

**ADDENDUM – Emotional Support Animal
Save One Soul Animal Rescue League (SOS)**

Telephone: 401.206.0727 | E-mail: dogs@SOSARL.org | Fax: 954.208.2727 | Mail: P.O. Box 498, Wakefield, RI 02880

Dog Name: _____ Breed Guess, Sex, Color: _____ Date of Adoption: _____

An emotional support animal is a companion animal that is intended to provide some comfort to an individual with certain mental health or emotional disorders or challenges. ESA pets can be of different species, but are generally dogs. They are not service or therapy animals. ESA's do not require certification. As a matter of fact, there are many websites on the internet who claim they can supply an "ESA certification" for a fee. These sites are not regulated and are not valid to obtain an ESA pet. Only licensed, certified mental health professionals are able to provide a valid ESA letter as prescribed to an individual.

To some degree or another, every companion pet is an emotional support animal. Companion pets can bring much joy and calm to our lives...but they also have their own needs – some more than others – which can be a big responsibility and may not be conducive to those humans looking for specific emotional support. SOSARL's primary objective with our adoptions program is to find stable, permanent homes where our dogs can thrive.

As part of this adoption, the adopter recognizes and agrees to the following:

Initials	Condition
_____	<p>1. SOS strongly recommends that adopters looking for an ESA only consider dogs that have been living in an approved local foster home and are more than one year old. All dogs are not appropriate candidates to be Emotional Support Animals. While there are obedience and manners components to being an Emotional Support Animal, there is also an energy and personality component. Some dogs are born with the natural ability to be well suited as a support animal, and some are not. For example, a nervous animal who gets scared or skittish in new situations, or one who is reactive or not well socialized, is likely to cause more stress than s/he alleviates. Additionally, dogs with special or high needs themselves are not likely good candidates for the same reason. Just like people, dogs have their own set of DNA and are also influenced by their life experiences along the way. Dogs do not develop their full personality until 12-18 months old and it is not possible for us to make an accurate prediction of the temperament of the dog to the extent that ESA adopters need to be successful. For this reason, we do not promote puppies as ESA placements. Puppies who are placed in households with individuals with emotional challenges are predisposed to grow up to have emotional challenges themselves. Engaging an accredited ESA training professional can help reduce this risk, as can employing quality support services like dog walkers, group training classes, excursion services to help ensure that the dog is having all of his/her needs met. <u>As part of this adoption, you understand this risk and are committed to engaging the resources (financial, time, professional) necessary to help ensure that your puppy develops into (if you are adopting a puppy) or your adult dog continues to be a well balanced canine citizen.</u></p>
_____	<p>2. Training, training, training!! We can't stress enough how important formal training with an accredited professional is. This helps to build your dog's confidence, helps with socialization, and even helps your bond with the dog. This will also play a key component to</p>

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your dog being able to meet your needs, while you are also meeting his/her needs. As part of this adoption, **you agree to participate in a series of group training classes commencing within the next 60 days with your dog.**

Your adoption counselor has reviewed all of this with you. Please feel free to ask questions and always reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We want to help however we can to ensure that your adoption is successful.

By signing below, I agree that I have read this Addendum and agree that it is part of the SOS Adoption Contract. Having read this Addendum, I acknowledge all the above and agree to adopt the Dog voluntarily, with full knowledge of the above mentioned condition(s). I hereby assume and accept full and complete responsibility for the Dog and its condition(s), as applicable, and will follow up with any and all necessary medical or behavioral care. **If under any circumstances, I am unable or unwilling to keep the Dog for any reason, I agree that I shall be obligated to first contact SOS to give it the option to reclaim the Dog at no charge.** I understand and agree that SOS reserves the right to reclaim the Dog if any of the conditions herein or within the SOS Adoption Contract are not met. I further understand and agree that the Adoption Donation I have provided is non-refundable and will not be returned for any reason.

ADOPTER PRINTED NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

THANK YOU FOR BEING COMMITTED TO THIS DOG'S LIFELONG SUCCESS!