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**application for canine guardianship**

***Please read and follow the red instructions on the following page or your application will not be accepted.***

**Thank you for wanting to adopt a rescued dog! Please read our website to learn how we do adoptions.** [**http://www.summitdogrescue.org/faqs.html**](http://www.summitdogrescue.org/faqs.html)

**Each application is carefully considered to create a match which best suits the dog’s physical and emotional needs with the applicant’s home. We get 5 to 10 applications a day and are all volunteers. So the more thorough you are with your answers, the more likely we are to consider you as a potential home.**

**Summit Dog Rescue is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Our mission is to save dogs in need and find them exceptional forever homes. We expend whatever funds necessary to provide veterinary care to bring the dogs back to healthy and happy, and our $395 adoption fee covers only a portion of the costs in that journey from shelter dog to Summit Dog. Our dogs are evaluated to the best abilities of our vets and volunteers (please see our** [**policies**](http://www.summitdogrescue.org/policies.html)**), *but please be aware that you are bringing in a rescued dog and that there is an adjustment period of up to six months for a dog to feel stable in his/her new home.***

**Please be fully committed to the training, energy, and love that it will take for your dog to settle in to your home. We will work very hard with you to make the best match and to create a successful bond from the start.**

**Please read and understand our policies on how we place dogs before applying to adopt from Summit Dog Rescue. This information is available on our website at** [**www.summitdogrescue.org/policies.html**](http://www.summitdogrescue.org/policies.html)**. You will be expected to read Patricia McConnell’s short book *Love Has No Age Limit* before your home visit; it is available online.**

**Five out of seven dogs are re-homed in their lifetime. Summit Dog Rescue wants to change this model for the lucky few we save, finding LOVING, COMMITTED FOREVER HOMES.**

***We do not own dogs, we are their “guardians” for life.***

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**🡺Click in the blank field beside each question and type your answer.**

**--Fields will expand as you type.**

**🡺Save the file as a .pdf or .doc ONLY (other formats will not be accepted).**

**--You must also ADD YOUR NAME to the file name.**

**🡺Either email the file back to us as an attachment, or print and scan it.**

**🡺If you have extenuating circumstances please contact us with questions and**

**we can help you.**

**THANK YOU!**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name (Guardian Applicant): |  |
| Address: |  |
| City, State, Zip: |  |
| Home Phone: |  |
| Cell Phone: |  |
| Personal Email: |  |
| Occupation/ Employer: |  |
| Co-Applicant (Spouse, significant other, roommate): |  |
| Cell phone: |  |
| Personal Email: |  |
| Occupation/Employer : |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **I have read and understand SDR’s** [**policies**](http://www.summitdogrescue.org/policies.html) **as listed on the website (answer YES or NO)** |  |

**Please list all pets in your household. Include both current AND past pets.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species & Breed | Age | Gender | Spay/Neuter? | Temperament | Residing with you? |
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**For any pet no longer residing with you, please tell us why the pet is no longer in your home:**

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| --- |
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**Please list all people in your household:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Person | Age |
| **Self** |  |
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*NOTE: SDR does not place dogs in homes with children under age 6. In addition, SDR does not typically adopt to applicants under age 26. If you feel you can offer the type of exceptionally stable and responsible home that we look for and are under age 26, you may email the board for an exception at* [*summitdogrescue@yahoo.com*](mailto:summitdogrescue@yahoo.com)*. Details are available on our* [*policies*](http://www.summitdogrescue.org/policies.html) *page online.*

**Is everyone in the household on board with adopting a new dog? Please note each person’s level of commitment to the new dog using the following 1-to-5 scale: 0 indicates “don’t want a new dog in the house,” 1 indicates “I will be ok with having a new dog in the house but do not intend to be responsible for his care”; 5 indicates “I am excited about adding a new dog to the home and look forward to being responsible for his happiness, training, and wellbeing.”**

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| --- | --- |
| Person | Commitment rating |
| **Self** |  |
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**If you have a roommate, how do you plan for them to be involved with your new dog?**

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**Do you have your heart set on one specific SDR dog? If so, who is that?**

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*It helps us to know whether you are only applying for a particular dog or are flexible in your options.*

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| If that dog is no longer available (e.g., pending adoption) or not a match (e.g., you have cats and the dog you are interested in is cat aggressive), do you wish to continue with the application process? **(answer YES or NO)** |  |

**If yes, did any other dogs catch your eye?**

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**LIFESTYLE & ENVIRONMENT**

**Please describe your residence & environment:**

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| --- | --- |
| Urban, suburban, or rural? |  |
| Do you own or rent? |  |
| If rent, include property owner’s name, address, phone number, and email | |
| If you rent, has the property owner given you express permission to add a dog to your home? | |
| How long have you resided at this location? | |
| Do you have a fenced yard? **(answer YES or NO)** | |
| If you do have a fence, please describe:  Height:  Material:  Approximate size of enclosure: | |
| Does anyone on the home smoke? **(answer YES or NO)** | |
| If so, what (e.g., tobacco, marijuana) and where (e.g., inside house, outside)? | |
| Do you have any health concern or condition that currently affects your ability to care for the dog, or may do so in the future? If yes, please describe. | |

*The following questions are to help us get an idea of what dog would be a great fit for you. There are no right or wrong answers, so please be as honest and accurate as possible.*

**Approximately how many hours per day would your dog be alone? How often?**

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**Please describe your typical weekly schedule:**

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**Where will your dog be when alone?**

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**Where will your dog be at night?**

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**Will your dog be allowed on the furniture?**

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**If you are planning on using daycare or dog walking service please let us know who:**

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**What kind of vehicle(s) will your dog be transported in? Would you use a secured crate or consider a seatbelt for your dog’s safety?**

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**How will your dog be exercised?**

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**Describe how you envision your dog will participate in your lifestyle and activities.**

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**If you need to relocate, how will your dog fit into that plan?**

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**Do you regularly have children or other guests visit your home? How often do children visit specifically? Will your dog be exposed to children on a regular basis (in parks, playground, home settings).**

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**If you are in a relationship and you and your significant separate, what would happen to your pets?**

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**Do you foresee any major life changes over the next two years? (e.g., promotion/transfer at work, relationship change such as marriage, remodeling your home or yard, having children)**

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**What physical and personality characteristics are you looking for in a dog (e.g., low-shedding, male/female, energy level)? (the more info we have here, the better)**

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*Summit Dog Rescue rescues dogs of indeterminate origin from shelters, individuals, and organizations throughout the United States. While many of our dogs look like purebred or nearly purebred, and we guess as to what breeds they may be, we do not make any guarantees as to their breeding or that their temperament will resemble that of the breed they look most like.*

**HEALTH**

**What do/would you spend on the following categories of medical care?**

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| --- | --- |
| Routine care (please provide the dollar amount you think is reasonable for annual non-emergency care) | $ |
| Emergency medical (e.g., up to $1,000; up to $5,000; over $5,000) |  |
| Other/additional comments about medical care |  |

**What do you consider to be part of those expenses?**

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**Are you aware of health concerns related to over-vaccination in pets?**

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| --- | --- |
| Please answer yes or no. |  |

You can read more about this topic [here](http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/13_8/features/Annual-Pet-Vaccinations_20036-1.html).

**Have you ever had a dog with a medical emergency (i.e., torn ACL or bloat) or a long term illness (i.e. cancer)? Please explain: how did you treat the condition; what was the cost; what was the outcome?**

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**In the case of a treatable medical issue (example: bloat $5,000 surgery), what do you consider reasonable and manageable in terms of medical treatment, cost, quality of life, etc?**

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**With the skyrocketing costs of veterinary care, have you or would you consider pet insurance?**

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| --- | --- |
| Please answer yes or no. |  |
| Additional comments or questions about pet insurance: | |

*SDR dogs come with a certificate for one free month of insurance with Trupanion pet insurance.*

**What brand of dog food will you feed your dog? Why this brand?**

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*We highly recommend researching dog foods and their ingredients at* [*www.dogfoodanalysis.com*](http://www.dogfoodanalysis.com) *and* [*www.dogfoodadvisor.com*](http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com)*.*

**TRAINING & BEHAVIOR**

**The below questions may feel like a quiz. If so, it is a open-book quiz (lol), as the answers to all of the questions can be found in the links provided. If in reading those links you discover that you have used a training technique that used force or pressure don’t feel bad. The past decade has seen a huge scientific breakthrough in our understanding of canine behavior so our goal is to educate, not make people feel bad. We all used these outdated methods, because that was what we were taught. We encourage you to tell us whether this is an area where you would like more information about positive-only/force free techniques. In an attempt to start a dialogue, we want to help applicants learn more about nurturing your dog in a positive-only environment that fosters learning and trust.** *.*

**Have you ever had a dog with behavior problems? If so what behavior(s) and how did you work with your dog on this issue?**

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**Are you a fan of Cesar Milan?**

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| --- | --- |
| Please respond yes or no, and extrapolate if you like Cesar’s methods. |  |

*Please see our website for more information about the real story behind Cesar’s methods, and* ***why we do******not support*** *his outdated approach:* [*http://www.summitdogrescue.org/cesar-milan-and-dominance-training.html*](http://www.summitdogrescue.org/cesar-milan-and-dominance-training.html)

**Please read the following article and then answer the questions below based on the information in the article.** [**https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/canine-corner/201205/is-punishment-effective-way-change-the-behavior-dogs**](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/canine-corner/201205/is-punishment-effective-way-change-the-behavior-dogs)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you watch any dog trainers on television? If so, who? |  |
| Does a dog misbehave in order to display dominance over it’s human? |  |
| Is it important to “alpha roll” your dog as part of effective training? |  |
| According to the article, what kind of training tends to increase aggression in dogs? |  |
| Describe one thing you learned from the article. |  |

**If you are approved to adopt from Summit Dog Rescue, you will be required to be signed up for a class or private lessons with a positive reinforcement/force-free trainer in order to receive your new dog. We will verify this with the trainer. What trainer do you plan to use? Feel free to refer to our** [**website**](http://www.summitdogrescue.org/training.html) **for additional information. www.summitdogrescue.org/training.html**

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**Adopted dogs experience an adjustment period of several weeks to several months. What do you expect that to involve?**

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*Please refer to our* [*website*](http://www.summitdogrescue.org/the-adjustment-period-for-your-adopted-dog.html) *and read more about adjustment periods for newly-adopted rescue dogs.*

*The first few months upon adopting tend to be the most difficult. Your new dog has been through many transitions, and your home is just one more transition in his mind. Behaviors we hadn’t seen can crop up, or behaviors we saw can be amplified during the transition period. Working through these issues can be challenging and time consuming, and so please be as clear and honest as possible so we can help you get as close to the right fit as possible. Please note that dogs have the emotional capacity of a 3-4 year old child.*

**Please identify behaviors you would NOT be willing to work with:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| (e.g., growling at strangers, separation anxiety, leash pulling, housetraining accidents, counter surfing, other) |  |
| Additional comments or questions about behavior: |  |

**How important is it to you to modify any behavioral challenges the dog may have? Please give a number between 1 and 10 based on the following criteria: 1 is “I will find time to work with my dog twice a week for 5 to 10 minutes”; 10 is “I will make significant changes in my own behavior in order to change my dog’s(s) behavior.” Each adult who is involved with the dog(s) should answer this question.**

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| --- | --- |
| Person | Training Commitment Rating |
| **Self** |  |
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**Please consider the following scenarios.**

**What would your reaction be if a week after adopting your new, mild-mannered dog, he began barking wildly and attempting to nip at any unfamiliar person who entered your home?**

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**What steps would you take if upon adopting a dog that was represented as housebroken, your new dog began marking your furniture?**

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**How would you deal with your new dog showing signs of separation anxiety? Such signs can include destructiveness, barking, whining, chewing, and scratching at doors.**

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**If this dog will be an addition to an existing dog(s), how would you manage the introduction and what steps would you take if the two (or more) dogs did not get along perfectly from the outset, even though they did at the meet and greet?**

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**What would you do if after several weeks at home with you, your newly adopted dog started barking at strangers whenever you took him for walks?**

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**Under what circumstances would you consider returning your adopted dog?**

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**What is your training budget? Do you understand you must go to a trainer from our SDR approved trainer list (or we will find you one in your area) after adopting? Here is a link to our pre-screened trainers: http://www.summitdogrescue.org/training-and-sdr-approved-trainers.html**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Basic manners (total amount) | $ |
| Behavioral issues (total amount) ($0; up to $250; over $1,000) |  |

**BACKGROUND & PROCESS**

**Have you ever lived with a dog from a rescue organization or shelter?**

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**Are you pre-approved or currently applying with other rescues? (This does not hinder your approval with SDR, but could help us process your application more efficiently, as many rescues work in collaboration with each other.)**

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**If we do not currently have a dog who is a good fit for you or the dog you are interested in is placed with another applicant, may we share your application with one of our partner rescues (Mountain Pet Rescue, Lucky Day Rescue)? (answer yes or no)**

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**What is your timeframe for adopting? (delete all but your answer from the following list of options)**

|  |
| --- |
| -Ready and eager for a dog this week; actively looking at shelters and surfing the internet  -Applying with multiple rescues; hoping for the right match in the next few weeks  -Happy to wait for the right fit |

*Our application process can take several weeks from when we receive your application, as we are an all-volunteer organization. Feel free to reach out to us after you have submitted your application. Please notify us if during the application process you adopt elsewhere or decide you no longer wish to adopt from SDR. SDR spends on average 10 to 15 hours of volunteer time to process your application.*

**OTHER**

**Each Summit Dog is adopted out with a harness. Dogs rescued from warm southern states will be adopted out with six months of heartworm preventative, and it is of vital importance that dogs receive all of this preventative medication.**

**Do you agree to contact Summit Dog Rescue if you are unable to continue to be a guardian for your adopted dog, and either return your dog to us or work with us to find another suitable home for your dog?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please answer yes or no |  |

**Do you agree to pay the $395 adoption donation? (Unless a dog is stated as “sponsored” , that is our standard adoption fee – a few “sponsored” dogs are $275 adoption fee).**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please answer yes or no. |  |

**Please provide a veterinary reference. If this is a reference from a past pet, that’s fine.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Clinic: | |
| Veterinarian’s name: | |
| Address: | |
| Phone: | Email: |

**Please list three personal references (not a relative or household member), whom you have known for at least three years, who can vouch for your character as a pet owner. Give name, address, phone, and email.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Reference 1:** | |
| Name and relationship: | |
| Address: | |
| Phone: | Email: |
| **Reference 2:** | |
| Name and relationship: | |
| Address: | |
| Phone: | Email: |
| **Reference 3:** | |
| Name and relationship: | |
| Address: | |
| Phone: | Email: |

**Did you rename your file? See instructions.**

**For your own privacy and to ensure your application is correctly processed, it is important that your name be included in the file name.**

**The full Summit Dog adoption screening process includes a phone interview, a reference check, a personal reference check, and a home visit, before placing a dog in your home.**

**I understand and agree to the need for screening of adopters. I certify that the information supplied on this application is true and correct.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature: | Date: |

*For electronically-submitted applications, please type your signature.*

***Summit Dog Rescue***

***For Dogs with Altitude***

*The terms “guardian” and “owner” shall be considered interchangeable. Please initial here*

*( ) that all your responses are truthful and complete.*