



Guardian Family Agreement

Guardian Family Expectations:

- Agree to commit to a minimum of 2 years with Hope for OUR Children's Therapy Dog program (preferably the working life of the dog).
- Provide exceptional care, clear boundaries and safe lodging throughout dog's entire life as per outlined expectations.
- Safely confine the dog by using a fence or restraining the dog by using a leash whenever outside (invisible fence is ok).
- Provide adequate exercise and regular socialisation for the dog to maintain good physical and mental health.
- Be sure to keep the dog's weight optimum.
- Agree to take the dog for regular grooming (at our expense) to our chosen dog groomer. The dog should always reflect the image of a quality therapy dog.
- Skin/coat care is necessary. You will commit to bathe your dog regularly with regular brushing and care to keep it healthy and clean.
- Agree to take the dog to the vet for all appointments
- The dog will remain unbred and will be de-sexed at 6-7 months of age.
- Agree to inform Hope for OUR Children (hfoc) of any health/temperament issues with the dog.
- Agree to allow hfoc or a representative to visit the dog to check on his/her welfare, with one week's notice given.
- All documentation and certificates of training to be given to hfoc.
- Consult with hfoc at the first sign of illness or injury. You must inform all veterinarians that hfoc has access to all medical records for this dog.
- Take full responsibility for any physical property, person, or animal that is destroyed/damaged by the dog while in your care (outside of therapy duties).
- Take full responsibility of all the dog's property and will replace at your own expense anything damaged or destroyed by an entity other than the hfoc therapy dog.
- Commit to ongoing therapy training as needed including any assigned homework.
- Agree to contact hfoc about extended holiday plans and discuss the dog's care during this time, possible use of kennels, respite offered from another Guardian Family (GF).
- Once trained, commit to fortnightly community visits with the therapy dog in action lasting 1-3 hours, increasing over time to a maximum of one work day. These locations being, child care centers, hospitals, court rooms, foster care, counselling facilities, residential facilities, Department of Child Safety buildings.
- Give one week's notice to hfoc for any purchases required.
- Commit to completing risk assessment paperwork for each community visit as required
- In the event that you no longer can provide the care needed, training or community visits, that you will notify hfoc and the dog will be surrendered into the care of a nominated hfoc home.



Hope for OUR Children's Role:

- Be financially responsible for all care aspects of the dog including: feed, bedding, collars, therapy vest, training, vet care, grooming, kennels, registration, insurance. All items needing purchasing will be done so by hfoc staff.
- Cover all veterinary care expenses including but not limited to: Monthly applications of worming (including heart worm), tick (if needed in your area) and flea treatments, annual check-ups and vaccination, ear infections, procedures, in kennels as needed etc.
- Cover all therapy training expenses

Care Expectations:

GENERAL CARE

- The dog must wear an ID tag or collar with the guardian contact information on it at all times.
- Hfoc therapy dogs are primarily inside dogs. The dog is to be kept inside during inclement weather. Caution should be taken during times of extreme temperatures both cold and hot, as well as storms.
- Nutrition is of the utmost importance. The dog must have high quality food daily and access to fresh water at all times
- The dog must have a safe space. A properly sized crate (provided by hfoc) can give dogs a sense of security like a den. It prevents destructive behaviour and teaches a dog to settle and relax when you can't supervise directly. Those times might include at night, etc. Inside the dog's area should include a soft toy to snuggle, a chew toy (no raw hide), a clean bed, and a bottle for water (water bottles attached to the crate means it won't spill).

DEATH/INJURY OF DOG:

- If the dog dies due to negligence on the part of the guardians, the guardians owe hfoc \$4000.
- If the dog is injured due to negligence on the part of the guardians, the guardian will cover all expenses.

Negligence is defined as:

- Failure to contain or supervise said dog in a responsible manner. Use of an electronic fence is acceptable.
- Leaving dog alone in a vehicle.
- Failure to prevent dog from having access to toxic materials.



- Failure to provide safe means of containment while dog is in a moving vehicle (use of a crate or canine safety belt is required).
- Failure to have the dog on the correct restraint when in public
- Leaving dog in the sole care of a person under the age of 14 years.

- Should the dog die from any cause that is not related to negligence while in the guardians possession this contract will terminate and the guardian shall have no further obligation to hfoc.
- Whomever is in possession of the dog at the time of death will be obligated to take care of the body.

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP:

- When the dog has retired from therapy, you have the option to purchase the dog for \$1000 and we will transfer permanent ownership of the dog to you. All future costs will be paid by you.