



[www.gardonline.org](http://www.gardonline.org)

Georgia Animal Rescue and Defence, Inc. (GARD)

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## **GARD Adoption Guidelines**

Thank you for your kind generosity in considering a GARD rescue shelter animal! It will take time and energy to nurture your new pet. In order to assist you in insuring its safety and well being, we urge you to review the following information.

Please give your new dog/cat a week or two to settle into your home. Particular care should be exercised when letting the animal out. A newly relocated animal has no sense of home and should be kept on a leash or in a fenced-in area until this process has taken place (usually a few weeks at best). Do remember that your new pet has been, until recently, living in a kennel so home life constitutes a major adjustment on his/her part. It may not sleep through the night at first and may or may not be housetrained. Other adjustment issues may present themselves if your home already has other pets. In our experience, time, love and patience will overcome most issues that arise.

By submitting an adoption application, you consent to the following if approved for adoption:

### **Terms of Adoption**

1. I agree to provide proper food, water, shelter, and kind treatment at all times.
2. I agree to take the animal to a veterinarian for examination and immunizations as needed or required by law, and to procure immediate veterinary care at my own expense should the animal become ill or injured.
3. I agree that the animal shall not be bred and to have this animal sterilized as required by OCGS 4-14-3 within 30 days of the maturity of the animal, and to provide proof thereof. Failure to do so is a violation of the law.
4. I agree to license the animal in compliance with the current laws and ordinances of my home jurisdiction.
5. I will register the animal within 30 days of this adoption if age permits.
6. I agree to notify the organization if I decide that I can no longer keep or provide adequate care for the animal.
7. I agree that the animal will not be used for medical or experimental purposes.
8. I have read this section and understand and accept the rights and obligations herein. I understand that the organization cannot guarantee the health, temperament, or training of the animal and agree to release and forever quitclaim the organization and all personnel from any liability whatsoever.
9. Remedy for noncompliance: I agree that if I do not comply with the terms of this agreement and the code/section previously cited, the organization may demand and I shall return the above described animal.
10. I understand that the adoption donation is non-refundable, but that I may return the animal to GARD at any time if the animal proves to be unsuitable.



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11. I understand that a check fee of \$25, along with the original adoption fee, will be collected for returned checks. I will also be responsible for any and all costs derived from collection of said checks.

### **Some Important Points to Consider before Adopting a Rescue Animal**

Adoption of a rescued pet incurs some specific and sometimes weighty commitments and responsibilities. Taking on a rescued animal is more of a charitable endeavor, a sort of anthropomorphized form of philanthropy if you will and understanding exactly what it is that we do (or do not do) will give you a better insight into what adoption may entail. Georgia Animal Rescue and Defence, Inc. is a rescue organization in the truest sense. We do not hand pick select pets to make a showy offering of placing them in homes. In keeping with our overall philosophy that all animals deserve and require love and humane treatment, we operate a down-and-dirty, grassroots rescue effort, sometimes pulling puppies from dumpsters or literally digging them out of fox holes in order to secure for them a better life, a life worth living. This effort also includes rescuing numerous animals from their anticipated fate at the Animal Control shelters, euthanasia. To date, none of the local shelters have a no-kill policy and for any animal that finds itself unfortunate enough to be placed there, the clock is ticking, they are on death row. These are primarily the animals that we strive to salvage and save, the exceptions being aggressive, vicious animals or those that are so ill that medical intervention would be impossible or highly impractical.

That said, this is what you might expect when securing a rescue animal from GARD; we make every effort to socialize animals as time and circumstances allow. Some of our placements are discarded or unwanted house pets or breeder animals that require little other than some basic nurturing to help them overcome their recent episode of homelessness. Others have been traumatized, abused and neglected and require much more intervention, we sometimes keep them for weeks or months, working with them to overcome their problems. The greatest majority of animals respond more than favorably to rehabilitation and recuperation and we have had many, many success stories. We have received numerous calls, letters and emails from folks who have had the fulfilling experience of rescuing an animal from an undeserved fate and were rewarded with an exceptionally loving and devoted companion. This is the scenario that we seek to achieve with all of our rescues.

Given a lot of rescued animals' past history of neglect, one could expect some medical issues to present themselves. Once again, we diligently seek to weed out and treat health problems as they evidence themselves and no known sick animal is placed with an individual who is unaware of their condition (we have placed animals with long-term medical issues in homes with people who have opted to take on this burden and provide them with special care for the rest of their lives). We make every effort to identify potential problems and to treat animals as finances allow but we are not only a rescue group in the strictest sense but also equally non-profit. Nobody here gets paid. We spend hundreds of unpaid hours (on the road, cleaning and feeding at shelters and working with fostered pets at home and elsewhere) and thousands of dollars from limited and dwindling resources to do the best for these unwanted pets but we cannot do it alone and need your help. We provide every animal



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with initial vaccinations and worming as well as hold them for observation to help identify and treat any issues that may be present but it is financially impossible for us to provide each individual with extensive veterinary testing and screening in return for a requested charitable contribution to our efforts. When you adopt a rescued pet, you are assuming responsibility for a lifetime of care as we have personally done with scores of rescued animals over the years. In the unlikely event that an animal has previously undetected problems that require heroic efforts, we offer you the option to return the animal to us for appropriate care and treatment. We do not offer you the option of euthanasia as a means of coping with an unexpected problem but will make every effort to make the best of the situation for everyone involved.

Obviously, this is not an endeavor for everyone nor one to be taken lightly and we urge you to give the matter careful, realistic consideration before any decision is made. If you do decide that your circumstances, ideals, and finances coincide with these realities of rescue, we will do our utmost to try to match you with a pet that is most suited to you and your lifestyle. We will also offer our heartfelt thanks for having done a wonderful thing on behalf of a less fortunate creature and our hope that you will be rewarded with the love and companionship that you deserve.