

**ADOPTION POLICIES AND FEES**  
**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING ADOPTION APPLICATION**

**POLICIES :**

1. Puppies and Kittens under 4 months of age **will not be adopted** into homes with children under 5 years old.
2. Due to multiple past returns, dogs will not be adopted if you or anyone in your household are expecting a child.
3. No cat can leave the HCHS without being in a carrier. You may bring your own or purchase a cardboard carrier from the HCHS for \$7.
4. There is a mandatory waiting period of at least 24 hours (not including weekends or holidays) before final approval of any application. Your references and application information will be verified by the Shelter Manager and/or Assistant Shelter Manager. A decision is based on what is the **best home for the animal and not the first application filed. Any decision made by shelter management is final.**
5. The HCHS reserves the right to deny any adoption application.
6. You must provide proof of up-to-date rabies vaccination(s) on currently owned pets **before** final approval.

**FEES**

**\*ALL ANIMALS WILL BE SPAYED/NEUTERED BEFORE LEAVING HCHS\***

Adult Dogs – \$120. This fee includes age appropriate vaccines, de-wormer, flea treatment, and microchip (to be registered by adopter). Twelve weeks of age and up also includes rabies vaccine (1 year)

Lyme/ Heartworm Test- \$20. Available upon request.. Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ (please intial)

Puppies – 6 months and younger, \$175. This fee includes 2 distemper shots, 2 de-wormers, flea treatment and microchip (to be registered by adopter). Twelve weeks of age and up also include rabies vaccine (1 year)

Adult Cats -- \$100. This fee includes age appropriate vaccines, de-wormer, flea treatment and microchip (to be registered by adopter). Twelve weeks of age and up also include rabies vaccine (1 year). This also includes FELV/FIV test.

Kittens – 6 months and younger, \$125. This fee includes 2 distemper vaccines, 2 de-wormers, flea treatment and microchip (to be registered by adopter). Twelve weeks of age and up also includes rabies vaccine (1 year)

**HERKIMER COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY**  
**ADOPTION APPLICATION**  
**P.O. Box 73 Mohawk NY 13407**  
**Phone: 315- 866-3255 Fax: 315- 866-5086**

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**NAME OF ANIMAL** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DOG** \_\_\_\_\_ **CAT** \_\_\_\_\_ **PUPPY** \_\_\_\_\_ **KITTEN** \_\_\_\_\_

Completion of this application does not guarantee adoption of a dog or cat. Please respond to the questions below as completely as possible.

In order to be considered as an adopter, you must: (1) Be 21 years of age or older (2) Have a valid driver’s license or other government-issued ID (3) Have proof of the knowledge and consent of your landlord if renting and (4) Be willing and able to provide proper care, training and medical treatment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Drivers License/Photo ID \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Employment \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer Address & Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Significant Other \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer Address & Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_

Have either you or member of household ever been convicted of neglect, cruelty or abandonment to animals? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Number of Adults in Household \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Are all adults in your household in agreement of adopting a dog/cat? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Who will be the primary caregiver for your new dog/cat? \_\_\_\_\_

Is any member of the household allergic to dogs/cats? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of housing do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_ House \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Home/Park

Do you own or rent? \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you lived there? \_\_\_\_\_

\*If you own, proof will be required.

Landlord’s name & phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a completely fenced yard? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ (This is not a requirement)

In the event of change in living circumstances, who will continue to care for the pet? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want a dog? (Companionship, Hunting, Guard Dog, Gift) \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want a cat? (Companionship, Mouser, Gift) \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide 2 personal references (not including family or those living with you)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Contact number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Contact number \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours each day will the dog be left alone? \_\_\_\_\_

Where will the dog be kept when alone? \_\_\_\_\_

Where will the dog be when you are home? \_\_\_\_\_

Where will the dog sleep at night? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to crate train? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Are there times when the dog will be tied outside? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
How often and what type of exercise will you give your dog?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first dog/cat? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
How much are you willing to spend on medical bills for your dog/cat? \_\_\_\_\_  
What would you do if the bills go over this amount? \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following behaviors would be a serious problem for you? **Check all that apply**

- excessive barking
- digging
- not cat friendly
- not good with young children
- extreme separation anxiety
- too much shedding
- moving
- not able to housetrain
- escape artist
- not dog friendly
- not playful with young children
- too active
- puppy grew too large
- other

Are you planning/willing to attend obedience classes with your new dog? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_  
Training. If behavioral issues arise with \_\_\_\_\_, you will seek professional care and/or training, including, but not limited to, behavior modifications. \_\_\_\_\_ **INITIAL**

If you **presently** have a companion animal(s), please complete:

Name	Dog, Cat, Other	Age	Gender	Spayed/Neutered	Current on Vaccines

If you have previously **had** a companion animal(s) within the last three years, please complete:

Name	Type	Years Owned	What Happened?

Current veterinarian and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

I give the above vet permission to provide information to HCHS. \_\_\_\_\_ **INITIAL**

Who is the pet listed/registered under? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever turned a pet into a shelter or re-homed it? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

When you go on vacation/travel, who will care for the dog/cat? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you ready to take responsibility for this dog/cat for the next 10-15 years? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

What provisions will you make for this pet should you become unable to care for it?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously applied to adopt a dog or cat from HCHS? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever relinquished or returned a dog or cat to HCHS? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to sign a legal contract agreeing to responsible pet ownership and proper humane care of your animal? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

STAFF ONLY: date and initials of person(s) making reference calls. \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION: Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER OF MANAGEMENT TO SIGN \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTION CONTRACT

Adoption Fee. We require an adoption fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Dog/Cat to help defray expenses of veterinary care. The adoption fee is considered a donation not a sale price for the dog/cat and is not

refundable under any circumstances. Any violations of the terms and conditions set forth herein that result in the return of the dog will not result in a return of the adoption fee. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Once the contract to adopt the Dog/Cat is signed and the check tendered, said check will be deposited. The new owner of said dog has a 30 day trial period within which to determine if the Dog/Cat is compatible with and can be integrated into your family. Within this 30-day trial period, if it is determined that the Dog/Cat is not a good match for your family, and you decide to return the adopted Dog/Cat for incompatibility reasons, the fee will be used as a donation to Herkimer County Humane Society. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Surrender Fees. Surrender fees of \$ 40 apply after 30 days and must have all medical papers provided at time of adoption and up to current date or the fee is doubled. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

No Representations. You understand that the Dog/Cat was previously unwanted, a stray or lost and may have been rescued by us from a dangerous, unhealthy, and/or cruel situation. This could have long-lasting effects on the Dog/Cat. You agree that we are making no representations or warranties about the condition, personality, or temperament of the Dog/Cat. You agree to assume all risks and obligations of ownership. The animal was evaluated by a representative of HCHS, who are not certified behavioralists, and that does not guarantee its temperament or compatibility with you or any members of your household. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Care of the Dog/Cat. You agree to provide the Dog/Cat access to the house, fresh water, wholesome dog food, adequate outdoor exercise, appropriate veterinary care, affection and socialization with the family. The Dog/Cat may not under any circumstances be crated or otherwise confined for more than 10 hours in a 24-hour period and if crated, the crate shall be large enough for the dog to lie comfortably on its side and tall enough for the animal to stand without crouching. You will walk the Dog on a leash or place the Dog in a protected run or other enclosed outdoor area and not allow the Dog to roam free unsupervised. You will treat the Dog/Cat as a household pet, companion, and family member. You agree never to use the Dog/Cat for dog fighting or any other “sport” in which one animal is pitted against another, and never to beat or taunt the Dog in order to promote aggressive “guard dog” characteristics. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Identification. The adopted Dog must be licensed in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction in which the Adopter resides. The Adopted Dog will wear a form of identification with Adopter’s name and phone number at all times. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Veterinary Care. You agree to have the Dog/Cat established at a licensed veterinarian of your choice within 60 days of adoption. You agree to keep all legally required vaccinations current including but not limited to Rabies and DHLPP and to ensure that the Dog receives preventative medicine to protect against heartworm, fleas, and ticks. You hereby agree and consent to HCHS that you will instruct your veterinarian to cooperate with and supply copies of complete medical histories and treatments to HCHS upon request. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Home Visit. HCHS or designee has your permission to complete home visits at a mutually convenient time before and/or after adoption to ensure compliance with the conditions set forth in this Agreement. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Return, Surrender, Transfer, Euthanasia. You agree not to abandon, give away, sell, transfer, foster out, or dispose of the Dog/Cat in any way, and to notify us immediately at any time you determine you no longer want, or no longer can keep the Dog/Cat, in the event we are able to take the Dog/Cat back to arrange another adoption. HCHS has the right of first refusal and must be notified first of any decisions regarding placement of the Dog/Cat. You agree to give HCHS reasonable time of up to two weeks to make appropriate housing arrangements. You agree that you will never surrender the Dog/Cat to an animal shelter which euthanizes surplus pets. You agree that you may not euthanize the Dog/Cat except in the case of terminal illness, extreme aggression, injury, or old age ***accompanied by pain and suffering***. The euthanasia must be performed by a licensed veterinarian in a private clinic or hospital. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Risks and Obligations of Ownership. I agree that upon my signing of this contract, the animal that I am adopting is my sole responsibility. This responsibility includes, but is not limited to, the animal biting myself, any member of my family, or anyone who comes into contact with said animal; the animal becoming ill; or with the animal causing damage to any person or property. I understand that the HCHS cannot guarantee or warrant the disposition, behavior conditions, or acts of this animal. I will either work with the animal for better training (i.e.: keeping the animal out of situations where the animal may bite or hire a professional trainer to work with said animal). If none of this training is successful, I agree that I will have the animal humanely euthanized without returning the animal to the HCHS for euthanasia at my personal expense. In addition, I will not hold the HCHS responsible for illness. I agree to assume all risks and obligations of ownership. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Lost Pet. You agree to make a serious effort to find the Dog/Cat if it becomes lost by immediately: (1) filing lost reports with the local police, animal control authorities, animal shelters, SPCA's, and local veterinarians, and (2) posting lost pet signs, and (3) contacting us immediately should the Dog/Cat become lost. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Breach of Agreement and Liquidation Damages. In the event that we make the determination in our sole discretion that you have failed to comply in spirit or letter with any of the terms of this Agreement, or the Dog/Cat is abused or neglected, as determined in our sole discretion, one of our remedies will be to immediately recover the Dog/Cat from you upon demand and you will without hesitation surrender the Dog/Cat to us immediately. In addition, without waiving any of our rights under this Agreement, if you do not immediately surrender the Dog/Cat to us, you may be held liable for any costs incurred by HCHS as just and reasonable liquidated damages to compensate us for our costs and expenses, including legal fees, court costs, and attorney fees in connection with your breach of this Agreement and our subsequent enforcement thereof. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

No Liability. Neither HCHS, staff, volunteers or its officers or representatives is liable to you for any claims, legal actions, losses, injuries, damages, costs, expenses, or liabilities whatsoever in connection with your adoption or ownership of the Dog/Cat. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Entire Agreement, Modification, Binding Effect. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties, and supersedes any prior understandings between the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement. No modification of this Agreement will be valid unless it is made in writing and duly signed by both parties. This Agreement is binding upon you and your heirs, assigns, successors, personal representatives and executors. \_\_\_\_\_**INITIAL**

Choice of Law. This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York and the parties hereto consent and agree that any action brought to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall be brought in the courts of New York State. I have read and received a copy of, and hereby agree to abide by ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS of this Agreement.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_

Drivers License No.\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Adopter\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_Work Number\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

HCHS representative \_\_\_\_\_

Adopter will receive a copy of the above signed contract at time of adoption.