



American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club

Rescue Committee Guidelines

What constitutes a Rescue or Re-homed Polish Lowland Sheepdog?

Polish Lowland Sheepdogs in the following situations:

- 1 Immediate peril
- 2 Relinquished to shelters
- 3 When breeders refuse to take the dog back or give strong support to the owner
- 4 A Polish Lowland Sheepdog that needs to be re-homed

Any dog that cannot stay in its present home that the breeder does not take full responsibility for or any Polish Lowland Sheepdog of unknown origin is considered a rescue dog.

Guidelines for the Rescue Committee

- 1 To help place Polish Lowland Sheepdogs who are unwanted, abandoned, victims of inhumane treatment or subject to an uncertain fate find good and loving homes;
- 2 To coordinate and assist the efforts of committee personnel and APONC members in the rescue of Polish Lowland Sheepdogs in their area;
- 3 To provide financial assistance with the rescue effort when the guidelines for rescue are met;
- 4 To educate potential adoptive owners about the Polish Lowland Sheepdog and their special requirements to ensure an educated decision in adopting this breed;
- 5 To keep statistics on Polish Lowland Sheepdogs that get into the rescue system;
- 6 To educate animal control officers and shelter staff on how to identify a Polish Lowland Sheepdog;
- 7 To encourage the policy that final responsibility for any Polish Lowland Sheepdog that needs a home lies with the breeder(s), this responsibility is for the life of the dog, no matter what the circumstances.

Funding For Rescue

Rescue money will be collected annually, with dues, on a voluntary basis. If needed, a special appeal for funds may also be a funding source. Money collected for rescue will be used toward the direct costs in rescuing a dog and the reasonable reimbursement of medical fees and impoundment fees. Rescue is a volunteer function of APONC. As the word "volunteer" implies certain sacrifices should be expected.

Telephone and gasoline expenses should be donated by each volunteer member in the spirit of the rescue program. However, in the event that extensive travel or calls are necessary, APONC will reimburse the member, if a request for reimbursement is made.

Reimbursement

The APONC Guidelines must be followed in order to be eligible for reimbursement. Any major deviation must be presented and approved by the Rescue Committee prior to reimbursement;

- 1 Request for reimbursement will be sent to the Chairperson of the Rescue Committee, who will review and submit the approved reimbursement request to the treasurer.
- 2 All items for reimbursement must be documented, showing receipts for services. No money will be reimbursed without receipts or some type of clear documentation of expenses.
- 3 A maximum of \$300.00 in expenditures will be reimbursed for each dog unless special circumstances have been approved by the Board of Directors and Treasurer.
- 4 Reimbursements will be paid for dogs that must be bought from Humane Societies or Shelters.



American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club

Rescue Committee Guidelines

Polish Lowland Sheepdog Identification

All dogs must be properly identified as Polish Lowland Sheepdogs to the best of the Rescue Committee's knowledge. If a dog is found without positive breed identification (registration papers or known breeding) it is suggested that a team of two PON owners/breeders evaluate the dog if possible.

Medical

1 Dogs that become part of the rescue program should be spayed or neutered. However, each case must be evaluated on an individual basis. If the decision is made to spay/neuter, then it is to be done with money from the Rescue Fund and before the animal is adopted into a new home.

2 Major medical expenses must have prior approval by the Board of Directors and Treasurer for reimbursement. This includes treatment of heartworm positive dogs, radiographs, blood work and so forth.

Emotional/Treatment Status of Animal

The dog must be of stable temperament and without any serious chronic behavior problem. The dog must be considered adoptable and desirable as a family companion. Any rehabilitation and/or needed training should be attainable by a novice owner. If the animal is in a foster home, that home should start the rehabilitation when possible as it is then possible to learn more about the depth of any problem and the corrective work that may be required. The dog **MUST NOT** have a history of biting, snapping or acting aggressively or being excessively fearful towards people. It should not be aggressive towards or with other dogs. **NO DOG SHALL BE PLACED THAT HAS A HISTORY OF BITING.**

Foster Care

The best situation for the rescue dog is to be placed in a loving foster home until a permanent home may be found. This way, the personality traits, house behavior and reaction to everyday situations of the dog may be observed and any problems noted. The animal should be observed and evaluated for a minimum of 2 weeks, giving the dog adequate time to adjust to new surroundings so that the true behavior and personality may be observed. If a dog must be boarded at a commercial kennel, the Rescue Fund will pay (amount to set up by Board on a case-by-case basis) per day for a maximum of 2 weeks (14 days).

Adoption Criteria

1 The prospective owners should be personally interviewed and a home visit conducted when possible. The interview should be an in-depth process designed to educate the individual(s) on owning a Polish Lowland Sheepdog. In addition, evaluate the lifestyle of the prospective owner(s) and plans for the dog. Past dog ownership history and personal views on companion dogs must be explored when evaluating a potential home.

2 It is recommended that the individual meet the dog and then wait to think about the decision for 24 to 48

hours before adopting the dog. This helps prevent emotional impulse adoptions. Prospective owners who are committed will make a second trip to acquire the dog.

3 An adoption questionnaire must be filled out. A written agreement MUST be signed by the prospective owner and witnessed. This agreement releases APONC and the person conducting the adoption from any liability; forbids the owner from transferring ownership without contacting the Rescue Committee; prohibits the owner from turning the dog in to a shelter; prohibits the sale or donation of the dog to a person or corporation for experimental research; specifies that the dog will live as a family pet with its emotional needs met and states that the person will provide humane care and treatment including regular care for the dog.

4 A donation is appreciated to PON Rescue. The check should be made out to the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club. The purpose of the donation is to replenish the Rescue Fund for the next dog.

The Rescue Committee's responsibility toward the new owner is to provide:

1 Documentation of all medical care, including Rabies vaccination certificate.

2 General information about the dog's age, where found, history and so forth.

3 Guidelines for feeding and general care.

4 Any observed behaviors, rehabilitation guidelines, if needed, and a general statement about the adjustment period for re-homing.

5 Names and telephone numbers of local APONC and Rescue Committee members to contact with questions or concerns.

6 A copy of the signed agreement.

7 After adoption, quarterly follow-up calls and/or visits should be made to check on the progress of the dog for a period of one year. Thereafter, a yearly check is sufficient



American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club

Rescue Reimbursement Request Form

The following expenses were incurred while engaged in Rescue Services. All receipts are attached.

| | Type/Detail | Amount |
|---------------------|--------------|--------|
| Veterinary Fees: | _____ | _____ |
| Boarding Fees: | _____ | _____ |
| Shelter/Pound Fees: | _____ | _____ |
| Other Expenses: | _____ | _____ |
| | TOTAL | _____ |

Further details related to "Other Expenses":

Reimbursement request submitted by: _____

Date: _____

Approved: _____



American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club

Rescue Committee

Release and Indemnity Agreement

The receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by _____

_____ of the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club, releases full responsibility and ownership of (name, description, AKC #) _____

to the undersigned adopter(s). In return, the undersigned adopter(s) do hereby forever release, and consent to hold harmless the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club, its members, representatives, officers and any other person(s), firm or corporation chargeable with responsibility or liability, from any and all claims, damages, costs, expenses, loss of services, actions and causes of actions incurred as a result of this adoption or by the actions of the dog transferred herein.

The undersigned hereby agrees to abide by the terms of adoption listed below:

- 1) **NON-BREEDING:** This dog will not be used for breeding purposes. It is understood that if not already done, this dog will be spayed/neutered within 30 days of this adoption date.
- 2) **RETURN:** If for any reason the adoption is not satisfactory, or if the adopter(s) fail(s) to comply with all the terms and conditions of this agreement, the dog must be returned to an American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club representative. If the return takes place prior to 30 days from the adoption and the dog is in as good or better mental and physical condition as on the date of adoption, as decided by the representative, the adoption fee will be reimbursed minus expenses for or connected with the return of the dog. There will be no refunds after 30 days.
- 3) **TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP:** This dog may not be transferred to any person, firm, corporation or organization for any reason. The adopter(s) will contact the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club Rescue Committee if unable to keep the dog for any reason.
- 4) **HUMANE CARE AND CONTROL:** I/we agree to care for this dog humanely including adequate food, water, shelter, exercise and veterinary care. This dog will be maintained as a house pet and family companion. It will not be maintained outside as a yard dog or in a basement, garage or outbuilding. I/we agree to supervise the dog at all times when loose outside and will not allow it to roam free. I/we will abide by all local and state animal control ordinances. I/we agree to have the dog be permanently identified (microchip or tattoo). **I/WE WILL NOT USE THE DOG FOR MEDICAL OR ANY OTHER EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES.**
- 5) **RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS:** The American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club reserves the right to an ongoing review of this adoption and to follow up on any complaints or reports to protect the welfare of the dog throughout its life. If the terms of this agreement are not satisfactorily upheld by the adopter(s), and /or any misrepresentations) have been made in order to obtain this dog, the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club reserves the right to terminate this agreement and demand the return of the dog.
- 7) **ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS:** Should it become necessary for the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club to take legal action to recover an adopted dog or otherwise enforce the provisions of this agreement, the undersigned adopter(s) agree(s) to pay all court costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

SIGNED this _____ Day of _____ 20____

In the presence of _____ Phone _____
(Representative for the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club)

Signature (s) _____

Adopters (s) name (s) _____

Address _____

City State ZIP _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____



American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club

Rescue Committee Private Party Surrender Agreement

I (we), the sole owner(s), relinquish to the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club representative, a Polish

Lowland Sheepdog known as _____

I (we) hereby deliver signed AKC registration papers (if available). I (we) hereby deliver all information, health records and full ownership and responsibility of this dog. I (we) fully understand that I (we) am/are no longer responsible for this dog and have given up my/our rights to control the dog's future. I (we) understand that the representative of the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club's Rescue program will do their best to find this dog a suitable home. I (we) am/are also aware that if a suitable home cannot be found or that if the dog is evaluated as dangerous or is not an adoptable dog it will be humanely euthanized. I (we) understand that euthanasia is the humane act of putting a dog to death by lethal injection.

Please fill out the following information as completely as possible.

Dog's date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____ Weight: _____

Is the dog spayed/neutered? _____

Vaccination? Medical Records: List dates of last vaccines: _____

Is the dog on Heartworm preventative? _____

Does the dog have physical problems? _____

Reason dog is surrendered:

Where did the dog come from? () Breeder (list name/address).

() Pet Shop () Stray () Other (list): _____

If this dog came from a breeder, was the breeder contacted? Y () N ()

If contacted, what was the response? _____

How old was the dog when you obtained it? _____ Did the dog have previous owners? Y () N ()

If so, list names and addresses, if known. _____

Yes () No () Is this dog an excessive barker? Yes () No () Is this dog good with children?

Yes () No () Is this dog housebroken? Yes () No () Is this dog in good health?

Yes () No () Can this dog be left alone? Yes () No () Is this dog good with babies?

Yes () No () Does this dog chew excessively/ Inappropriately? Yes () No () Is this dog good with strangers?

Signed this _____ Day of _____ (month) _____ (year)

In the presence of _____ Phone: _____

Representative of the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club

Signature (s) _____ Date _____

Adopter's name(s) _____

Address City State ZIP _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____



American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club

Rescue Committee

Adoption Questionnaire

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____

1. Why do you want a Polish Lowland Sheepdog? _____

2. Have you ever owned a Polish Lowland Sheepdog before? _____

3. Have you ever met and/ or spent time with a Polish Lowland Sheepdog? _____

4. Housing arrangements in which you currently reside: Check all that apply.

() City () Rural () Suburban () House () Apartment () Condo
() Own () Rent

Yard: () Fenced () Unfenced () None

5. Do you work outside of the home? Yes () No ()

If so, what are your work hours? _____ Will someone be home during these hours to care and give support to this dog? _____ If no one will be home, where will the dog be kept during your work hours? _____

6. Where will be the dog's primary living area? () lives outside () lives inside () both

Where will the dog be allowed? _____ Where will the dog sleep? _____

7. Do you have children? Yes () No () How many? _____ Ages: _____

8. Have you had dogs before? Yes () No () What happened to the dogs? _____

9. Do you have pets now? Yes () No () Kinds: _____

10. Would you consider attending obedience classes? Yes () No ()

11. Are you willing to be financially responsible for this dog? Yes () No ()

12. What will you do with this dog when you go on vacation? _____

13. What will you do with this dog if you have to move to another home or location? _____

14. Do you object to phone calls/visits in the future from APONC Rescue about this dog? Yes () No ()

15. How did you learn about Polish Lowland Sheepdog Rescue?

A donation is appreciated to help cover expenses incurred for this dog as well as to help other rescued Polish Lowland Sheepdogs. Are you willing to make a donation? Yes () No ()