

## INFORMED CONSENT BY DOG OWNERS FOR CANINE PARTICIPATION

I, (your name) \_\_\_\_\_, confirm that I am over 18 years old and hereby give consent to participate in the study entitled, “The Role of Behavioural Flexibility in the Success of Shelter Dog Rehoming” being conducted by Karen Griffin, approved by the relevant ethics committee of The University of Lincoln. I also give consent for my dog, (dog’s name) \_\_\_\_\_, to participate in the aforementioned study. I confirm that I have owned this dog for a minimum of three years, that I have lived in the same household as him/her for the majority of the time I have owned him, and that I was at least 18 years old when I acquired him/her.

The purpose of this study is to examine factors that affect the success of shelter dog placements. In order to do this, a battery of four tests have been developed for dog assessment. The tests are game or puzzle-like in nature (e.g. playing with toys, finding treats, etc.). They are non-invasive and should not cause significant physical or psychological harm to canine or human participants. If you are concerned at any point about your dog’s wellbeing you should stop immediately and not persist, but please do notify Karen Griffin (kgriffin@lincoln.ac.uk) so that any adverse events can be recorded. The practical application of this project is to use the results of the research to develop a standardized, easily administrable method to be used in the rehoming process to assess dogs prior to adoption in order to maximize the likelihood of a successful dog-adopter pairing. Your contribution to this study is invaluable to the success of this project and will allow future dogs to be rehomed more successfully.

I understand that my role in the study at this time will be: to use the battery of tests to assess the dog named above while closely following the instructions for administration provided for the tests, and to complete the “Testing Questionnaire” and the “Owned Dog Information Gathering Form”. I will try to complete these forms as and when requested. I understand that I will be contacted in one month and will be asked to complete this process a second time in the specified timeframe.

I am freely supplying information about myself and my dog, and my contact information including postal address, phone number, and email address for this purpose and agree to be contacted by the researchers involved in this project accordingly. Karen Griffin will contact me in one month with further instruction for re-administration of the battery of tests.

I understand that my personal data will be anonymized once it has been collected and I will not be identified or identifiable in any publication resulting from the work. All data will be stored in accordance with the UK Data Protection Act and associated requirements. I understand that should I have any questions or concerns about the study now or at any point in the future I may contact the principal investigator, Karen Griffin: kgriffin@lincoln.ac.uk.

I will follow the principal investigator’s instructions to the best of my ability, but I am aware that I have the right to withdraw myself and my dog from the study at any time without giving notice or reason.

I agree that data collected from the responses that I have supplied can be used for academic purposes as deemed appropriate by Karen Griffin and the other contributors involved in this study.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_