

Animal Protectors of Allegheny Valley

Volunteer Consent, Assumption of Risk, and Liability Waiver

This Volunteer Consent, Assumption of Risk, and Liability Waiver ("Agreement") is entered into by the undersigned volunteer ("Volunteer") in favor of Animal Protectors of Allegheny Valley ("APAV"), its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents, and representatives.

1. Voluntary Participation

I understand and acknowledge that my participation as a volunteer with APAV is entirely voluntary and without compensation. I am offering my services freely and understand that I am not an employee of APAV.

2. Assumption of Risk

I understand that volunteering at an animal shelter involves inherent risks, including but not limited to:

- Bites, scratches, or other injuries from animals
- Exposure to zoonotic diseases, parasites, or allergens
- Slips, falls, or other injuries while on shelter property or during volunteer activities
- Emotional stress related to working with animals in a shelter environment

I knowingly and voluntarily assume all risks, both known and unknown, associated with volunteering at APAV.

3. Release and Waiver of Liability

In consideration of being permitted to volunteer with APAV, I hereby release, waive, discharge, and hold harmless Animal Protectors of Allegheny Valley from any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of action arising out of or related to any injury, illness, loss, or damage that may occur while volunteering, except to the extent caused by gross negligence or willful misconduct as determined by applicable law.

4. Compliance with Policies and Procedures

I agree to comply with all APAV policies, procedures, safety protocols, rules, and instructions, including but not limited to those outlined in the APAV Volunteer Handbook. I understand that failure to follow these policies may result in suspension or termination of my volunteer privileges.

5. Volunteer Handbook Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the APAV Volunteer Handbook, and I agree to abide by all processes, guidelines, and expectations outlined therein.

6. Health and Capability

I certify that I am physically and mentally capable of performing volunteer duties and that I will inform APAV of any condition that may affect my ability to volunteer safely. I agree to immediately report any injury, incident, or unsafe condition to APAV staff.

7. Photo and Media Release

I acknowledge and agree that any photographs or video recordings taken by me while volunteering with APAV are subject to APAV's social media and communications policies.

I agree that I will **only** take photographs or video recordings of animals that have been designated by APAV staff as **cleared and approved for adoption**. I further agree that I will **not**, under any circumstances, photograph, record, or publicly share images or videos of animals that are sick, injured, under veterinary care, subject to humane hold, involved in legal proceedings, part of cruelty or seizure cases, or otherwise restricted from public disclosure.

I understand and agree that I may not post, publish, tag, livestream, or otherwise share any animal-related content on personal or public social media accounts unless and until the animal has been explicitly cleared for adoption and public posting by APAV. I also agree not to photograph or record APAV staff, volunteers, visitors, or members of the public without prior express authorization.

I acknowledge that any violation of this policy may result in immediate suspension or termination of volunteer privileges and may subject me to further action as permitted by law.

8. Medical Treatment Authorization

In the event of an emergency, I authorize APAV to obtain medical treatment on my behalf if necessary. I understand that I am solely responsible for any medical costs incurred.

9. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read this Agreement carefully, understand its contents, and agree to be legally bound by it.

Volunteer Name (Print): _____

Volunteer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

If the volunteer is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must sign below.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____