

# ***BIG DOGS, BIG HEARTS RESCUE INC.***

P.O. Box 120, Ionia, NY 14475-0120 Tel: 585-690-3525

## **ADOPTION APPLICATION**

**Big Dogs, Big Hearts Rescue Inc. ("BDBH") reserves the right to decline any application, based on the information we receive or are given during the approval process, with no explanation to the applicant(s). Information received during the approval process is considered confidential.**

**Any Application not completed In Full And Mailed With The \$20 Application Fee will not be processed.**

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

### **Applicant/Co-Applicant Personal Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse/Partner/Significant Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town/Village: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from Street address): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers – Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Method of Contact (home phone, cell, email, other): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

How Long: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner/Significant Other's Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

How Long: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Breed(s) of Interest:**

1. Do you have a specific breed(s) or BDBH dog that you are interested in? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you have any preference as to the gender of your new dog?

Male

Female

No Preference

3. Do you have any preference as to the age of your new dog?

under 6 months

6 months – 1 year

1-2 years

2-6 years

6+ years

No Preference

4. Please tell us why the breed(s) or BDBH dog stated above interests you? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there other breed(s) or BDBH dog that you are also interested in?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Please tell us what the three (3) most important characteristics that you would like to see in your new dog?

- |                                     |                                     |                                      |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active     | <input type="checkbox"/> Calm       | <input type="checkbox"/> Playful     | <input type="checkbox"/> Intelligent  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loving     | <input type="checkbox"/> Protective | <input type="checkbox"/> Aggressive  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dominant     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Submissive | <input type="checkbox"/> Shy        | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

6. How do you plan to discipline your new dog? \_\_\_\_\_

7. To facilitate the bonding process, we recommend/may require that every new dog undergo some introductory obedience training. Would a formal obedience training program interest you?  Yes /  No If no, please explain why not: \_\_\_\_\_

8. It is important for ANY rescue dog to be well socialized. Are you willing to continue to properly keep your new dog well socialized with people as well as other dogs, and take your new dog to group activities to enhance their social skills?  Yes /  No

**Current Household/Lifestyle:**

1. Which of the following best describes your current residence? (Please check only one response):

- I/We own a single home
- I/We rent/lease a single home\*
- I/We own a condo/townhouse
- I/We rent/lease a condo/townhouse\*
- I/We rent an apartment\*

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** If you rent/lease your place of residence, a copy of your lease and written permission from the landlord will be required before your adoption can be finalized.

2. Do you have a fenced yard?  
a. If yes, what type of fence? \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_  
b. If no, what improvements, if necessary, will you make to secure your yard?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. If you do not have access to a fenced area at your home how do you plan on exercising your new dog? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Have you checked your yard for dangerous articles, plants, or anything that your dog could use to climb a fence?  Yes /  No

5. Do you have a pool?  Yes /  No  
If yes, does your pool meet the current NYS Safety laws?  Yes /  No

6. Approximately how many hours each day do you anticipate that your new dog will be alone?

- Less than 3 hours
- 3 to 7 hours
- 7 to 9 hours
- 9+ hours

If you answered more than six (6+), what arrangements will you make for the elimination and exercise needs of your new dog on these days? \_\_\_\_\_

7. How will your dog be confined when left home alone? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Will your new dog live primarily indoors or outdoors? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Where will your new dog sleep at night? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Are you willing to use a crate for your new dog if necessary?  Yes /  No

11. If you are a single person, do you travel often?  Yes /  No

If yes, how will you ensure care for the dog: \_\_\_\_\_

12. How many people, *including yourself*, live in your home \_\_\_\_\_?

Name	Relationship	Age

13. Who will have primary responsibility to care for your new dog? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Does anyone in your family have allergies to dogs?  Yes /  No

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Have you and your family discussed the pros and cons of owning a rescue dog?  Yes /  No

16. Is everyone in your family enthusiastic about getting a rescue dog?  Yes /  No

17. Are you willing to instruct your children and other people that frequent your home on the proper handling and care for your new rescue dog?  Yes /  No

18. Have you considered the long term commitment of time and financial resources?  Yes /  No

**Current Pet Ownership:**

*Please list all current pets and how they came to live with you.  
If needed, make extra copies of this page and attach.*

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Type/Breed(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of time owned: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Spayed/Neutered?  Yes /  No  
If not, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Where is this pet kept? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Type/Breed(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of time owned: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Spayed/Neutered?  Yes /  No  
If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Where is this pet kept? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Type/Breed(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of time owned: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Spayed/Neutered?  Yes /  No  
If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Where is this pet kept? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are all your pets current on all vaccinations?  Yes /  No
5. Are all your dogs on heartworm preventative?  Yes /  No  
If yes, what type? \_\_\_\_\_  
If no, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

**Prior Pet Ownership:**

6. Have you owned any other pets within the past ten (10) years other than those previously listed?  
 Yes /  No If yes, please list name, breed and sex of each and explain how they came to live with you and what happened to all previously owned pets and the circumstances (i.e., died from \_\_\_\_\_, gave away because \_\_\_\_\_, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you currently have a veterinarian or is there a veterinarian whom you've used in the past?  Yes /  No  
Please provide the following information, using additional paper if needed:  
Name #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Time Vet Used: \_\_\_ years  
Name #2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Time Vet Used: \_\_\_ years
8. If you do not have a veterinarian, would you like a rescue representative to recommend one that is in your area?  Yes /  No

9. Have you, or any other member of your household, ever been investigated by any animal welfare organization, including the S.P.C.A., Humane Society, etc.?  Yes /  No (please explain):

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Have you, or any other member of your household, ever been charged with cruelty to animals?  Yes /  No (please explain):

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Have you, or any other member of your household, ever applied to adopt an animal from another rescue, if so, what was the outcome?  Yes /  No (please explain):

\_\_\_\_\_

**Personal References:**

Please list the name, address, phone numbers and email (if applicable) of three (3) personal references, other than your veterinarian.

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_
- Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_
- Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_
- Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Misc. Information:**

1. How did you hear about Big Dogs, Big Hearts Rescue Inc.?

- ( ) Internet/Website(Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Vet (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Shelter (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Pet Store (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Fundraiser(Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Friend (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Other animal rescue (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Would you consider volunteering for Big Dogs, Big Hearts Rescue Inc.?

- ( ) No
- ( ) Yes – if so, please specify which you are interested in helping with:
  - ( ) Fostering dogs
  - ( ) Temporary foster care as needed
  - ( ) Transporting dogs
  - ( ) Fundraising
  - ( ) Increasing awareness of Big Dogs, Big Hearts Rescue, Inc.
  - ( ) Interviewing of adopting/fostering candidates
  - ( ) Home checks

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- I/We certify that the information provided on this application is true and correct.  YES  NO
- I/We am/are also financially and physically able to care for a BDBH dog.  YES  NO
- I/We understand that proper food and veterinary care can be costly and I/we am/are able to meet these requirements.  YES  NO
- I/We understand that home visits are made prior to and following adoption and that, if upon the visit, BDBH finds the information contained in this application to be incomplete, the application may be denied.  YES  NO
- I/We agree that BDBD may contact persons/entities including, but not limited to, those listed herein for additional information.  YES  NO
- 
- I/We understand that completion of this application does not guarantee approval to adopt a BDBH dog.  YES  NO
- I/We understand the information received by BDBH, during the approval process is confidential and it cannot give details to the applicants if they are denied?  YES  NO
- I/We further understand that completion of this form is only the first step in the adoption process and that, should you wish to complete this process, an in-home screening will follow?  YES  NO
- I/We understand that BDBH requests a non-refundable adoption application fee which represents a contribution to defer its expenses both directly and indirectly attributable to the rescue of the dog and other dogs.  YES  NO
- I/We understand that as a part of the adoption process and before placing any dog, I/we will be asked to sign a contract in which I/we agree to certain conditions, such as, but not limited to:
  1. Allowing a BDBH representative(s) to visit your home after placement of the dog; and
  2. Surrender the dog back to BDBH if I/we violate the contract or are unable to keep the dog *for any reason*.
 Are you willing to sign and be bound by such a contract?  YES  NO

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness (must be over 21)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Co-Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness (must be over 21)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this detailed questionnaire! We will review the information you have provided. Once your references have been successfully checked, you will be scheduled for a Home Visit. This will provide us a chance to meet you and your family and any current pets that reside in your home. All members of the household; children, pets, and otherwise, need to be present for the home visit. It is very important that all members of the home are all on the same page about doing this. In the meantime, please contact your vet and personal references to let them know we will be contacting them, so that they know they have your permission to speak with us.

We are pleased that you have decided to join our “family” and are considering adopting one of our amazing dogs! As always, we are always interested in your comments and suggestions and are open to new viewpoints! For questions/comments, please e-mail Darcy E. Drons at [bigdogsbigheartsrescue@gmail.com](mailto:bigdogsbigheartsrescue@gmail.com)

***PLEASE MAIL APPLICATION AND APPLICATION FEE TO:***

**BDBH c/o Application Co-Coordinator Jamie and Jen  
P.O. Box 120, Ionia, NY 14475**

**You should hear from BDBH within 48 hours of receipt confirming receipt of your application. If you have not heard from us, please email Darcy E. Drons at [bigdogsbigheartsrescue@gmail.com](mailto:bigdogsbigheartsrescue@gmail.com), to inquire about the status of your application.**

**Due to the time involved in processing applications please advise us if you have adopted elsewhere, no longer interested in adopting, or would like to withdraw your application as soon as possible. This will allow us to spend our time working on open applications to find homes for our dogs. Thank you!**

## **Big Dogs, Big Hearts Rescue, Inc. (“BDBH”) Adoption Process**

BDBH is an all volunteer nonprofit organization. The majority of us have our own dogs and families, work full time jobs and are very involved in the rescue community. We ask that you please be patient during the application process. We want to assure that our dogs are placed in appropriate homes and that they will truly be their forever homes!

*All BDBH rescue dogs are in foster care homes with pre-approved foster families, BDBH does not have a facility. BDBH requires prospective families to meet our dogs at our public Meet and Greet locations or as arranged at the convenience of his/her foster family.*

BDBH is looking for forever homes for our dogs in which he/she will be a much loved part of the family. All our rescue dogs must live inside the home as part of the family.

BDBH considers adoption applicants from the following states: NY, PA, OH and CT. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee a specific time period for which home visits will be completed. BDBH has a network of its volunteers or other reputable rescue contacts/animal shelters/humane societies who we coordinate with to complete those home visits outside our local volunteer base.

### **Adoption Stages:**

1. BDBH requires an application with references (personal and veterinary). All resident animals (dogs and cats) must be altered\*, up-to-date on vaccinations, all resident dogs must be heartworm tested yearly and on monthly heartworm preventative;

\*Exception 1 - proof your dog is a current working or show dog; and/or

Exception 2 - written medical reason as why it would be dangerous to his/her health to spay/neuter.

2. If an application is approved, the next step is a home visit, for which all family members need to be present. The purpose of the home visit is to allow BDBH to get to know the potential adoptive family a bit better. We are not looking for immaculate housekeeping, but rather a loving, safe environment for one of our rescue dogs. The volunteer(s) bring a dog with them on the home visit. The home visit volunteer(s) provides the rescue with information that helps us make a decision as to appropriate placements. We are trying to see the whole picture with the information available to us;

3. Once a family is approved through the home visit stage, our Home Visit Coordinator will notify the applicant, via an email, of approval. BDBH reserves the right to qualify an approval, i.e. approved to adopt a specific gender of dog, a submissive dog, a dog of certain age, etc. If we have more than one approved family interested in a particular dog, the foster family retains the right to make the final decision in the best interest of their foster dog. If another home is chosen that does not mean the prospective adopter would not be a good home, but rather that the situation does not meet that dog's best interest;

4. Once a family finds their new family member, we require the adopter(s) to sign an Adoption Contract which permits BDBH to do its best to always be there for its rescued dog, including reserving rights to have the adopted dog returned to BDBH for any default under the Adoption Contract. BDBH stays in close contact with the forever family i.e. questions, pictures, updates, visits.



**BDBH dogs are placed with the forever home that best meets the dog's needs. BDBH does not operate on a "first come, first served" basis.** While we do our best to ensure a fair chance of adopting the dog of your choice, ultimately, we are looking out for the best interests of our rescued dogs. We consider each and every one of our rescue dogs part of our family.

BDBH does not reserve dogs. Successful completion of both the adoption application and home visit begins the approved to adopt process.

BDBH reserves the right to refuse an application if the home situation or environment is deemed incompatible with the needs of our dogs. Our emphasis is on the dogs needs. We gladly answer any questions about our process, or any of our dogs. Please feel free to ask questions!

#### Application and Adoption Fee:

There is a non-refundable \$20 application fee required prior to processing your application. It will be applied towards the adoption fee if/when you adopt a rescue dog from BDBH or it will be used as a donation towards medical treatment for our dogs if you choose not adopt from BDBH.

Our non-refundable adoption fee is \$275. This fee represents a contribution to defer BDBH's expenses both directly and indirectly attributable to the rescue of the specific adopted dog and other BDBH dogs. The adoption fee helps defray some of BDBH's expenses, which allows us to save more dogs. Our non-refundable senior (6 years old and over) adoption fee is \$ 200.00.

Please visit our website for more information [www.bdbh.org](http://www.bdbh.org)