



SPCA New Leash on Life Foster Care Home Application

Name			
Street Address			
City, State & Zip Code			
Telephone (day)			
Telephone (evening)			
E-mail Address			
Are there any health restrictions that would prevent the proper care of an animal in your home?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
What size/weight dog would you be most comfortable having in your home?			
What size/weight dog would you not be comfortable having in your home?			
Are there any breeds you are not permitted to have in your home?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
		If yes, please specify.	
Describe experience with dogs.			
Number of adults living in home:	Men (ages):		Women (ages):
Number of children living in home:	Boys (ages):		Girls (ages):
What type of Dwelling do you live in:	<input type="checkbox"/> House	<input type="checkbox"/> Apartment	<input type="checkbox"/> Condominium
	<input type="checkbox"/> House-Trailer	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please elaborate:			
Do you own or rent?	<input type="checkbox"/> Own	<input type="checkbox"/> Rent	
How many stories is your home?			
If you rent, do you have the landlord's permission to keep a dog?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Provide landlord's name & phone #			
What types of flooring do you have in your home?			
Do you have a fenced-in yard?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, what type of fence:		<input type="checkbox"/> Chain link	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
		If other, please describe:	
How high is the fence?			

How large is the fenced-in yard?		
If your yard is not fenced in, how do you plan to insure the dog receives safe and adequate exercise and elimination?		
Where will you keep the dog when you are home?		
Where will you keep the dog when you are not home?		
How many hours will the dog be left alone?	During the Day?	At Night?
Are you familiar with crate training?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If necessary, do you have a crate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	If Yes, what size?	
If dog cannot be crated, is there a medium-sized room in which the dog can be confined?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Where will the dog sleep?		
Foster dogs are to be kept primarily indoors. Is that a problem for you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you presently own any pets?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	If yes, what kind?	
Are they spayed /neutered?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If not altered, why not?		
Please give breed(s), weight(s), gender(s), and age(s) of your dog(s) & cat(s):		
Are their vaccinations current? (A Bordetella shot is recommended yearly.)	Rabies Date _____ Bordetella Date _____ DHPP Date _____	
If you have dogs, how often are they with other animals that they don't live with? How do they react?		
Please provide the following information about your veterinarian:	Name of Clinic/Vet	
	Full Address & Phone Number	
Why do you want to foster a dog?		
Have you ever fostered a dog for any organization before?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	If so, please supply name & phone number.	

Are you able to provide adequate food, care and a stable environment for the average rescue dog? (The SPCA will provide medical care.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Are you willing to follow the behavior program provided to you by the SPCA?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there any area to which you WILL NOT be able to expose a foster dog? (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> other dogs	<input type="checkbox"/> other people	<input type="checkbox"/> children	
	<input type="checkbox"/> riding in a car	<input type="checkbox"/> housebreaking	<input type="checkbox"/> grooming	
	<input type="checkbox"/> obedience	<input type="checkbox"/> crate training		
Are you prepared to deal with behavioral problems in a foster situation? (e.g. food aggression, house soiling, behavior issues, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there a limit to the length of time you can keep a dog until it gets adopted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
	If so, how long can you keep the dog?			
	If so, why is there a limit?			
Do you understand that if you foster, you cannot permanently adopt the dog without submitting an application, receiving approval and paying an adoption fee?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Do you mind if a screened, potential adopter comes to your home to visit with the dog in hopes of placement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
References:				
Please list people that have known you at least two (2) years and at least one (1) neighbor.				
Name				
Phone				
Relationship to you				
Name				
Phone				
Relationship to you				
Name				
Phone				
Relationship to you				

ERIE COUNTY SPCA
205 ENSMINGER ROAD
TONAWANDA, NY 14150

Volunteer Release Form

I, _____, presently residing
at _____, hereby acknowledge the following as pertains
to each item listed below:

1. General Provisions

I have read the ERIE COUNTY SPCA New Leash on Life information in its entirety and understand my rights and responsibilities as a volunteer for the Program.

I understand that all activities that I perform for the ERIE COUNTY SPCA will be strictly on a volunteer basis, without pay, compensation or benefits.

Initial: _____

2. Volunteer Code of Conduct

I agree to comply with all rules and regulations established by the shelter and understand that any failure to do so may result in immediate removal from the volunteer program.

Initial: _____

3. Injury and Precautions

I understand that if I am injured while acting as an unpaid member of the volunteer staff New York State worker's compensation laws do NOT cover any loss of work I might suffer because of these injuries.

I am aware that the nature of the activities that I may be performing as a volunteer pose a risk of harm, injury, illness, or disease to both myself and my own pets as read in the Zoonotic disease information provided to me.

I have read and will follow all recommended health precautions, as set forth in the SPCA New Leash on Life Foster Care Program.

I authorize the ERIE COUNTY SPCA and its representatives to seek emergency medical care for me in the event of accident, injury or illness while serving as a volunteer for the ERIE COUNTY SPCA.

Initial: _____

4. Confidentiality

I will keep confidential any and all information in regard to any animals or people who access the services of the ERIE COUNTY SPCA, including past and current owners of animals that are adopted or surrendered to the ERIE COUNTY SPCA that are/where in my care.

Initial: _____

5. Supervision

I will take any ideas, comments, suggestions, or criticisms directly to the ERIE COUNTY SPCA Volunteer Coordinator and agree to be supervised by the New Leash on Life Volunteer Committee designated for the program.

I am accountable to the ERIE COUNTY SPCA Volunteer Coordinator and will report any problems that develop to that person immediately.

Initial: _____

6. Ongoing Training

I understand that certain volunteer positions require intensive training as regards the rights, responsibilities and risks of said position.

I agree to attend all required training or in-service session given by both ERIE COUNTY SPCA staff as well as other experts in the community.

I further understand that if I do not attend such trainings, I will be disqualified as an ERIE COUNTY SPCA volunteer.

Initial: _____

7. Waiver and Release

I agree that all the volunteer activities that I choose to participate in are at my own risk and I assume full responsibility for my actions while acting as volunteer for the ERIE COUNTY SPCA within the New Leash on Life Program.

I hereby fully and completely release, indemnify, and hold harmless the ERIE COUNTY SPCA, its directors, officers, volunteers, agents, servants and employees from any claim, cause of action or liability of any sort of nature, whether known or unknown, directly arising out of or in connection with my volunteer duties as a foster home for the SPCA's New Leash on Life Program.

Volunteer Signature

Date

By signing this form I attest that the information that I have provided is the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief. I also understand that completing this form in no way guarantees me, nor obligates me to provide foster care.

Volunteer Signature

Date

Please return this application to the New Leash on Life Program at:

New Leash on Life Program
SPCA
205 Ensminger Rd.
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Thank you for filling out and returning this form. Whereas it may seem rather involved, one must realize that fostering a rescue dog is a very special commitment and a vital part of rescue. Often some of these dogs have never known love or kindness. Fostering allows them to learn how to trust and live indoors in a family environment, which will help to ensure a lifetime placement in the future. You are literally saving a dog's life. Upon receipt of your application and approval, someone will be in touch to set up a visit to your home to go over the fostering agreement details.

(Please keep the following for your use information)**Information about Zoonotic Diseases**

A zoonosis is a disease of animals that is shared by humans. In some Zoonotic diseases, the animal brings the vector of the disease organism into the environment resulting in human exposure (ex-deer tick- Lyme disease). Other times, a person is infected by environmental exposure to the organism deposited by an infected animal (ringworm spores). More commonly, however, zoonosis occurs through direct contact with an infected animal, or its exudates (nasal, ocular, etc.) or its excrement.

Anyone can become infected by these agents; however, disease can be more severe in immuno-deficient individuals. For this reason, anyone who is immunocompromised or taking immunocompromising medications must speak with their health care provider before working with the animals or in the animal areas.

The following Zoonotic diseases are grouped by the body systems that are involved. These diseases are more likely zoonosis that one might encounter at the shelter and is not meant to be a complete listing of Zoonotic diseases.

1. *Bites and Scratches*

- a. Bacteria-any bite or scratch from an animal can lead to a bacterial infection. Usually, the infection is contained to the local bite area, but dissemination is possible, especially in immunocompromised or splenectomized individuals.
- b. Virus-Rabies is transmitted most often by the bite of a rabid animal. The virus can also be transmitted by a scratch or contact with a rabid animal's saliva. Rabies can only be transmitted by an animal that is showing signs of Rabies. Once bitten, the incubation period is variable (up to months) depending on the location of the bite (longer for leg bites than face bites). Once symptoms develop, Rabies is usually fatal. Progressive neurological symptoms and respiratory paralysis occur. As of this writing (2005), NYS is a rabies endemic area with raccoons being the major reservoir. In 2002, NYS was #2 nationwide in total animal Rabies cases. It is imperative to report all bite and scratch incidents so further action can be taken as needed.

2. *Skin Disease*

- a. Ringworm- A fungal disease that is spread by direct contact, or through contaminated environment. The fungal spores can fall off the affected animal and can remain in the environment for a long period of time, causing recurrent infection. Symptoms in humans include a skin rash that may be peeling, cracking, or scaling. It may be red and itchy. Blister-like bumps may be present on the edges. The rash center may be clear, producing a ring-like appearance.
- b. Sarcoptic Mange (Scabies) - A microscopic mite that burrows into the skin, causing severe itchiness and skin sores with small blisters. The dog scabies mite cannot reproduce on human skin, so the infestation usually subsides within a week. Infected individuals or a contaminated environment can spread the problem.
- c. Cheyletiella (Walking Dander Mite) - A barely visible mite causing severe scaling in animals that is transmitted to people through direct contact or contaminated environment. Human symptoms include severe itchiness and rash

3. *Urinary System*

- a. Leptosporosis- A spirochete-caused disease spread through direct contact with contaminated environment. Signs in dogs include bloody urine and jaundice. The organism enters humans through skin abrasions, cuts, or mucous membranes. Human disease can result in fever, malaise, liver or kidney disease, vision problems, or neurological disease.

4. *Respiratory System and Ocular*

- a. Strep Throat-Dogs and Cats can be subclinical carriers of strep throat bacteria, serving as reservoirs of infection in households with chronic or recurrent disease.
- b. Bordetella Pneumonia- The common bacteria of kennel cough and some canine URI can cause pneumonia in immunocompromised people.

5. *Gastrointestinal Zoonosis*

- a. Bacterial-
 - a. Campylobacter
 - b. E-Coli
 - c. Salmonella

Transmission from animals to people is fecal-oral. These bacteria are immediately infective, and can cause severe vomiting, diarrhea, and fever in humans.

- b. Parasites
 - a. Roundworms-Microscopic eggs passed in feces become infectious in 1-3 weeks, and can remain in the environment for months. Transmission is through ingestion of larvated eggs via a contaminated environment. 25% of infected dogs have eggs on their coat. Infected people may develop skin rash, fever, cough, neurologic signs, enlarged spleen or liver, and various eye and vision problems. It is estimated that ten percent of the population is exposed, but clinical disease is uncommon.
 - b. Hookworms-Microscopic eggs passed in feces become infective in 1-3 days. People become infected through skin penetration of larvated eggs left in the environment. Signs include red, itchy “tunnel-tract” under the skin.
 - c. Tapeworms- Most tapeworms passed by dogs and cats are a result of the animal ingesting a tapeworm-carrying flea during self grooming. These tapeworms are not contagious to people. A person inadvertently ingesting a flea could develop tapeworm infestation with signs including diarrhea and anal-area itchiness. Dogs and cats that have ingested infected wild animals (rodents, birds, rabbits, etc.) can pass the infective eggs in the feces. Transmission is by ingestion of infective eggs. Clinical signs are related to liver disease.
 - d. Giardia-A protozoan transmitted by fecal-oral contamination from infected animals. The infections result in a small or mixed bowel diarrhea.

Prevention of Zoonotic Diseases

Although not always possible to prevent, the chance of zoonosis can be limited by following some common sense guidelines.

1. Workers health status- As mentioned earlier, anyone immunocompromised or taking immunocompromising medication should speak to his or her healthcare provider before working with the animals.
2. Observation of animals-
 - a. Any animal exhibiting strange behavior, neurological problems, or a change in mentation should not be handled and should be brought to the SPCA’s attention.
 - b. Extreme caution should be used with aggressive animals. The animals’ body language, visual, and auditory cues should be taken into consideration before handling the animal.
 - c. Skin lesions, discharge, etc. should not be touched unless already

diagnosed.

3. Hygiene

- a. Good hand washing is imperative, and antibacterial soap should be used. Washing should continue for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing should be performed after animal handling as well as after contact with any secretion, body fluids, or excrement.
- b. Avoiding finger to eye, mouth, and nasal contact.
- c. Hand washing prior to eating.
- d. Not eating in animal areas.
- e. Changing clothes after becoming soiled or contaminated, and changing clothes and shoes before leaving the shelter.
- f. Showering and bathing when returning home from the shelter.