

## **Southeast Kansas Humane Society**

### **Dog Housing & Adoption Policy**

The Southeast Kansas Humane Society is committed to placing dogs into safe, humane, and appropriate living environments that prioritize their physical health, emotional well-being, and long-term quality of life. This policy outlines our expectations for both indoor and outdoor dog placements.

### **Indoor & Outdoor Living Considerations**

The SEK Humane Society recognizes that responsible dog ownership can look different depending on the dog, the household, and the property. While indoor living has historically been our standard, SEKHS now allows **outdoor dog adoptions under strict conditions**, evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Approval for outdoor placement is **not guaranteed** and is subject to staff discretion.

### **Requirements for Outdoor Dog Placements**

Dogs approved for outdoor living **must** meet *all* of the following conditions:

- **Continuous Access to Food & Water**  
Clean, fresh water and appropriate food must be available at all times.
- **Proper Shelter**  
Shelter must be weatherproof, insulated, dry, elevated when appropriate, and large enough for the dog to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably. Shade must be provided during warm weather.
- **Protection During Extreme Weather & Emergencies**  
Dogs **must be brought indoors** during:
  - Tornado warnings or severe storms
  - Extreme heat or cold
  - Hazardous icy or snowy conditions
  - Any emergency that poses a risk to the animal's safety
- **Daily Human Interaction & Enrichment**  
Outdoor dogs must receive regular interaction, exercise, and companionship. Dogs may not be isolated or neglected due to being housed outdoors.

- **Tethering**

Dog(s) are NOT to be tethered for more than 1 hour at a time.

- **Fencing**

For owners living within city limits, fencing is required to make sure dogs do not run into traffic. For owners that live outside of their city limits, fencing is strongly recommended but not required.

### **Breed, Size & Individual Dog Restrictions**

Some dogs are **not suitable** for outdoor living and will be designated as **indoor-only** regardless of adopter preference. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Small or toy breeds (such as Yorkies, Chihuahuas, and similar breeds)
- Short-coated dogs sensitive to temperature extremes
- Senior dogs
- Puppies
- Dogs with medical, behavioral, or special needs

Housing requirements will be determined based on the **individual dog**, not solely by breed.

### **Adoption Application Review & Right to Refuse**

The SEK Humane Society reserves the right to **approve or deny any adoption application** at its sole discretion.

Even if an application initially appears to meet policy guidelines, **SEKHS staff may refuse an adoption** based on:

- Observations made during the adoption appointment
- Concerns regarding housing setup, containment, or shelter
- Concerns about the dog's safety, quality of life, or compatibility with the proposed environment
- Inconsistencies between the application and in-person discussion

Our decisions are made with the best interest of the animal as the top priority.