



# RESCUE NETWORK MANUAL

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# **Introduction**

## **American Chesapeake Club**

### **Rescue Network Guidelines For Rescue Volunteers**

Thank you for joining the American Chesapeake Club Rescue Network. In your position as an ACC Rescue Network Volunteer you will be an important representative of the ACC. Your efforts in helping needy Chesapeakes are greatly appreciated by the Club, the membership and the dogs that are fortunate to have caring volunteers working on their behalf.

Our Mission Statement: To assist owners of Chesapeake Bay Retrievers who may desire to have their dogs adopted into safe, loving, long term homes for Chesapeake Bay Retrievers who need immediate placement, through a network of dedicated volunteers working on their behalf and acting as a resource to assist them with the long term welfare of their dogs.

We are here to help Chesapeake Bay Retrievers who are in need of assistance due to being impounded, are strays, or are owned by people who cannot or do not want to keep them. This program lists only purebred Chesapeakes with good temperament, no bite history or history of aggressive behavior. Dogs that are processed through the rescue process must be spayed or neutered before being placed.

ACC Rescue does not place dogs for guard dog purposes. Rescue dogs are to be placed in carefully screened homes following the policies and procedures set forth by the Rescue Network and approved by the ACC Board of Directors.

Coordinators will serve in the Eastern, Central, and Western regions of the United States to provide guidance, support, supervision and coordination to the Rescue Network Volunteers in the respective areas. A Hotline Coordinator will accept rescue calls from around the country and refer them to the rescue volunteer nearest the situation. In cases where there is no ACC Rescue Network volunteer near the dog, a message will be posted on the ACC Rescue List on the Internet requesting assistance.

Rescue is one of many activities and programs run under the auspices of the American Chesapeake Club, and is covered under its AKC Group Insurance policy. Those who assist you in an official capacity with any rescue work for the ACC Rescue Network **must** be current ACC members. Rescue Network Volunteers need to network and recruit additional help for their areas in order for the network to function as intended.

Every effort is being made to keep the rescue network administrative policies and procedures straightforward and uncomplicated. Even so, certain policies and procedures are required in order to make the program function properly and to meet our intended goals. This Handbook includes basic guidelines, suggestions for screening dogs, interviewing prospective adopters and a Contact Record to be completed for each rescue case you handle. Although the ACC Rescue network emphasizes the development of a waiting list of prospective homes and handling rescue by referral, there will be cases that qualify for hands-on involvement with the Chesapeakes you help.

This Manual includes a form for listing dogs that owners wish to have placed through the ACC's referral network, a release form for cases where you directly accept the dog from the owner, adoption application, a form to be completed by anyone interested in fostering, and an adoption agreement. You

may belong to other rescue groups. When you are working in an official capacity on behalf of the ACC, you must use the forms provided in this Manual.

The publicity and public relations activities of the Network will result in inquiries that are to be used to develop and maintain a list of prescreened, potential homes. These same activities will also generate increased numbers of calls for assistance in placing dogs. The listed potential homes are to be utilized to connect the two parties (current owner with new owner) reducing the need for fostering.

As we move forward together we may run into situations that have not been anticipated. When these situations arise please contact your local Coordinator for assistance and guidance.

Thank you for your dedication to the welfare of Chesapeake Bay Retrievers.

**Remember, we do it for the dogs.**

## **Why There Are Chesapeakes Who Need Rescue Help**

We feel strongly about Chesapeakes. This is why we own them and we have volunteered our time, energy and experience to assist stray and impounded Chesapeakes or those whose owners cannot keep them. For us they are the best possible breed to share our lives with. However, this breed is not for everyone. That is a major factor in the large number of Chesapeakes relinquished to shelters and pounds, abandoned or given up by their owners.

Responsible breeders screen their puppy buyers carefully, but this does not mean that each of their puppies will have permanent, happy homes. This breed needs and demands attention. They want to be part of their family's lives. They must have obedience training and understand their place in the order of dominance. It is not always predictable by screening to know which owners will not honor their commitment to the dogs they acquire or which dogs will tend toward dominance and over-protectiveness.

Dominance/over-protectiveness problems are the major factors in the number of "problem" Chesapeakes that owners relinquish to shelters, rescue groups, or new owners. A few dogs may have true aggression problems, but the number one reasons for giving up a Chesapeake or having it euthanized is dominance/over-protectiveness.

Chesapeakes are very loyal to their families. It may take a Chesapeake longer to adapt to a new situation than other breeds. Chesapeakes are protective of their homes, vehicles and other territory they claim as their own.

Chesapeakes often find themselves displaced as a result of family moving and cannot take the dog, divorce, illness, or death in a family. Some people give up their Chesapeakes because the dog reaches adulthood energetic and untrained. Some owners give up their dog because they jump fences, dig, cause damage by chewing, bark excessively, or were not properly housebroken. Many of the traits we find so appealing in the Chesapeake are not pleasing to many owners. Rescue personnel must be aware of these factors and understand that special care is needed in matching a prospective adopter with a rescue Chesapeake.

## **GETTING STARTED AS AN ACC RESCUE NETWORK VOLUNTEER**

The first step in getting started as an ACC Rescue Network Volunteer is to thoroughly read and understand the content of this Manual. If you have any questions as to meaning of any section contact your Regional Coordinator.

- **Support from local volunteers:** There are breed and all-breed rescue organizations in most areas of the country. Network with these organizations. This may provide the rescue volunteer with additional support and the benefit of the experiences of other rescuers. It is also a good idea to network with local shelters, before becoming involved in a rescue situation with them.
- **Letters of Introduction:** A letter of introduction is included in the Forms section of this manual. They should be used to provide official introduction of the Rescue Network Volunteer and the ACC Rescue Network to local shelters and veterinarians and to channel requests for rescue to official Rescue Network Volunteers. Some shelters will not allow a rescue volunteer to take a dog or have an active role unless the rescuer has credential from a reputable rescue organization.
- **Evaluation Training:** All Rescue Network Volunteers should research the availability of courses, seminars, or demonstrations that teach methods of evaluating dogs. Some shelters and all breed rescue organizations may offer such training free or at a modest cost. There is a checklist for evaluation in the Forms section of this manual. A checklist should be completed and kept it in your files for each dog evaluated. Experience and your judgment are important in evaluating rescue dogs.
- **Screening:** Not only dog but prospective adopters and present owners must be evaluated. Judgment and intuition must be used along with experience in assessing both dogs and people in order to successfully place dogs and to know when a potential home may not be suitable. If you have worked in rescue in the past, evaluate your success rate with placements. If you have had several failed placements, did you not properly evaluate the dog or the people involved? In cases where you have doubts seek help from another Rescue Network Volunteer or your Regional Coordinator. If you have misjudged a dog, try to attend an evaluation seminar. If you have misjudged a person, in relation to rescue, learn to listen with a “third ear” and always trust your instinct if you think something does not seem right. In order to accurately evaluate a rescue Chesapeake you must know the physical characteristics of the breed, including coat color and coat type. There is a section of the ACC website devoted to coat colors and types. Remember that there are many different coat colors and lengths, including long haired dogs. If you are still in doubt rule in favor of the dog. Although we accept only purebred Chesapeake Bay Retrievers this may be difficult or impossible to determine in the case of stray or shelter dogs.
- **Rotation of Rescue staff:** Cooperate and network with other Rescue Network Volunteers and develop your own network of local help. There may be times when you will need help to share the workload. Try to have an alternate Rescue Network Volunteer who can evaluate a dog or prospective adopter if you are not available. Rescue is not a competitive activity. Networking is the ideal way to conduct your rescue effort. The Regional Coordinators will also make an effort, when possible, to spread the work among available Rescue Network Volunteers. This is probably also the time to discuss knowing when to say NO. The hard and sad truth is that we cannot save

every dog. There are times when you will not be able to take a dog, due to lack of available foster homes. In this case, be upfront and try to outline all alternate options. There will also be times when you are contacted by owners or shelters saying that the dog must be removed immediately. We are all VOLUNTEERS and there will be times when this is not possible. Try to work with the shelter or owner to buy some time. If necessary ask the shelter or owner to deal with another rescuer who may be able to help them. When you are contacted for information return the call as soon as possible. If you are unable to return the call, ask another volunteer to assist you. Another resource is your Regional Coordinator.

- **Operating Policies and Procedures:** When additions or revisions are made they will be provide to you so that you can update your manual. It is extremely important that you follow all policies and procedures in order to be covered by the ACC insurance. Failure to follow policies and procedures will mean that you are operating outside the scope of the Rescue Network Volunteer and you will accept personal liability and responsibility for your actions. It may also result in your removal from the Rescue Network.
- **ACC Website:** There is a section of the ACC website devoted to listings of available dogs. There are three sections:

**Available Dogs In Foster Care:** These are dogs that are presently in the physical care of a ACC Rescue Network Volunteer.

**Available Dogs Owned By ACC Members:** These are dogs that ACC members wish to place, but that are not in foster care.

**Available Dogs Presently In Care Of Their Owner:** These are dogs that are owned by Non-ACC members and are not in foster care that the owners wish to place. These listings are forwarded to the Webmaster **ONLY** by Rescue Network Volunteers, **NOT** by the general public. There is a \$10 nonrefundable listing fee that must be submitted with the listing form.

Whenever possible contact the ACC Webmaster and have a listing placed on our website for every dog. Including a photograph of the dog will increase the chances of placing the dog. Be sure to notify the Webmaster when dogs are placed so that they can be removed from the website.

- **Dogs That Owners Cannot Or Do Not Wish To Keep:** The first step is to evaluate whether the dog is placeable. Remember that it is our policy **NOT** to accept dogs with a bite or aggressive history. Obviously this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Complete a Contact Record for each contact you receive. Use the Questionnaire Form to guide you through your conversation with the owner wishing to relinquish a dog. **In all cases where the dog's breeder is known the breeder MUST be contacted and given the opportunity to take the dog back.** If you cannot positively confirm that this has been done you **MUST** do so. Determine if the dog is adoptable. How long will the owner keep the dog? Explain how our Rescue Network works, using volunteers to connect dogs with possible adopters. If the current owner is able to place their dog, suggest that the owner charge a modest fee, of \$100 for the dog. This will ensure that the potential adopters are willing to make a commitment to the dog and may keep the dog out of the hands of "bunchers" by making it financially unfavorable. Potential adopters that cannot afford a minimal fee may not be financially able to provide quality food and medical care after

adoption. During the interview process you should also carefully question the owner about the possibility of them keeping the dog. Often owners can be helped in resolving the problems that led them to consider placing the dog into rescue. Your experience and networking will enable you to refer these owners to others, such as trainers or behaviorists, who may be able to provide the assistance needed for the owners to overcome the initial problem. Obedience training courses will often help. Listen carefully. Try to determine whether the problem is one that is easily solved. Owners who are allowed to speak freely and asked the right questions will usually reveal if there are serious problems with the dog. Issues of dominance/overprotectiveness may not be easily solved through training unless the present home situation is changed. Some Chesapeakes will continue to take advantage of the “easy” owner but the link of dominance/overprotectiveness may be broken in another home. **This is a difficult call to make.** We do not want to see dogs put down when it is unnecessary, however we cannot risk having someone injured because we, as rescuers, ignore obvious signs that a dog is aggressive towards humans beyond intense loyalty to an owner. Be sure the trainers/behaviorist you are referring owners to is reputable and experienced in dealing with Chesapeakes.

- Shelter Dogs: As above, utilize the Contact Record and Questionnaire Form to gather information. Inquire how long the dog can remain in the shelter and do not rush into fostering the dog. If possible refer potential adopters directly to the Shelter. Some shelters are more willing to work with Rescue than others. Your networking will help build a good relationship with the shelter staff in advance of them receiving a Chesapeake into their shelter. Explain to the shelter staff what your capabilities are, if you can accept the dog and if you can foster the dog. Shelters will often pressure you to come “right away” to take a dog. Try to work with the shelter so that they understand that this may not always be possible. Explain also that they can list a dog on our website and send them a listing form. There is NO fee for shelters to list the dog on our website.
- Contact Records: Complete a Contact Record for each contact you make. Contact Records are to be utilized to complete your yearly Statistics Report. These Reports form the backbone of our data and help to determine the direction we need to go in.
- Dog’s Eligibility For ACC Rescue/Placements: **THIS PROGRAM DOES NOT RESCUE OR PLACE AGGRESSIVE DOGS OR DOGS WITH A BITE HISTORY.** This also means that dogs considered ineligible for placement **WILL NOT BE LISTED** and no referrals for these dogs will be made. If you receive a call and the owner informs you that the problem is dominance/overprotectiveness determine the seriousness of the problem. If aggression or biting have occurred, inform the owner that the dog is NOT eligible for rescue, listing, or placement through the ACC Rescue Network. If the owner is interested in resolving the issue refer the owner to trainers or behaviorists in your area. Provide owners with as much resource information as possible on classes, trainers, books, videos, and other materials as you can.
- Fostering: As a program established to effect placement by referrals whenever possible, the ACC Rescue Network attempts to limit fostering to **extreme cases**. Not every Shelter case is an emergency. Some shelters are very well run and cooperate with Rescue personnel. Not all Shelter dogs are in imminent danger of being euthanized. **This program is not a dumping ground for owners looking for the easiest way to divest themselves of a Chesapeake.** There are advantages to not moving the dogs around any more than is necessary. Not all shelters will allow rescuers to take dogs from their facility and some will charge the rescue volunteer the adoption fee. Most will allow rescuers to spend time with the dog, evaluate it, and refer potential adopters



to them. This approach works well with the ACC Rescue Network's emphasis on referral placements. The Club approved you as a Rescue Network Volunteer and relies on your good judgment to adhere to the policies and procedures outlined in this Manual. You must determine when a rescue case requires fostering. At all times common sense should be your guide. There is no intention that a nice dog be put down or remain in a dangerous situation in lieu of fostering. Conversely, there is no justification for putting every dog you help into a foster home. Referral/placement serves to minimize the need for fostering and increases the number of dogs we can help. It is recognized that emergencies will occur. **In all cases of fostering a release/relinquishment form must be signed.** Have a backup plan in case you cannot foster. Your network of rescuers should contain others who may be able to foster in case of an emergency.

- **Transportation:** Whenever possible rescue dogs should be placed using local contacts and developing a waiting list of nearby potential adoptive homes. In cases where a prospective adopter is interested in a dog that is at a distance consider all factors carefully. If the dog has any history of bad behavior it is not a good prospect for long distance placement. If the adoption fails, who will be responsible for the dog's welfare? Has the adopter paid airline-shipping charges, which he/she will expect to be reimbursed? If you do place a dog in a distant home, be certain that it is a dog that will be easy for a new adopter of any ability to manage. Failures are disappointing. At a distance, failures are a logistics problem for the owner, the rescue volunteer and the dog. Do not completely discount this means of placing a dog in a good home. Do use extra caution in placing a dog in a distant home. Always put the dog's interest first, evaluate the situation, and make the best decision for that rescue case. In such cases, follow-up within two or three days of the dog's arrival in the new home. Help new owners to correct any undesirable behavior before it leads to a relinquishment. If shipment of a dog by air is required **the cost of shipping will be at the adopters expense and must be paid prior to shipment.**
- **Adoptions made directly by an ACC Rescue Volunteer:** In cases where you must place a dog directly with a new adopter, use the Adoption form and Adoption Agreement. Retain copies of each for your permanent files. All guidelines relating to screening of dogs and prospective adopters must be followed in making placements. It is strongly recommended that the Rescue Volunteer do a home visit before finalizing the adoption.
- **Follow-up:** Follow up with the new adopters at one week, two weeks, and one month intervals. Invite the new adopters to contact you if there are questions regarding care, behavior, training or other issues relating to the dog. You should be a resource to adopters. A six-month follow-up should reveal how well the dog and his new owners are making out. Most new adopters will have questions. Let them know at the onset that you are available to take their calls and provide support during the transition period. Make a final follow-up call at the end of the first year of the placement.
- **Insurance/Liability:** The ACC is covered by the AKC's Group insurance for member clubs. It is not possible to eliminate all risks of liability, but through good insurance, good volunteers, good policies and avoidance of negligence, risks can be minimized. It is in the interest of the volunteers, the breed and the Club that rescue is managed by the referral/placement process, whenever possible. Again, this program does not deal with aggressive dogs or those who have bitten a human. Other problems will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

- **Funding:** Rescue Network Volunteers may request funding for start-up expenses, including postage, phone expenses, copying, and advertising costs. Volunteers may build a fund adequate to cover expenses and a small sum for emergencies. The Club, through the ACC Charitable Trust, will develop a funding source to help offset rescue expenses. The Trust is managed through a Board and Advisory Committee.
- **Fees:** No fee is charged to an adopter when an adopter is referred to a shelter or present owner. In cases where an owner has paid the \$10 listing fee and the adoption is made by referral there is no additional fee. Donations may be accepted but should not be solicited from listed dogs. When a Rescue Network Volunteer makes a direct placement a minimum fee of \$100 is to be charged to the adopter. This sum is subject to review and change at any time. Higher fees may be reasonably based on the situation. The fees charged will be used to help offset costs involved in making the dog ready for adoption, specifically veterinary costs.
- **Expenditures:** Dogs that are being held in foster care may require veterinary care. Costs for reasonable veterinary care will be reimbursed to the Rescue Network Volunteer by the Regional Coordinator through the Reimbursement Request form. Per dog veterinary cost must not exceed \$300 without prior Rescue Committee approval. These requests must be made, in writing or email, to the Committee Chairman **PRIOR** to the expenditure, except in cases of life threatening conditions. Normally reimbursable costs will include inoculation, spay/neuter costs, checkups, heartworm checks and normal veterinary care needed. Understand that Rescue funds are limited and decisions as to whether expensive/extensive procedures will be funded will be reviewed by the Committee as quickly as possible. Be prepared to supply information to the Committee that may explain the need for the procedure and the potential prognosis. Items such as hip replacement, ACL repair surgery, or extensive eye surgery will be judged on a case-by-case basis.
- **Euthanization:** In the situation where a Rescue Network Volunteer feels that a dog needs to be euthanized the Regional Coordinator should be notified before the procedure is performed. The Regional Coordinator may, at their discretion, request the advice of the Committee. This is not a decision that is to be taken lightly and the additional review may generate additional options.
- **Spay/Neuter:** **All dogs placed by the ACC Rescue Network will be spayed or neutered prior to placement unless over-riding circumstances dictate otherwise. Dogs placed who have not been spayed/neutered prior to placement MUST have a supplemental Spay/Neuter agreement included in the adoption agreement and contract. It is understood that exceptionally young or sick dogs may not be able to be spayed/neutered prior to placement.**
- **Inoculations:** **All dogs placed by the ACC Rescue Network must have current inoculation for rabies and any other inoculations required by the laws of the jurisdiction where the dog is being held. This includes dogs that are being listed.**
- **Intake/Surrender Fees:** Intake or surrender fees may be solicited from owners wishing to relinquish a dog. These fees are at the discretion of the Rescue Volunteer accepting the dog. These fees are to be used to offset the cost of maintaining the dog until a home is found.

# American Chesapeake Club

## Contact Record

(Use this form for each ACC Rescue case handled by you—maintain a copy in your permanent file).

Date you were first contacted about this Chesapeake: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and phone # of person calling: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Spayed/Neutered: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

AKC papers available? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Is the breeder known? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If so, has breeder been contacted? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Source of this Chesapeake: Shelter (name and location) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Owner (name, full mailing address, phone and email address)

\_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview with owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Shelter: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you personally evaluate the dog? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Reason owner is not keeping dog?

\_\_\_\_\_

Does the dog have any history of aggression, biting or other problems (specify please)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did you list the dog as adoptable? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Did you send owner listing form? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Or make referral match directly from your waiting list? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Disposition of this Chesapeake:**

Placed in new home by owner through referral from your waiting list: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner placed dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog was euthanized (give reason): \_\_\_\_\_

Dog was adopted directly from shelter: \_\_\_\_\_

By shelter clients \_\_\_\_\_ By adopter referred to you : \_\_\_\_\_

Owner reclaimed dog from shelter: \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder took back dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Was this dog fostered by ACC? \_\_\_\_\_

If this Chesapeake was adopted into a new home, list name, phone number, email and full mailing address:

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Notes:

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# Rescue Network Contacts

**Vet./Spay/Neuter Clinics Phone Email address Contact Name\_**

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# American Chesapeake Club, Inc. Rescue Network Surrender Agreement

I \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby surrender to the American Chesapeake Club, Inc. Rescue Network, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever named \_\_\_\_\_.

I certify that I am the owner of this dog, free and clear of all other interests. I certify that this dog is has not possessed of any dangerous or vicious propensities. The information I have provided about the history of this dog is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the American Chesapeake Club, Inc. Rescue Network to place this dog into a new home of their discretion and according to their ability to locate a suitable owner. I irrevocably relinquish to the American Chesapeake Club, Inc. Rescue Network or its agents all rights, title and interest in and access to the dog surrendered. I hereby hold harmless and indemnify the American Chesapeake Club, Inc. Rescue Network, its Officers, Board of Directors, agents and volunteers from all claims, demands, actions, causes of action and liability of any kind whatsoever arising as a result of or in connection with the surrender and subsequent adoption of or other disposition of the surrendered dog.

I certify that I have read, understood and willingly agreed to the terms of this document.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

American Chesapeake Club, Inc. Rescue Network Volunteer or other witness:

ACC: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# American Chesapeake Club, Inc.

## Rescue Network

### Adoption Agreement

I (We), \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned Adopter(s) agree to all conditions of this Adoption Agreement as set forth by the American Chesapeake Club, Inc., Rescue Network:

1. **STERILIZATION:** If not already spayed/neutered, this dog must be sterilized by \_\_\_\_\_. This dog must not be used for breeding in any case. Adopter(s) must provide within five days of surgery, documentation that spay-neuter has been done by the date set forth. This must be signed by the veterinarian who performed the surgery. If this provision is violated, Chesapeake Rescue reserves the right to void the adoption and reclaim possession of the dog.
2. **SOCIALIZATION/ENVIRONMENT:** The dog will be given 3 to 4 weeks to adjust to its new surroundings. It takes this long for a dog to become adjusted in his/her new home and for the Adopter and dog to adjust to each other. The dog will live as a member of the family. The Adopter agrees to not isolate this dog from his/her family.
3. **RETURNS:** If for any reason, this adoption is not satisfactory to the adopting party, or if the Adopter(s) fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Agreement during the entire life span of this dog, the dog must be returned to the Chesapeake Rescue. If the Adopter can no longer keep the dog but feels he/she has a good home available for it, Chesapeake Rescue must be notified and allowed to screen the prospective Adopter and to make the final decision on placement of the dog.
4. **TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP:** This dog may not be transferred to any other person, business or organization for any reason whatsoever without the express written consent of the Coordinator of the ACC Rescue Network.
5. **HEALTH AND WELFARE:** This dog must be placed on an inoculation and heartworm preventive program established by the Adopter's licensed veterinarian. Adopter(s) will provide quality food, water, shelter and medical care to maintain this dog in optimum health.
6. **IDENTIFICATION:** This dog must wear identification, such as personal ID and license tags at all times. Tattooing or microchipping is recommended as permanent ID.
7. **TRAINING:** This dog is not to be trained for use as a protection or attack dog or otherwise trained to be aggressive by Adopter(s) or any other person or organization.
8. **LOSS:** If the dog is lost or stolen, the Adopter(s) must immediately notify Chesapeake Rescue. The Adopter(s) agrees to make every effort to locate the dog. This includes placing newspaper ads and notifying local area veterinarians and animal shelters.

9. **RESERVATION OF RIGHTS:** Chesapeake Rescue reserves the right to schedule a follow-up visit on this adoption in order to protect the welfare of the dog. If any terms and conditions of this Agreement are not upheld by the Adopter(s), Chesapeake Rescue reserves the right to terminate this Agreement and the Adopter(s) must return the dog to Chesapeake Rescue.
10. **ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COST:** Should it become necessary for Chesapeake Rescue to take legal action to recover this Chesapeake or otherwise enforce provisions in this agreement, the undersigned Adopter(s) agree(s) to pay all court costs and legal fees.

**I hereby accept possession of the Chesapeake Bay Retriever identified as Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_ at my own risk. I, the undersigned, agree to release the American Chesapeake Club, Chesapeake Rescue Network, its agents and volunteers and the heirs from any and all responsibilities for actions caused by this dog and with the understanding of the risks involved in the adoption of this dog. The undersigned has read and understands all of the terms of this adoption and agrees to abide by all terms and conditions stated above.**

**Name (print)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**ACC Rescue or Agent** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adopter(s) Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone and email** \_\_\_\_\_

**ACC Rescue Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_