



Tazewell Animal Rescue Coalition

276.979.6430

www.tazewellarc.org

rescue@tazewellarc.org

ADOPTION POLICIES

If you have considered adopting one of our ARC rescued animals, we thank you so much for your compassion and generosity. Rescued animals make the best family members—their love is unconditional.

There are things we think you should know up front, though. First, our adoption fees are \$200 for dogs, \$100 for cats. Why so much? Because by the time you take your new family member home, it will have received comprehensive veterinary care, vaccinations, and will be sterilized as required by Virginia State Law 3.2-6574. These procedures are not free. Anyone who has ever taken an animal to the vet can tell you that \$200 does not even begin to cover what we actually spent on your animal.

Also, please keep in mind that adoption through a rescue is not an instant process. Many laws exist that you may not be aware of, and we try to abide by all of them. The application is lengthy and asks questions that might startle you. There are very few "wrong" answers, but the questions are there to identify and help us solve any issues you might encounter before they become problems. Part of the process is a home visit and a series of background checks, both criminal and personal. We do call references and ask a lot of nosy questions. But we do this for every application and document our findings according to Virginia Department of Agriculture specifications.

Most importantly, even though you might be the very best animal owner on the planet, people do exist who deserve a pet to love, but who need a bit of help with the learning curve. We NEVER want to see one of our furbabies back in a shelter needing rescue all over again. So our applications are designed to provoke thought and encourage discussion. We WANT you to ask us about any questions you struggle with. And we want you to understand that by adopting a Tazewell ARC animal, you will have ongoing support and a network of connections to help you work through any issues that arise.



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ADOPTION APPLICATION

rescue: (verb), to free or deliver from confinement, violence, danger, or evil.

The very definition of “rescue” should tip us off that rescued animals come with baggage. For this reason, adoption through a rescue is a process, and it’s a commitment. Rescued animals are typically the most loving and devoted companions you’ll ever have, because they know firsthand what it’s like to experience loss and fear and they will do anything to not go through it again.

Some rescued animals have been viciously abused. Others were neglected with improper care and poor socialization. Many, however, have just been dumped like trash. Anyone who doesn’t believe this sort of thing traumatizes an animal has obviously never dealt with the aftermath of such a callous action.

Animals who find themselves in need of rescue might have been the perfect companion at one time—housetrained, docile, trusting, and happy. By the time you get them, they’ll likely have issues in one or more of these areas. Impeccably housebroken dogs will begin to mark and have accidents. Docile, laid-back dogs will suddenly start guarding the food bowl, because starvation is not easy to forget. Trusting animals might start looking upon humans with fear, because now they know just how badly we can let them down. When adopting or fostering a rescued animal, expect to be involved in some rehabilitation. In almost every case, love and patience, along with proper retraining, are all that’s required to work through these issues.

By reading and signing this document, applicants agree to the following:

- To accept and consider the animal as a household companion, not as a yard dog on a chain, and to provide him/her with humane care and treatment, including proper food, water, shelter and exercise, and to give him/her a reasonable amount of time to adjust to new surroundings.
- To provide emergency medical/veterinary care when needed.
- To safeguard the animal from loss or mishap. This means not allowing the animal to run free on a non-fenced lot.
- To immediately contact Animal Control if the animal is lost and make every reasonable effort to recover the animal.
- **NOT** to give or sell the animal to another person, relative, rescue group, humane association, shelter or pound, or any medical or experimental laboratory or similar organization.
- **NOT** to make cosmetic alterations to the animal's appearance, like cropping ears or docking tails.
- To immediately notify Tazewell ARC in the event of death.
- To allow Tazewell ARC to make periodic visits for as often as we deem necessary.
- To immediately notify Tazewell ARC of any change of address or telephone number, or of any plans to move.
- Adopter understands that the animal has been age-appropriately checked and vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian and that his/her state of health is accurately represented to the best of Tazewell ARC's knowledge.
- Adopter agrees to take in this animal at their own risk, and to be solely responsible for any damages to people or property caused by the animal. They further promise and agree to indemnify and release Tazewell ARC, its Officers and Directors, of any and all liability arising from any known, unknown, or any unanticipated damages to people or property caused by the animal. Adopters are fully aware of, understand, and agree to all the terms and conditions of this RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION PROVISION, and that it is BINDING AND ENFORCEABLE BY LAW.

Adopter must read and fully understand the terms and conditions of this agreement, agree that it is not arbitrary and that the provisions herein are common in pet adoption agreements.

Adopter further understands that if they fail to comply with any of the terms specified herein, Tazewell ARC has the right to reclaim the animal and to pursue any legal channels in doing so.

Application

Your signature on this form certifies that the information here is true & accurate to the best of your knowledge & that you understand that the completion of this form in no way obligates Tazewell ARC to adopt an animal to you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of birth: _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Marital Status: _____

Co-applicant name: _____

Number of adults in household: _____

Number of children in household: _____

Please list ages of all children in the household: _____

Please provide three personal reference contacts, only one of which can be family. These references must be able to answer questions about your previous animals and how you cared for them.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

How long known: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

How long known: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

How long known: _____

What is your place of employment? (Name of company, address, and telephone #)

How long have you worked there? How many hours a day do you expect your animal(s) to be alone?

Where will the dog primarily be kept when you are not at home? (i.e. at work all day):

At home.

Please provide us with your veterinarian's information (Name, Telephone, and Address)

Type of Residence:

If you rent or lease have you obtained permission from your landlord/leasing agent to have an animal: _____

Please provide the name and phone number of your landlord/leasing agent:

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Please explain any pet policies currently in effect. (i.e. any covenants, restrictions, pet deposits, etc): _____

How long have you lived at your current address: _____

Are you planning to move in the near future: _____

If yes please list future location: _____

Do you have a fenced-in yard? _____

What type of fence do you have? _____

If no fence, how do you plan to contain the animal? _____

Have you ever owned a dog before? _____

If yes, please provide a brief history of your dog ownership and what happened to the dog if you no longer have him/her: _____

Have you ever taken a pet to a shelter? A rescue? Had to re-home? Please explain the circumstances.

Why do you want to adopt?: _____

Have you ever adopted a dog from a rescue group or animal shelter before: _____

If yes, please provide the name(s) of the rescue(s): _____

What do you think will be the biggest challenge associated with adjusting to life with a rescue dog: _____

Are there any specific traits you are looking for in an adoptive dog:

Please describe any specific traits you are NOT looking for in an adoptive dog:

Under what circumstances would you would give up a dog? Please consider this question very carefully. We are not looking for the “perfect” answer, we are trying to determine what your personal limits might be and if there are ways we can help: _____

Please explain how you feel about the interaction between young children and dogs. What do you consider to be a safe age of a child to be left alone with a dog: _____

Please explain your views on crate training your dog: _____

Have you researched local trainers in your area that you would consider using for behavioral modification of your dog if needed? Please explain: _____

Is anyone in your household allergic to pets?

Where will the dog sleep at night? (i.e. crate, outside, inside, in your bed, etc)?

What type of exercise do you plan to give this dog? _____

Is the entire family living in the household agreeable to adopting a rescue dog?

If no, please explain: _____

Who will have primary responsibility for the care of this dog?

Do you have any cats?

If yes, how do you plan to introduce the dog to the cat? Is your decision to keep your dog contingent on him/her getting along with the cat?

Are you or your spouse currently on active duty in the military: _____

If yes, do you have a plan for the care of your dog if you were to get deployed?
Please explain: _____

Do you have a plan for your dog's care if you go on vacation or become ill?

In the following questions, please list all pets currently living in your household (you do not necessarily need to include pets such as fish or lizards, only pets that may be subject to interact with a dog, like a rabbit.):

Pet's Name	Breed	Sex	Age	Spayed/Neutered	Vaccines Current?	Preventatives Current?	How Long Owned?

If any of the above listed pets are not spayed/neutered please explain why:

If you currently own other pets, what was the approximate date of their last vet visit? _____

Please read the following statements and initial those you agree with:

_____ I understand that there will be an adoption fee for the dog, which will be used to partially offset the veterinary expenses incurred by Tazewell ARC.

_____ I understand that all rescue dogs are spayed or neutered before adoption. Or if you are interested in a puppy and it is too young to spayed or neutered, the adoption fee includes the cost to be spayed or neutered at Crab Orchard Veterinary Clinic. All dogs must be spayed within one month of adoption OR by 6 months of age. If you choose to spay or neuter your new puppy at your current veterinarian that is fine, however it will be at your expense and proof must be submitted to Tazewell ARC within said time limit and no refund will be made available of adoption fee. THIS POLICY IS VIRGINIA STATE LAW. (3.2-6574, 3.2-6575, 3.2-6576.)

_____ I am able to afford regular (at least annual) veterinary care and heartworm preventative for the dog, as well as emergency care, if needed.

_____ I understand that any inaccurate or incomplete information may/will delay the process and can be reason for refusal/denial to adopt.

_____ I understand that a rescue dog has already suffered the loss of at least one family. I will support Tazewell ARC's efforts in ensuring that the next home is a permanent one by allowing a Tazewell ARC representative to: interview me, discuss my current and previous pets and their care with my veterinarian, make a scheduled visit to my home to inspect fences and other areas where the dog will be kept.

_____ If I am adopting, I expect to spend approximately \$1000 each year, per pet. This would cover food, medical expenses, etc. I understand that Tazewell ARC representatives will check in with my veterinarian to be sure the animal has been seen and is doing well.

Is there any other information that you wish to call to our attention?

Signature: _____

Date: _____



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I, _____, hereby authorize Tazewell ARC to perform a complete and exhaustive background investigation using references I have provided, community and social networking, and an official criminal background check. By signing this document, I attest that I have never been convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment in the Commonwealth of Virginia or in any other state.

The investigation process might be waived in the event you are known to us personally or are employed in a field that requires background checks like law enforcement and children's education. Your signature is still required, however: Virginia State Law 3.2-6549 3B.

Name

Date



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I, _____, understand that I am not to sell or transfer ownership of any animal adopted from Tazewell ARC. It has been explained to me that Tazewell ARC is a supportive resource to me for the life of my new companion and will always welcome the animal back into the program if things don't work out or if my personal circumstances change. I expect Tazewell ARC to try and help me find solutions to any problems encountered with the care or training of this animal, and that Tazewell ARC has the right to seize said animal if I am found in violation of any animal statues or codes regarding the humane care and containment of this animal.

Name

Date