

BASSET RESCUE of OLD DOMINION, Inc.

3445 Seminole Trail, Box 248

Charlottesville, VA 22911

www.brood-va.org

866-710-9476

Dog Adoption Contract and Adoption Information

I/WE, _____, ON THIS DAY _____

DO HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF:

Dog's Name: _____ Dog ID Number: _____ for an Adoption Fee of _____

Sex: Male Female Estimated Age: _____ Basset Hound or Mix

Spayed/Neutered: Yes No Microchip Number _____

1. I/WE agree to take care of _____ (Hereinafter "the dog") in accordance with this agreement as a *house pet and companion*.
2. I/We agree to provide the dog with regular veterinary attention, including an annual checkup, sufficient exercise, attention, proper nutrition, parasite control (including heartworm) and vaccinations according to my veterinarian's protocol and the law. The dog will also wear an ID tag at all times on his collar.
3. I/We agree the dog will be housed within the house and will not be left to sleep outdoors. I/WE agree that the dog will be treated humanely at all times. This includes not being allowed to run free except in a fenced area, not being chained, staked or tied outside unless for brief periods under direct supervision. Humane training includes using positive reinforcement techniques rather than physical punishment.
4. If the dog becomes lost or stolen, I/WE will notify BROOD, Inc. immediately at 1-866-710-9476
5. I/We agree that the first 14 days of the adoption period will be considered a trial period. During this period, the adopter may return the dog to BROOD *for any reason* and the adoption fee will be refunded minus \$50 and the contract void. If the dog is returned after the trial period, the entire adoption fee is forfeited.
6. I/We agree to be wholly responsible for expenses and liabilities arising in relation to the dog, howsoever derived, upon completion of adoption. Neither BROOD nor its agents will be held responsible for any injury, accident, illness, damage to property or third parties, or loss or damage that may occur subsequent to adoption of the dog, nor during any trial adoption period.
7. BROOD can make *no guarantees* about the health or behavior of its dogs, either at the time of the adoption or thereafter. **Upon signing this contract, the adopter agrees to assume all veterinary costs for the dog during the trial period and thereafter.** This is understood to include all conditions, known or unknown, whether pre-existing or not.
8. I/WE agree that if we are no longer able or willing to care for the dog after the trial period has passed, we will notify BROOD and give BROOD, at its sole discretion, the right of "first refusal" to reclaim the dog. However, I/WE understand that due to financial constraints, logistical difficulties, lack of space, or the lack of the dog's adoptability (health, temperament, or age), this may be impossible. I/WE agree that in such case, we will turn the dog over to a shelter or another suitable home, or will humanely euthanize the dog.
9. Failure to comply with the terms of this agreement will result in the return of the dog to BROOD, Inc. Furthermore, I/WE understand that BROOD, Inc., or its designee may examine and make inquiry about the dog at any time and if not satisfied with the conditions may reclaim the dog immediately upon giving oral or written notice without monetary compensation.
10. I/WE therefore agree to release BROOD, Inc. and its agents from, and indemnify BROOD, Inc., and its agents against all liability, loss, expense, or loss of, or damage to property, whether incurred or suffered by me/us or any other person, firm, or corporation who, or which, may seek to hold me/us responsible, if such incident arises out of, or is caused by, the acts, physical respect to, any dog involved in this transaction. In addition, I/WE agree that BROOD, Inc. and its agents have made no warranties, covenants, or representations, express or implied, in respect to any of the foregoing matters that a person would normally take into account or rely upon, before acquiring a dog, whether such matter is concealed or visible at the time of the transaction.

11. ATTORNEYS FEES AND COSTS: I/we agree to be responsible for any and all legal fees incurred if a violation of this contract results in a lawsuit or any litigation. I/we understand that this contract is binding and that noncompliance with any of the terms of this agreement, including failure to pay or problems encountered in the collection of the adoption donation, may result in legal action and seizure of the dog. I/we have read and understood the information in this adoption contract and agree to abide by the terms set forth herein.

I/WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY ITS CONTENTS. AS REQUIRED BY THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, 3.2-6549 SECTION B, I/WE ALSO CERTIFY THAT I/WE HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF ANIMAL CRUELTY, NEGLIGENCE OR ABANDONMENT.

Name (Printed) _____
Signature _____
Address _____
City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone Home _____ Work _____
Email: _____

AGENT DESIGNATED BY THE BROOD, Inc.

Name (Printed) _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Owner BROOD Inc.
3445 Seminole Trail, Box 248
Charlottesville, VA 22911
Tel: 866-710-9476

Microchip information

24PetWatch Phone Number 1-866-597-2424

24PetWatch Website 24PetWatch.com

NEUTERING ADDENDUM TO CONTRACT (For adoption of unneutered dogs only)

Unless for health reasons or due to age, the dog shall be spayed/neutered within 30 days of adoption. Written confirmation of the spaying/neutering by a licensed veterinarian must be provided to BROOD, Inc. within 45 days of adoption. The neuter/spay deposit will be returned by BROOD once written confirmation is received.

Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

BASSET RESCUE OF OLD DOMINION, INC.
Child Safety Waiver Form

All adopters with children under the age of 7 must initial each of the following lines signifying that they have read it and understand the inherent risks with small children and dogs. This document is to be attached to the contract.

1. I understand that ANY dog can bite. Initial _____
2. I understand that no dog can be guaranteed to be “child-safe.”
Initial _____
3. I understand that young children are the most vulnerable to being bitten. Initial _____
4. I understand that young children should NEVER be left unsupervised with a dog even briefly. Initial _____
5. I understand that children should never pull a dog’s tail, tug its ears, scream at, or chase it. Initial _____
6. I understand that you should NEVER let your child interact with a dog while he is eating, accepting a treat or sleeping. Initial _____
7. I understand that most bites occur when children try to lean over and hug or kiss a dog. Initial _____

The following is to be filled in by the BROOD Representative at the time of Contract execution and initialed by the adopter:

7. To BROOD’s knowledge, this dog _____ has _____
has not _____ been accustomed to living with small children. Initial

THE TRANSITION PERIOD

You load your newly adopted pup into the car and bring them home from the rescue or foster home. You know right away that you are this dog's person and that they are home to stay. The dog, on the other hand, has no idea. You are just the latest person to change their routine and shake up their sense of stability and security. They don't know they get to stay with you and they are very likely stressing out and, possibly even acting out. The less stability this dog had before coming home with you, the more true this is.

So how do you tell your newly adopted best friend that they are safe and loved and that this is their home? You [show them through your actions](#). Your dog's first 30 or so days in your home should be filled with routine, consistency, clear boundaries, and an abundance of patience. The more consistent you are, the more quickly your dog will begin to settle in as an integrated part of your life and the more quickly you will be able to ease up on some of the stricter parts of the routine.

We can't expect our dogs to know how to behave unless we show them and we must be willing to see the adoption from the perspective of our new best friend. Fortunately, BROOD has a dog training consultant who can help you through the transition period. There are also professional dog training programs at pet stores, kennels and dog training companies near you. Contact your BROOD Adoption Coordinator for a referral to the BROOD training consultant.

REACTIVITY

"I love my dog but every time I try to take him for a walk, he goes crazy. He barks at other dogs/stray cats/bicycles/strollers/joggers/people in hats/cars/you name it. I wanted a dog I could go running with so, sorry, but I'm bringing him back to the rescue."

This is an incredibly common problem and affects shelter dogs to such a degree partly because shelters can be such a huge CAUSE of reactivity. Dogs housed in kennels all day, watching other dogs and people pass in front of them, are living in a perfect set up for a condition called [barrier frustration](#) (also common in backyard dogs). What often happens is the barrier frustration transfers to the leash, manifesting as reactivity. Other common factors in causing reactivity are fear, lack of socialization, and unintentional reinforcing of the behavior by the handler.

Reactivity is just as treatable as it is common. There are training classes specifically on the subject, [helpful books](#), [excellent training programs](#), and even [supportive communities](#) for owners of reactive dogs. We have written an [expansive blog post on how to help dogs with this specific challenge](#). Is it embarrassing to have your dog go gremlin during your neighborhood walk? Sure. But working through that reactivity is a gift you can give your dog and a merit badge earned by many a dog lover and pet parent.

SEPARATION ANXIETY

Have you seen the [dogshaming.com](#) photos of dogs destroying things while their owner was out? The cute rottie mix stuck in the blinds with the caption, "Thank goodness you're home! I thought you were never, ever, ever, ever coming back again ever." That is [separation anxiety](#) (see also, isolation anxiety and [confinement anxiety](#)). These behaviors are not to be confused with the bored dog who chews your shoes or the corner of your couch. You leave and your dog panics. They destroy things, attempt to escape (or actually do escape), and sometimes even hurt themselves as well as your stuff.

Your best bet for handling separation anxiety is a [clear and effective plan](#) and a good understanding of what is happening and why. In the case of more extreme separation anxiety, help from a professional trainer is recommended. Also helpful are a positive approach to [crate training](#), calming aids like [Through a Dog's Ear](#), [DAP or Rescue Remedy](#), the use of [TTouch](#), and providing your dog with consistency and stability, particularly important during the previously mentioned transition period following adoption. Dogs with separation anxiety also benefit from a calm greeting and departure behavior on the part of their guardian.

NOT GETTING ALONG WITH OTHER PETS

Depending on the circumstances, this can be a problem that is fixable or a problem that genuinely warrants a return.

1. **Getting along with other dogs (or cats) in one situation does not necessarily transfer to all others.** Dog passed its cat test at the shelter? Had a blast in play group? Was kenneled with a canine buddy? Great! This means that dog CAN get along with others but not that he/she automatically will in every situation.
2. **Do not just toss them together and see what happens.** Your existing pets and your new dog all deserve to have their needs, space, and boundaries respected and to be set up for success. There are a variety of frameworks for integration and what every single one has in common is that they take time and require some structure at the outset.
3. **A fight does not mean failure.** If a dog does serious damage in a fight, professional intervention is no longer optional but becomes a must. However, most fights are just a lot of noise. They sound scary. They look scary. But they do not mean the animals involved cannot coexist or that either one is "bad," "dangerous," or "aggressive." Dog fights, mild scuffles in particular, are relatively common in the world of dog interactions.
4. **Meet and greets are your friend, but not the holy grail.** We highly recommend meet & greets for existing pets and typically require them for DOL dogs. They can be an invaluable indicator for success, but a meet & greet cannot and does not predict exactly what will happen between the animals post adoption.
5. **It's in the details.** Though we may not understand what has happened, a fight or an incident never occur without reason and rarely occur without warning. This is one of the reasons professional help is so important. Helping your new pets get along is much easier when you can identify triggers and sources of stress or discord.

NOT GETTING ALONG WITH THE KIDS

As behavioral reasons for returns go, this one has the least wiggle room. If a dog is truly a danger to a child, it needs to find an adult-only home or perhaps a home with older children. Some dogs are simply uncomfortable with children; their fast movements and high activity level can seem scary. It could be partly lack of socialization but it is alright, and not abnormal, for a dog to prefer an adult-only home.

Another commonly seen side of the issue is dogs held to a higher (and often grossly unfair) behavior standard than children. Dogs and children can be a great and very special combination. If an animal is brought into a home with children, it can be a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop their sense of empathy, responsibility, and to form a bond that lasts a lifetime

However, at no time should children tormenting a dog be disregarded as "kids being kids" or acceptable behavior. It is inhumane and it is dangerous. A dog defending itself from being chased, cornered, frightened, or hurt (tail pulling, ear tugging, and worse) is a disaster waiting to happen. A child ends up bitten and a dog often pays with their life.

When bringing a pet into a home with children, the responsibility falls on the adults in the household to [know what appropriate interaction looks like](#) from both the dog and from the child and be able to facilitate that interaction. In this case, knowing really is half the battle and can make all the difference between a frightening and heartbreaking outcome and a companionship with positive lessons and memories that last forever. [Learn more about safe interactions between dogs and children here.](#)

THE BASICS

We've talked about some of the common behavior reasons for returning adopted dogs that require a bit of knowledge and support. But dogs get sent back for the basics, too! If you are considering returning an adopted dog for going to the [bathroom in the house](#), [pulling on the leash](#), [stealing snacks from the counter](#), [jumping up on guests](#), [chewing on your shoes](#), [not coming when they're called](#), or drinking out of the toilet...STOP! This is the easy stuff!

We don't mean to trivialize these as behaviors you just shouldn't worry about but they are common, simple-to-fix dog issues that a basic training class, in-home training session, or simple pre-existing training plan can help get corrected in a snap! A little time, patience, and training fun and you and your flip-flop fetishist can be on the road to happily ever after.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS...

Adopting a dog means making a commitment to your new family member. Dogs are not robots. Much like us, they have thoughts, feelings, quirks, and bad habits. There will be ups and downs and there will be challenges but there is nothing else in life like having a true canine companion. If you take the time to really become your dog's best friend, you will never regret it. Anyone who has truly loved a dog already knows this and has stories to tell of their mutual journey that can make you laugh, cry, widen your eyes, and feel inspired.

Source: [Dogs Out Loud](#) and BROOD

Contract Revised 1/1/2016