# *ARF ADOPTION APPLICATION - (CANINE)*

Thanks for applying to adopt a dog through ARF! This application will walk you through our adoption process. Pet ownership is a serious and long-term responsibility. Dogs have an average lifespan of 10 to 15 years and some live much longer than that. The policy of the Animal Rescue Foundation of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. (ARF) is to ensure that each person who adopts a pet not only be aware of the commitment but be capable of and willing to accept that responsibility - morally, physically and financially. It is quite true that not every person who desires a pet should own one. The application process is not meant to judge or intend to have an applicant have to prove how fit of a home they are, rather it’s ARF’s way of trying to match adoptable dogs with an adoptive home that’s the best fit for the pet. If all applicants are just as good a fit for a pet, then ARF volunteers will defer to the application that came to us first.

Interested adopters must either own their home (and show proof of home ownership, either through a mortgage stub or tax records) – or – rent and have permission in writing from their landlord (either in a lease or separate note). Applicants will meet the dog at a foster home or outreach event. If that visit goes well, ARF volunteers will set up a second appointment to process the adoption. ARF volunteers will also conduct a brief mandatory home visit prior to adoption, either as a separate visit or part of one of the first appointments. This brief visit should take only a few minutes – ARF just wants to physically see where our rescued dogs will be living.

All household members must meet and/or be aware of the pet prior to the adoption. ARF does not do same-day adoptions, as we want to ensure that adopters are not making an “impulse” decision. By requiring two separate appointments, this also ensures that the adopter is given the appropriate time to prepare for the companion pet that is about to enter their home (i.e. purchase leash, collar, crate, toys, food, etc.).

ARF’s adoption donation for each dog over the age of 6 months is $175. The adoption donation for puppies is $250. Adoption donations may be waived or reduced for ARF’s “Lucy’s Senior Pet Adoption Program” or for dogs with special needs as determined by ARF. The adoption donation is for the animal only, not as a down payment towards vet care or the spay/neuter, etc. Adoption donations help offset some of ARF’s veterinary and adoption promotion costs, which run well more than $175 per rescued dog. Each dog adopted from ARF SEPA has been examined by a veterinarian, vaccinated and has been spay/neutered if old enough. Puppies adopted prior to 6 months of age have not been neutered, and adopters can get the dog spay/neutered at their own veterinarian at their own expense.

All dogs must be kept indoors and given appropriate access to a yard and/or leashed walked for appropriate exercise. Some breeds or specific dogs may require adopters to have fenced-in yards. Adopters must also agree to yearly veterinary exams, vaccinations and continual care of their pet. ARF SEPA will follow-up with adopters after adoption to ensure that adopted pets are thriving. ARF SEPA reserves the right to remove any adopted pet at any time if ARF SEPA feels the adopted pet is not being cared for properly, is being neglected or is in harm’s way for any reason.

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS PAGE FOR YOUR REFERENCE AND SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING PAGES AS YOUR OFFICIAL APPLICATION TO ARF SEPA.

The following questionnaire has been designed to aid both you and ARF SEPA in deciding if you and your family are adequately prepared to assume the type of responsible ownership which we are endeavoring to ensure for our adoptive animals and to find the best possible match between the potential adopter and the animal.

Completion of this form does not constitute an agreement to adopt. ARF SEPA, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to decline any adoption. Thank you for thinking rescue first.

# ADOPTION APPLICATION - (CANINE)

**Today’s Date (MM/DD/YY): Best time to contact:**

**Name:**

**Street Address:**

**City / State / Zip:**

**Home Telephone: Cell: Business:**

**E-mail address:**

How did you hear about ARF SEPA? (check all that apply)

**Outreach event (location)**

**Newspaper (name of paper)**

**Just browsing on Petfinder.com**

**Flyer at vet’s office (name of vet)**

**Flyer in community (location)**

**Referral from friend (name)**

**Name of dog(s) you are interested in meeting / why:**

**I’m adopting for: (check)**

 **Myself the children gift breeding other(list)**

**How long have you lived at your current address?**

**Type of dwelling:**

 **House Apt(rent) Condo(own) Mobile home other**

**Do you own or rent?**

 **If you rent, please provide landlord’s name/phone number:**

**The dog will be an (check): indoor dog indoor/outdoor dog outdoor dog**

**Where will the dog spend its days (check all that apply):**

 **Indoors outdoors**

 **crated basement garage kitchen anywhere**

**Where will the dog spend its nights? (check all that apply)**

 **Indoors outdoors**

 **crated basement garage kitchen bedroom anywhere**

**How many hours per day will the dog be alone?**

**Do you have a fenced-in yard? (check) yes no \*(electric fence is a “yes”)**

**How many adults live in the household?**

**How many children live in the household? (list ages)**

**Who will be responsible for the care of the dog?**

**Have you previously owned a dog? Yes no**

**If so, when did you have the dog(s) and what happened to the dog(s)? (check)**

 **Still have gave away sold strayed off stolen died (how and when)**

 **Other (please explain)**

**Did your previous dog(s) have any behavioral or health issues? No Yes (please list)**

**What other animals do you presently own? (please list name, ages, breeds)**

 **Dogs:**

 **Cats:**

 **Other:**

**Are your current pets spay/neutered? Yes No (if not, please state why)**

**Are your pets current on vaccinations? Yes No (if not, please state why)**

**Who is your veterinarian? (name and contact info if available)**

**How will you introduce your new pet to your existing pet(s)?**

**Under what circumstances would you not keep the dog? (check)**

 **Divorce new baby new job illness never other (list)**

**All dogs need training… how do you intend to handle training issues?**

 **If this method does not work, what do you intend to do at that point?**

 **What do you feel is the best way to discipline a dog?**

**What would you do with the dog if you had to move?**

**Does anyone in your family have known allergies to dogs? Yes No**

**Are you aware that it could cost $350-$400 or more to care for a dog? Yes No**

**If you decide not to keep the dog, please contact ARF first and do not bring the dog to an SPCA or other facility unless instructed to do so in writing by ARF. If for any reason you are unable to keep this dog, do you agree to contact ARF first?**

***Please sign and date this application. Please keep page 1 for your reference and please return pages 2-4 to ARF, as instructed to do so via email, fax or in person to an ARF volunteer. (Please note that email is preferred)***

***Please note that adoption decisions are based solely on what is deemed by ARF to be best adoptive situation for our rescued pets. In the case where there are two interested parties in the same pet, ARF SEPA will make a decision based on the pet’s needs and personality traits. In the case where two interested parties are equally qualified to adopt and are equally as good a fit for the pet, the inquiry or application received first will be the approved applicant. After we receive your application, an ARF adoption counselor will contact you (preferably via email). Please email ARF at*** ***info@arfsepa.com*** ***with any questions/comments, etc. that you may have.***

***Thank you for applying, and please continue to think rescue first!***

 *Name/Signature Date*