

Indemnities/Waivers:

- **Medical Handling Sensitivity**

The pet you are adopting has shown handling sensitivities for medical and/or invasive treatments while in the shelter's care. When a pet has handling sensitivities for medical procedures and treatments, it means they exhibit heightened fear, anxiety and/or distress when subjected to physical contact, especially in a clinical setting. This may include reactive behavior when receiving vaccinations, treatments such as ear cleaning and/or examining of certain body areas.

Many shelter pets have unknown histories and coming to the shelter may be the first time they are experiencing a medical facility and treatments. This can stem from past negative experiences, inherent temperament, or a lack of proper socialization when the pet was young.

Pets' sensitivities can range from subtle signs like trembling, lip licking, and avoidance to more overt behaviors like growling, snapping, hissing, striking or attempting to bite. Desensitization and counterconditioning techniques involve gradually exposing the pet to handling and experiences in a positive and controlled environment, associating it with rewards. Using treats, praise, and other positive reinforcement can help create positive associations with handling and vet visits.

Veterinary clinics are increasingly using low stress handling techniques, to help reduce animal anxiety during appointments. Many vet clinics utilize "happy visits" where the pet comes into the clinic for treats without any treatments or exams to form a positive association. Adopters should let their vet know that their adopted pet may have sensitivities to medical handling and treatments so they can provide a plan for your pet prior to the visit, in many cases anxiety medications can be prescribed for your pet specifically for their visits to the vet.

Handling sensitivities during medical care can make routine veterinary exams, vaccinations, and other necessary treatments challenging for the pet and the owner. These sensitivities can cause barriers to pets receiving proper veterinary care, adopters should work closely with their veterinarian to make a plan for the pet to succeed with future veterinary care.