**Karmic Connections Animal Rescue (KCAR) hereby agrees to permit the undersigned foster to care for a dog on a temporary basis on the following terms:**

**Foster agrees to the following (please initial at the top of each page, indicating you have read each item)**

1. Not to transfer custody of the dog to anyone other than KCAR and agrees to return the dog to KCAR upon demand.
2. All basic medical expenses for each foster dog that comes into my care will be covered by KCAR, provided that an authorized KCAR representative has approved the medical expenses, and the care is from a KCAR designated veterinarian.
3. If I choose to go to a vet of my choosing, I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VET BILL.
4. Exercise normal care in maintaining the health of this dog.
5. Contact KCAR immediately if the dog becomes ill or is missing: karmicrescues@gmail.com ; michelegause@gmail.com or xxxxxxx cell number TEXT are seen immediately.
6. Provide fresh food, fresh water, and plenty of exercise daily.
7. Always keep the foster dog within a fenced yard (not on a chain) or supervised on a leash.
8. Never leave this dog outside when no one is home for long periods of time.
9. Provide updates to KCAR on the dog's progress. We want to know how are you and the dog?
10. Always transport this dog in a safe manner and never loose in the open bed of a pick-up truck or in any other unsafe manner.
11. I have been advised that foster dogs can sometimes dig, chew, soil, and exhibit other undesirable traits. I understand that dogs are dogs and will do things that cannot be foreseen on occasion.
12. ~~I have been advised that my foster dog may have been neglected, mistreated, or abused and that special care of precautions may be required. I also understand that the dog may need medical care, which will be provided by KCAR.~~
13. I have been advised that a foster dog will need time to adjust to new routines, new family and new surroundings.
14. I am aware that the dog may need training in basic house manners.
15. I am aware that unless stated herein I should consider my foster dog/s not house trained.☺
16. I agree to carefully introduce the new dog to the existing dogs and cats. Coming to a new home is stressful for the new dog and your existing animals. Careful introduction is a must. Your new dog needs time and space to adjust to the surroundings and your existing animals need to feel they are not being replaced or crowded. Introducing the new dog can result in growling, barking, submissive urination or other undesirable behavior.  Properly managing the introductions is therefore important.
17. I understand that interactions between my child(ren) and the new dog must be carefully supervised. I AGREE THAT I WILL NEVER LEAVE MY CHILD ALONE I.E. UNSUPERVISED with any foster animal.
18. I understand that KCAR will find this dog a home and that I am not to adopt or give away this dog to anyone not approved by KCAR.
19. Every effort is made to make sure that any dog that is placed in rescue is thoroughly evaluated for its temperament, health, physical soundness and overall suitability, before it is ever placed in a foster home.  However, KCAR cannot and does not guarantee the health or temperament of said dog, has no documentation on the actual breed unless otherwise provided or lineage of the rescued dog.
20. It is further agreed that if the Foster fails to perform any of those acts which he/she has guaranteed to perform, that KCAR may, at its option, revoke this agreement and retake possession of the dog without delay.
21. KCAR staff are not certified dog trainers or certified dog behaviorists.
22. If my intention is to foster-to-adopt, I will inform karmicrescues@gmail.com within 7 days of receiving the dog that I want to adopt. Fostering does not guarantee approval to adopt.
23. If I decide to not adopt my foster dog, I agree to continue fostering until an appropriate foster home or adoptive home is found by KCAR. This may take weeks or months.
24. **Protocol With Children**

I/We understand that the following protocol should be followed regarding children in the house.

\_\_\_\_\_initial  Do not any under any circumstances leave a child unattended with any dog

\_\_\_\_\_initial  Do not leave bones around the house when children are present and be cautious and observant when children are eating and the dog is in the room

\_\_\_\_\_initial  If there is a child in the household under the age of 18 years, the dog must be in a crate or separate room while the is dog eating or sleeping to prevent accidents

\_\_\_\_\_initial  Children under the age of 16 will not walk the dog unless supervised by an adult

\_\_\_\_\_initial  I understand that whenever a child is in the house with a dog, the child is at risk of being accidentally knocked over, scratched or bitten, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_initial  Should you have ANY concerns or feel uncomfortable with a situation between the dog and a child, contact your foster liaison representative. We will either take the dog out of your home immediately or have you discuss with a trainer your concerns (depending on the severity).

Foster has read the foregoing foster contract and fully understands and that by signing my name below, I agree.

Foster’s First and Last Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Phone Number

Signature of Foster Person

KCAR’s Representatives First and Last Name: Michele C. Gause

Signature of KCAR Representative

1. Bring pages 1, 2, and 3 with you when you pick up your foster pups .

**THE FOLLOWING ADDENDUM WAS PRODUCED BY THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF SILICON VALLEY. WE RESPECT THEIR EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE AND ASK THAT YOU READ THE FOLLOWING IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN IN YOUR HOME.**

 **Kids and Dogs**

Dogs and children are often thought to be naturals together. We see dogs in Disney movies being loving and loyal to their young charges, often times saving them from disaster. All those canines are highly trained actors that took a great deal of time to develop certain skills. Truth is, the most bitten members of American society are children under the age of 12. More often than not, they are bitten by the family pet or by a familiar dog. The success of your dog with children depends on several factors.

**YOUR DOG’S GENETICS**

These are unchangeable ingrained responses to the world surrounding them. There is nothing you can do to change them. Hopefully you have selected a breed mix whose temperament is suited to living in a family situation. Not all breeds of dogs are good with children, especially small children. Take the time to research the breed of dog you are interested in for your family situation. Within a selected breed there are individuals as well. Taking the time to select an appropriate individual for your family situation is one of the keys to having a successful “marriage” of kids to dog.

**THE ANIMAL’S PAST EXPERIENCES WITH CHILDREN**

If your dog has had previous experiences with kids that were pleasurable, then chances are he will enjoy their company. But if he has had several unpleasant, painful, or frightening situations occur with children, then he probably is going to be apprehensive around them; possibly to the point of being aggressive.

**WELL-SOCIALIZED PETS TAKE STRESSFUL AND UNUSUAL SITUATIONS IN STRIDE**

Households with kids are noisy, unpredictable, busy and therefore, stressful. Animals who have received lots of positive socialization at an early age will be much less fearful and less likely to react to family life.

**MOST IMPORTANT: PROVIDE SUPERVISION**

Strict parental supervision and guidance for both your dog and your children is strongly advised.

**NEVER LEAVE ANY CHILD 12 OR UNDER UNATTENDED WITH ANY DOG OR PUPPY.**

Strict supervision is a must. Every animal, even the so-called “fool proof” ones, have their limits. EVERY DOG BITES under the right circumstances, so keep supervision a strict rule in your household.

**CHILDREN, JUST LIKE PUPPIES, NEED TO LEARN THE RULES**

Children should be taught to pet softly, stay away from food dishes, toys and bones, and not to startle the pet when it is sleeping. All of these things can and should be done with the pet, but only when you, the adult, are there to supervise AND you have first trained your pet to enjoy and tolerate all of the above (using positive methods, not punishment).

**BABIES AND TODDLERS SHOULD ALWAYS BE KEPT HIGHER THAN THE DOG.**

Dogs will see children as their littermates. Which means, jumping, chewing, growling, barking, and nipping each other. Keep your small children up off the floor when the dog is in the same room.

**AVOID TUG OF WAR, WRESTLING, EAR PULLING, PONYRIDING, TOY HITTING, FUR GRABBING, CHASING AND ANY ROUGH PLAY.**All these activities teach your dog or puppy to be rough with humans and to grab and bite. That’s exactly what you are trying to avoid (the biting part). Do not allow ANY family member, including adults, to engage in any rough play with your dog. Your family pet will attempt to play those rough games with your children and the

results will not be good. The basic rule of thumb is to never train your puppy or dog to do anything with you that you would not want him to do with a two year-old toddler.

**PLAY SUPERVISED GAMES THAT FOSTER COOPERATION AND CONTROL.**

These include games such as fetch, blowing bubbles, find it (hide a toy and have your dog find it), hide- and-seek (with your dog finding the kids for a treat or toy) kicking a soccer ball around or learning fun tricks. Avoid any game that gets your dog or puppy overly excited. If your dog is very high energy, have an adult exercise the canine first through jogging or biking or a hard game of fetch before he interacts with your children. If your dog should become too excited during play, then end the game immediately and try again later when your dog (and perhaps your children) are calmer.

**TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THE POSSUM STANCE**

Children are small, move erratically, yell, and generally act crazy. Most dogs either would like to chase them or become very fearful of them. To a dog, a child running away is a great invitation to give chase, perhaps nipping and biting them. Teach your children that if the dog is chasing them (perhaps barking, growling or nipping), to immediately stand still. Arms should be folded across their chest or over their face. Voices should become soft or completely quiet. Your child suddenly becomes a lot less interesting to your dog. He will then calm down and go off to do something else within a matter of moments.

**GIVE YOUR DOG OR PUPPY A PLACE TO RETREAT TO WHEN HE HAS HAD ENOUGH OR YOU CANNOT PROVIDE SUPERVISION.**Just like you, your dog will need some daily time off away from the children. Use an indoor crate that is off limits to the children or baby gate your dog into a safe room such as a kitchen or bedroom.

**GIVE YOUR DOG HIS OWN BED, ON THE FLOOR AND OUT OF YOUR CHILD’S ROOM**

Letting your dog or puppy sleep with your child is not only unsanitary (dogs can carry a number of external and internal parasites) but also relays a message to the dog that your child is a littermate. Littermates sleep together. If your child insists on having the canine in his room, crate train your pet and put the crate in your child’s room for sleeping.

**TRY TO PAIR ONLY PLEASURABLE THINGS WITH YOUR CHILDREN.**

If your dog or puppy is constantly being yelled at, spanked, or isolated outdoors whenever there are kids around, this builds a negative association. Your dog should be doing fun stuff with your kids, even if it is limited to feeding a few treats at first.

**INVOLVE YOUR CHILD IN YOUR DOG’S CARE**

Have your child help you feed your dog (he can tell the dog sit before you put the bowl down), brush (as you hold the collar and feed a few treats) and walk (attach two leashes to your dog so your child holds one but you have the main leash for control and safety.) Even just the presence of your child in the same room while your dog is receiving his favorite things or activities can help build a positive association to children.

**TAKE A FORMAL TRAINING CLASS WITH YOUR DOG OR PUPPY**

This teaches you how to communicate and understand your dog better. Must teach cues are “come”, “off”, “sit”, “down”, “drop it”, “stay” and “wait”. Adults should initially teach all cues, then have the children practice them under supervision. Please visit www.hssv.org/training for a complete description of our rewards-based, force-free training classes.

**WATCH FOR SIGNS OF TROUBLE**

This includes your dog guarding food, toys, bones or resting places. Guarding starts with a simple freezing up of the body whenever the child comes too close and can quickly progress to growling, snapping, or biting if not addressed immediately.

**TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO REPORT TO YOU WHENEVER THEY HEAR THE DOG GROWLING AND IT IS CLEARLY NOT DURING PLAY.**The growl is a warning that your pet is not OK with the immediate situation at hand. Unless your child understands to back away immediately, they could be bitten. The only time you should not worry about your dog growling is when he is clearly playing. (See the body language handout for clarification on body language that is playful.) If you are hearing growling **at any time** other than in play, consult a professional immediately. Aggression problems unless addressed immediately, tend to get worse.

**DO NOT HIT, SLAP, YELL, CHOKE, SHAKE, OR USE A SHOCK COLLAR ON YOUR DOG FOR MISBEHAVIOR OR FOR AGGRESSION.**These methods are unsuitable and can be very dangerous. These methods also show your children how you resolve problems and they may start to mimic them, putting themselves in grave danger. Consult a professional at once if it involves aggression and keep the dog isolated from your children until the problem has been dealt with quickly in a humane, safe way.

**NOTICE, AND REWARD GOOD BEHAVIOR**

*This cannot be emphasized enough.* When your dog is being calm, playing with his own toys, or is being very gentle with your children, recognize it and reward it with amble praise and food treats.

**DON’T GIVE YOUR DOG TOYS THAT RESEMBLE YOUR CHILDREN’S TOYS OR CLOTHING.**

Stay away from fabric stuffed dog toys that resemble your child’s stuffed animals. Don’t give your dog an old shoe or towel to chew on and then expect him to know the difference between his stuff and your stuff. Give your dog Nylabones, Kongs or Buster Cubes.

**AVOID GIVING YOUR DOG ITEMS THAT HE MAY PROTECT.**

Items such as rawhide, pig’s ears, smoked bones or real bones may be much too valuable to your dog. He may feel he must protect them. Train your dog to allow things to be removed from his mouth by trading higher value treats for the item. *You must train the behavior first before your children attempt it.* Adults practice first to make sure there are absolutely NO problems, then children practice under strict supervision from adults.

**MAKE YOUR DOG PART OF YOUR FAMILY.**

*Bad behavior is never improved by isolating your dog outdoors.* Dogs are pack animals and need to be with their pack. They need to spend daily time with you! In most cases, isolation will actually increase your dog’s behavior problems. If you are having specific behavior problems such as chewing, housetraining, digging, barking, or thievery, then consult a trainer for advice rather than keeping your dog outdoors.