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Adoption Contract

Adopter Information:

Name (First and Last): _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Email Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Drivers License: _____ Issuing State: _____

Animal Information:

Name: _____ Animal ID: _____ Microchip No.: _____

Species: _____ Breed: _____ Sex: Male/Female

Approximate Age: _____ Color: _____ Pattern: _____

**Effective January, 2015 SPCA Florida will no longer provide declawing as a service offered through our medical center. We believe scratching is a natural feline behavior and declawing, an elective surgical procedure, is considered by SPCA Florida to be a form of mutilation. Solutions to deter potential damage to household goods are economical and simple to implement while maintaining the physical and emotional well-being of the animal. Such solutions include scratching posts, scratching platforms, synthetic nails, routine nail trimming, and adhesive furniture protectors, many of which are offered for sale through SPCA Florida's Adoption Center.

Responsible Guardianship Acknowledgement:

By initialing and signing each statement below, the adoptive family or individual hereby states, affirms, acknowledges and expressly agrees to the conditions set forth for the adoption of the above referenced animal and understand that any reference to "pet" below means the above referenced animal.

Responsibilities as an Adopter: (Read and Initial each Item Below)

_____ 1. I hereby accept guardianship and therefore full legal responsibility of the animal described above.

_____ 2. I will provide my pet with all of the elements of a safe and happy home, including food, water, shelter, an identification tag, socialization, and exercise. SPCA Florida does not adopt out dogs or cats that will live outside. SPCA Florida believes that your pet deserves to be a member of the family and treated as such. Whereas the dog/cat will live inside the adopter's home and will not be isolated from the family. The adopter will never let the dog run loose or roam, keep the dog chained or tied up, keep it continuously in a yard, garage, patio, balcony, or pen, or leave the dog outdoors, even in a fenced yard, when no one is at home.

_____ 3. I understand and agree that the above referenced pet shall not be used for medical or any other experimental purposes of any kind, and I will not mistreat, fight, sell, trade or dispose of said pet in any way, but will return the pet to SPCA Florida if at any time my circumstances change and I cannot rehome the pet myself to a safe and nurturing environment. Furthermore, if I am able to re-home the pet I will supply the new owner's information to SPCA Florida so records can be updated. Should I need to

return the pet, I understand that I need to call and schedule an appointment and will not be able to obtain a refund or an exchange.

_____ 4. Within 10 days of adoption, I agree to establish a relationship with **SPCA Florida Animal Medical Center, or other Veterinary Clinic** to provide my pet with appropriate healthcare, both to prevent disease and to treat injury or illness. As the guardian of this animal, I will assume responsibility for the cost of his/her medical care and obtain both competent and adequate veterinary care, **from this day forward.**

_____ 5. Rabies is a fatal disease that affects both humans and animals and current rabies vaccinations are required by State law. **I agree to get my pet vaccinated for rabies once age appropriate and continue to keep my pet vaccinated thru-out its life.**

_____ 6. I understand that my pet has been provided with a microchip for lifetime identification, and that my current contact information will be registered with the national database. This will help me be reunited with my animal should he/she ever becomes lost. I agree to update my information with the national database should my contact information ever change. Furthermore, should the pet be re-homed in accordance with this contract I will take steps to ensure the database is updated with the new guardian's information.

_____ 7. I understand that animals often have unpredictable and puzzling behaviors. As my animal's guardian, I agree to seek guidance through SPCA Florida, my veterinarian, or another animal behavioral professional should my pet's behavior present a problem for me. I understand, however, that should I seek guidance through SPCA Florida there is no guarantee that SPCA Florida will be able to help.

_____ 8. I hereby agree not to declaw the cat being adopted, and understand that declawing is an amputation of the first knuckle that can render the cat defenseless, inflicts unnecessary pain and adversely affects behavior. Effective January, 2015 SPCA Florida will no longer provide declawing as a service offered through our medical center. We believe scratching is a natural feline behavior and declawing, an elective surgical procedure, is considered by SPCA Florida to be a form of mutilation. Solutions to deter potential damage to household goods are economical and simple to implement while maintaining the physical and emotional well-being of the animal. Such solutions include scratching posts, scratching platforms, synthetic nails, routine nail trimming, and adhesive furniture protectors, many of which are offered for sale through SPCA Florida's Adoption Center.

_____ 9. I agree that I will not hold SPCA Florida and its staff or volunteers, or Board Members responsible for any damage or injury to people or property caused by this animal.

_____ 10. If the pet I am adopting has a medical condition and is getting adopted with medications being sent home, I agree to follow directions and administer as directed. Should the pet's condition not improve by completion of the medications, I will call the adoption center to set up a post-adopt appointment with their shelter vet. This appointment must be within 10 days of adoption. If I seek any other medical assistance, I understand that it will be at my expense.

Acknowledgment of SPCA Florida's Commitment to Adopters: (Read and Initial each Item Below)

_____ 1. We care about the pets we place into our community and the people who adopt them. We are here to answer questions, hear your concerns, and to help you resolve problems. If we don't have the answer, we may be able refer you to someone who will.

_____ 2. At SPCA Florida we do our very best to identify and disclose the health or behavior challenges of the animals we place into new homes. Because some animals may not exhibit symptoms of health or behavior problems during their stay with us, we ask our adopters to be prepared for health or behavior changes, especially during the first few weeks in the new home. We are unable to guarantee health or temperament of any animal that we adopt out.

_____ 3. While we always hope that our matches are made for a lifetime, we understand that circumstances may change. SPCA Florida will always make an effort to accept the return of any animal adopted from our shelter. However, we are a charitable organization that relies on the help of the community to support and care for the animals in our possession. Therefore, should the animal be returned we cannot refund any monies associated with the adoption or care of the animal. Should you seek to return your pet, please call to make an appointment as cage space is limited.

_____ 4. If the adopted pet from SPCA Florida proves difficult to care for because of significant health problems diagnosed within the first 10 days of adoption, and not discovered prior to the adoption process, we will accept the animal back to our shelter and gladly help the adopter to find a more suitable pet over the course of the next 30 days. However, we make no guarantee that a suitable pet will be found. Because our financial resources are limited and the demand for our services is great, we ask our adoptive families to understand that we will not reimburse them for either the original adoption fee or veterinary expenses they incurred while caring for the animal.

I fully understand and agree that failure to comply with any of these terms and conditions herein will result in reclaim/repossession of said pet by SPCA Florida and I agree to release the pet upon demand to SPCA Florida and to pay all court costs and attorney's fees should SPCA Florida take legal action against me for failure to comply. SPCA Florida affirms said pet has been spayed/neutered in accordance with Florida Statute §823.15. SPCA Florida is interested in keeping your pet healthy. Although sick pets are not knowingly released, pets with unknown medical backgrounds in a kennel environment may result in exchange of disease. For this reason, we recommend you take your new pet to a veterinarian of your choice for physical examination within 10 days from the date of the adoption.

The average cost to care for each animal helped by SPCA Florida is between \$250-\$315. Of course this amount varies based on the length of time an animal has to stay in the facility and its medical conditions. SPCA Florida is a nonprofit organization that relies on the support of its local communities and therefore requests that you consider making a donation in addition to your adoption fee in order to help cover these costs. The suggested minimum donation is \$50.00.

Yes! I would love to help other pets in need by making a donation in addition to my adoption fee. I understand that this donation is tax-deductible. My donation today is: \$_____.

No, at this time I am not interested in making an additional donation to help other SPCA Florida animals.

By Signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, fully understand, and agree to comply with the above adoption agreement.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

SPCA Florida Representative: _____

Date: _____