



OPERATION PAWS FOR HOMES

Trainer Partnership Packet

**Rescuing, Rehabilitating and Finding Forever Homes for Dogs
Operating in Virginia, Maryland, Washington DC and PA**



OPERATION PAWS FOR HOMES

Operation Paws for Homes is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization devoted to the *rescue, rehabilitation and placement* of dogs who have overcome great odds and deserve wonderful, caring forever homes. These dogs are rescued from overcrowded high kill shelters in the southern region of the United States, primarily shelters in South and North Carolina, as well as Virginia. We also rescue a few international dogs partnering with shelters and rescues in India and Turks & Caicos who rescue dogs from dangerous and deplorable conditions.

Our organization is **volunteer-powered** by a dedicated group of animal lovers who have seen the horrors and sad fate of dogs who find themselves abandoned and left to fend for themselves in the world. At the rural shelters, the staff faces demanding and constant challenges every day: a lack of adopters, underdeveloped spay/neuter programs in their counties, and, in many instances, an uneducated population that does not understand the need to spay/neuter or engage in rescue activities. With limited resources and few adoptions locally, the shelters are forced to put down 50% - 90% of their dogs.

After visiting these facilities and seeing the heartache on the faces of the shelter staff and the dogs in their care, we started OPH to help give these deserving dogs a second chance. We have some of the best **Shelter and Rescue Partners**. There is no better feeling than pulling out of the shelter's parking lot with 25 lucky dogs who are being given a new lease on life! At OPH, our partnerships are comprehensive - In fact, part of our mission is to support these facilities through financial and in-kind donations, guidance and resources.

OPH does not operate a shelter or have a physical location. We rely on foster families who open their homes to give love and attention to each dog while it waits for a forever home. In addition, we partner with wonderful boarding facilities who care for our rescue dogs. Through the foster program and our partners, we learn about each dog and its needs. These dogs have been through a lot and it may take days or weeks to allow their personality to completely unfold. We strive to provide as many details as possible to potential and future adopters which increases the likelihood of a good match for each dog and family.



Together We Rescue.



Operation Paws for Homes has been rescuing dogs from high kill shelters for the last 7 years!
We have met some truly fabulous dogs - over 7,000 as a matter of fact!



About Our Adoptions

Operation Paws for Homes provides pet adoption services to families located in Virginia, Washington DC, Maryland, Southern Pennsylvania and neighboring states. We believe in responsible adoptions and strive to work with each adopter to find a good match for their home and lifestyle. Our adoption process includes completion of an application, a review of reference checks and vet checks, and an interview and a personal “meet and greet” where the family can meet and interact with their potential new four-legged family member. Throughout this process, we work to ensure each family and dog are the right fit for each other.

We are fortunate to have some incredibly committed volunteers who help Operation Paws for Homes find forever homes for over 1,200 dogs each year!

The key to that statement is - **volunteer!** We are proud that OPH is driven by caring individuals who give their personal time to help rescue these dogs and provide them with the opportunity to find an amazing future. In addition to adoptions, volunteers carry out education and outreach events and conduct donation drives for our partner shelters in the south.

Our goal is to offer a second chance to dogs abandoned in shelters and out of time. Sadly, without our help, all of these adoptable animals would face almost certain euthanasia - usually within days or hours of arriving at the shelter. Each year, we rescue hundreds of wonderful dogs. We work hard to unite them with forever families who will give them the life and love they deserve. These dogs are saved only because of the dedication of our incredible adopters, fosters, donors and volunteers.



ABOUT OUR FUNDING

OPH IS 100% DONOR FUNDED

Operation Paws for Homes receives no funding from federal, state or county governments. As a result, we rely on the generous donations from our supporters and the adoption fees for each dog in order to save the dogs in need that join our rescue organization. In addition, we have a hardworking Grants Team who research and solicit funding from animal rescue organizations. Without these vital funds, we could not continue our mission to make a positive difference in the lives of the dogs - and the people - who we save. Together we rescue.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Operation Paws for Homes is seeking partnerships with local trainers in order to support our adoption program and to help ensure that each animal that comes through the organization get placed into a loving, permanent home. We are proud to have rescued dogs from high kill shelters for over seven years. Each year, we rescue and place more than 1,200 dogs and, since our founding, have met some truly fabulous dogs - over 7000 as a matter of fact!

THE CHALLENGE: Dogs are returned to a shelter for various reasons - the most common being the lack of training. Even the most well-intentioned adopters may not anticipate the challenges of bringing a new puppy or dog into their homes.

Operation Paws for Homes has an extensive application process to ensure applicants understand that adopting a living creature is a serious commitment. While each of our dogs are temperament tested prior to coming to rescue, it takes time for them to get adjusted in their new home. To minimize adoption returns, we ask and encourage each potential adopter if they would seek proper training for their dog - 95% of applicants reply that they would use training, yet only about 10% actually do. About 10% of the dogs we place are returned and 90% of these cite a lack of training as the cause. Most often than not, these people have not followed through with a slow adjustment period and proper training. They have come in with the best intentions, but find themselves quickly overwhelmed and may give up quickly without seeking out training.

THE INTERVENTION: Structure, establishing boundaries and proper training are keys to a permanent placement. We want people to start to see training as a *responsible* and *necessary* part of having a canine companion. We believe training can enhance the relationship between dog and human, ultimately decreasing the frequency of returns and shelter intakes. This is where YOU come in.

ROLE

We are looking for trainers to partner with to help us change the mindset of society - one adoption at a time. We would like to offer **one free training session with each adoption**. The type of session (e.g., group or individual) and location would be up to you. The goal would be to get new adopters started on a path of success with their new dog. We want them to see how training can be essential to their long-term success as pet owners and we hope this first free "foot-in-the door" session will encourage new owners to sign up for additional sessions with you.

YOUR



The most common behavior/training problems frequently exhibited in rescue dogs, including ours, include: challenges with walking on a leash, difficulty house breaking/learning house manners, exhibiting crate and/or separation anxiety, a sensitivity to loud noises, and dog selectiveness.

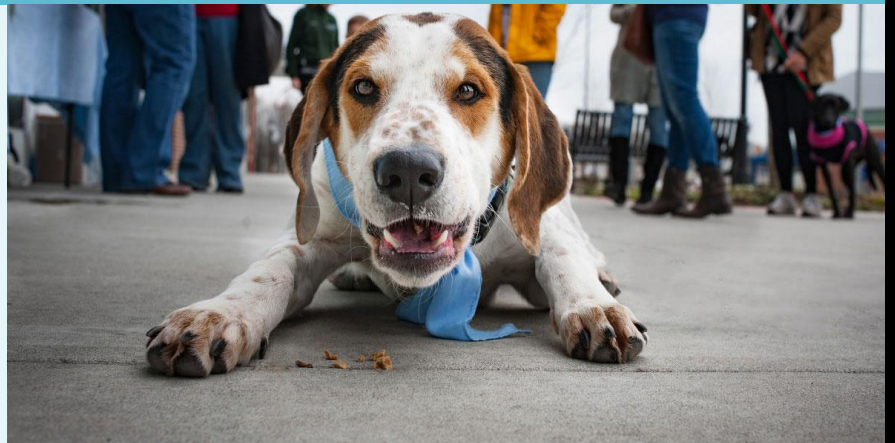


PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

By becoming an OPH Partner, you are helping to ensure our adoptions are permanent.

Operation Paws for Homes dogs come from high kill shelters in the rural South where spraying and neutering are not common practice.

These shelters have a 50% - 90% euthanasia rate without rescue intervention.



As an Operation Paws for Homes Trainer Partner, you would not only be helping dogs find their forever homes, but your partnership will allow us to divert our time and energy to other critical areas of the organization. Instead of processing and spending time and energy to re-home dogs, we can focus on building our capacity and resources to save more lives.

Training Partnerships include the following:

- 🐾 Logo on the [OPH website](#) with a live link to your business website (5,000 website hits per week)
- 🐾 Company flier/pamphlet included in each adoption packet distributed (1,200+ dogs adopted annually)
- 🐾 Company added to an official OPH recommended Trainers List distributed to adopters requesting training referrals
- 🐾 Flier included in each swag bag distributed to guests at OPH's largest fundraiser, [Bark, Wag & Wine](#), held in September (400 guests annually)
- 🐾 [Facebook](#) posts with a live link to your website (18,000+ likes)
- 🐾 Tweets on [Twitter](#) with a live link to your website (1,300+ followers)
- 🐾 [Instagram](#) posts with a live link to your website (2,900+ followers)
- 🐾 1 OPH Mutt Magnet or Bumper Sticker



Numbers at a Glance

5K

website hits
per week

18K

likes on
Facebook

1.3K

followers on
Twitter

2.9K

followers on
Instagram

1.2K

adoptions
annually

400

Bark, Wag & Wine
attendees annually

PARTNERSHIP FORM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Company: _____
First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Website: _____ Title: _____
Company Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Which professional dog training associations are you a member of? _____
How long have you been training dogs professionally? _____

TRAINING INFORMATION

Describe Your Training Style/Philosophy:

How do you reinforce or correct certain behaviors?

How would you prefer to offer free sessions to Operation Paws for Home adopters?

☐ Private/One-on-One ☐ Group Class ☐ Both Private and Group Offered

How long is each free session? _____

In general, when do you offer training?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> AM
<input type="checkbox"/> PM	<input type="checkbox"/> PM	<input type="checkbox"/> PM	<input type="checkbox"/> PM	<input type="checkbox"/> PM	<input type="checkbox"/> PM	<input type="checkbox"/> PM

How far in advance do adopters need to schedule an appointment/class? _____

Training Location (if different than above): _____

OPTIONAL DONATION

Please accept an additional donation to support your mission: \$ _____

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Online Donation Submitted ☐ Invoice Me

SIGNATURE

I agree to the terms set out in this partnership.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Typing your name satisfies the signature requirement.

OPTIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES







Thank you for joining us in our mission!

CONTACT US



We would love to hear from you!

Please return a copy of this agreement and your logo (JPG or GIF) to:

Operation Paws for Homes, Inc.

Mindy Young, Administrative Assistant

P.O. Box 90813 | Alexandria, VA 22309

(e) mindy@ophrescue.org | (p) 703-344-7320 | www.ophrescue.org

Find us on:    



To learn more about Operation Paws for Homes and our work, please visit our website at www.ophrescue.org.
OPH is a proud 2017 Top-Rated Nonprofit on Great Nonprofits and a Virginia Federation of Humane Societies Member.