

# *The Humane Society of Somerset County*

P O Box 182, Somerset PA 15501

814-443-2121

[www.somersetpets.com](http://www.somersetpets.com)

## **Adoption Process**

A successful adoption consists of finding a good home for our animals and a good match for you. In order for this to happen please be prepared to work with us completing the following steps:

- You will need to complete an application; we will process your application. Please allow us 48 hours (may be longer if over a weekend or holiday) to do that as we will contact your references as well as your current veterinarian. Be aware that completing an application does not guarantee you will be approved for the animal you have chosen. It is not uncommon for us to receive several applications for the same animal.
- Upon turning in the application, if you have not already met the animal, a meet and greet with the animal will be required prior to final approval of an adoption.
- Many of the animals in our care have suffered a traumatic past and have been poorly cared for and neglected before coming to the shelter, so we need to be assured they will be going to a safe and loving environment. Because of this, we may access public records of potential adopters that may include a criminal background check and do a home visit.
- Potential adopters must provide good medical care for the animals so we will expect that any current animals in your home are up to date on all required vaccines. If you obtain your animal's rabies vaccine at a clinic, be prepared to provide record of this. All participants of rabies clinics are provided with this documentation. If for some reason your current animal(s) cannot receive vaccinations, submit a verification letter from your veterinarian. Any current dogs in your home must have current licenses.
- If old enough, all cats and dogs will be spayed or neutered prior to leaving the shelter to go to their adoptive home. A spay/neuter contract will need to be signed for kittens and puppies that are not old enough to be spayed or neutered prior to leaving the shelter.
- If you already have animals, we may ask you to bring them to the shelter to meet the animal you want to adopt. The same is suggested for children in the home. ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEASHES WHEN ON SHELTER PROPERTY.

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## **ADOPTION CONTRACT**

The primary goal of the Humane Society of Somerset County is to find good homes for animals. To that end, the following adoption requirements have been established:

1. Animals will be placed only with adults 21 years of age or older.
2. Adopted animals will not be used for experimental purposes, for breeding purposes, as guard dogs or any other illegal activity.
3. A meet and greet with the animal to be adopted must be done prior to final adoption approval.
4. Mandatory Spay/Neuter PA Law requires all animals adopted from a shelter to be sterilized.
5. Permission of a landlord is required for persons living in any type of rental situation.
6. No animal will be adopted by persons with known history of abuse or neglect of human or animal, a conviction of cruelty to animals or those who have made unnecessary repeated returns of animals to the shelter.
7. We reserve the right to a pre and post adoption visit and owner permission for any investigator or agent of the Humane Society to immediately remove the animal(s) from the owner's premises if any conditions of the agreement are violated. This shall not constitute a trespass and the animal(s) will be surrendered to the Humane Society by the owner.
8. All adopted animals may be examined by a licensed veterinarian within 3 working days of the adoption. The examination is free. (Medicine is not)
9. We are not responsible for medical expenses after an animal leaves the shelter.
10. We have the right to approve or deny an adoption for any reason at any time.
11. All adopters of dogs three months or older must buy a dog license the day of the adoption.
12. Indoor housing is required for all dogs and cats unless permission is granted for special circumstance.
13. All animals must have access to water, light (no dark basements, sheds or barns), sanitary conditions and humane treatment. Animals may not be crated for extended periods of time or tethered outside.
14. ALL ADOPTED ANIMALS, IF NOT WANTED, MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SHELTER—NOT GIVEN AWAY! Failure to do so may result in prosecution and fines.
15. There will be no refund of adoption fees unless a congenital defect has been found by the veterinarian during the required examination three days after adoption from the shelter.
16. There will be a charge for the return of an adopted animal of \$20.00 after seven days.

I have read and understand the terms of the ADOPTION CONTRACT and signify my agreement and acceptance of these terms by inscribing my name and signature below.

AGREED TO:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Adopter)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Adopter)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone Numbers)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Humane Society Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved/Denied on: \_\_\_\_\_ (Office Use)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Humane Society of Somerset County**  
P O Box 182, 204 Whitetail Road, Somerset PA 15501  
(814) 443-2121 or [www.somersetpets.com](http://www.somersetpets.com)

Office Use:  
Control #:

**Applicant(s) Interested In:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Type of Animal and Prospective Pet's Name) (Sex: M or F)

**Applicant(s) Information:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name(s)) (Date of Birth)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State, Zip Code)

**Phone Numbers:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Home) (Work) (Mobile)

**E-Mail Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Employment Information:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Address of Employer) (Employer Phone Number)

**Housing:**

Own:  Rent:  Years at Present Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Housing:

- House:
- Apartment:
- Mobile Home:
- Duplex:

Landlord Information: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name and Phone Number)

Office Use: Landlord Verification: Approve: \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove: \_\_\_\_\_

(Notes): \_\_\_\_\_

**List of Person(s) Living in Household Other Than Applicant:**

First Name	Last Name	Age	Relationship
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Person 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Person 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Person 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Person 4: \_\_\_\_\_

If additional room needed, please attach sheet.

**Other Pets in the Home:**

Name	Age	Dog, Cat, Other	Is Pet Spayed/Neutered	Up to Date on Vaccines	Current on License
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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Veterinarian:**

(Name)

(Address)

(Phone #)

(Years)

**Additional Information:**

What is the longest period the pet will be left alone? \_\_\_\_\_

Where will the pet be kept when alone? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a fenced in yard? Yes  No

Do you agree to keep the pet inside unless special circumstances are approved? Yes  No

Where will the pet spend days? \_\_\_\_\_

Where will the pet spend nights? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you adopted an animal from any Humane Society? Yes  No  Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you or anyone in your household have pet allergies? Yes  No

Does everyone in your household want a pet? Yes  No

Have you had pets in the past? Yes  No

Are you willing to spend the necessary time to housetrain? Yes  No

Would you agree to pre and post adoption home visits? Yes  No

Do you understand that adopting a pet is a life long commitment and should be discussed with all members of the household? Yes  No

Do you understand the animal may not be given away or sold and if you must part with the animal, it must be returned to the Humane Society of Somerset County? Yes  No

Have you or anyone in your household ever been cited by a Humane Officer or Dog Law Officer? Yes  No  If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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Are you aware of state laws pertaining to pet licensing and vaccinating? Yes  No

Do you understand the PA Libre's Law House Bill 1238 (Tethering of unattended dog)? Yes  No

Do you understand that by State Law any dog or cat adopted from a Humane Society must be spayed or neutered and documentation provided to the shelter? Yes  No

**PA Libre's Law House Bill 1238 (Tethering of Unattended Dog):**

This law includes such items as the following (is not inclusive):

A leash must be three times the length of the pet or 10 feet, whichever is longer

No tow or logged chain or pinch, choke, or prong collars used with a tether

A well-fitted collar and no open sores or wounds on the dog's body

The lead must be on a swivel and ideally a lead that has a coated cover to avoid getting tangled

The area where the pet is kept must be kept clear of excessive feces with access to drinkable water and shade

**Pennsylvania "Dog Law", Article IX-A, (STERILIZATION OF DOGS AND CATS), Sect. 902-A:**

No dog or cat may be adopted by a new owner from a releasing agency unless the animal has been sterilized by a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine or unless the new owner signs an agreement to have the animal sterilized by or under the supervision of a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine and deposits funds with the releasing agency to ensure that the adopted animal will be sterilized. The amount of the deposit required shall be determined by each releasing agency. In no event shall the required deposit be less than \$30 for a dog or \$20 for a cat.

**PA Libre's Law House Bill 1238 (Tethering of Unattended Dog) and Pennsylvania "Dog Law", Article IX-A, (STERILIZATION OF DOGS AND CATS), Sect. 902-A acknowledged by:**

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(Applicant Signature)

(Date)

**Returning Pets:**

I understand that I must return the pet to the shelter if the adoption does not work out or I am no longer able to keep the pet. Adoption costs and fees are nonrefundable.

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(Applicant Signature)

(Date)

**References:** Please list at least two personal references not related to you

First Name	Last Name	Address	Phone Number
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**Person 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Person 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Use Only:**

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

By signing below, I hereby certify that the information I have provided is accurate. I acknowledge that I am taking ownership of this animal as of the date of adoption and accept personal responsibility for the animal and its actions. I release, waive, discharge and covenant not to make claims against or sue the Humane Society of Somerset County, its administrators, directors, agent and employees of the organization for any demands, losses or damages on account of injury to myself or other persons (including death or damage to property) cause or alleged to be caused in whole or part by the animal I am adopting. I affirm that I am 21 years of age or older. If the animal is lost or if the animal has died, I agree to notify the Humane Society of Somerset County immediately. I hereby give permission to contact any names on this application including my veterinarian.

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(Adopter Signature)

(Date)

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(HSSC Signature)

(Date)

Please be aware that simply filling out an application for a specific animal does not guarantee that you will be approved to adopt that animal. We get multiple applications on each animal. It may take up to 48 hours for your application to be processed. We cannot verify veterinarian information over the weekend or holidays. These will be processed on the next business day.

A meet and greet with the animal must be done prior to final approval of an adoption.