement signed by me in connection with the adoption of the pet. The release and indemnity set forth herein shall be binding on my heirs, representatives, successors and assigns.

I have read, understand and accept the above terms for this adoption. I understand that by voluntarily signing this agreement, I am entering into a legal and binding contract with the Humane Society of El Paso. Breach of this contract could result in me being unable to adopt from the HSEP.

Printed Name

Date

Signature

FOR HUMANE SOCIETY STAFF ONLY

Animal Code Number (Name): _____

Staff Name: _____