

1. Name

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4. Tell us a little bit about your lifestyle. What kind of activities does your family enjoy?

I work as a mental health Therapist. I work flexible hours so in my free time I enjoy walking around the property or going on hikes during the weekend. I live on an 8 acre blueberry farm so there is always yard work that can be done as well! So I am often tending to the property as well. My fiancé also enjoys going for walks with me and caring for the property. He also enjoys relaxing when he can.

5. Do you have any experience with ridgebacks?

Yes! Growing up my parent's got me a ridgeback that was considered "my dog". I was responsible for feeding, walking, exercising, and helping with her obedience training. I fell in love with the breed. I love how smart, driven, spirited, and strong these dogs are! Moving to my current home my neighbors/ landlords have a ridgeback as well and we occasionally watch him for the family when they go out of town. They often ask me "when are you getting a ridgeback again", and I did not feel that the time was right until recently! I understand how much time and dedication this breed requires so I wanted to be stable in my career and have enough capacity to give this dog what it needs and deserves!

6. Tell us a little about your plan to socialize your puppy.

My socialization plan is multifaceted: once the puppy is safe from contracting things like parvo I plan to be more extensive in socialization. However this looks like taking the puppy to new places, around new people, and new dogs. HOWEVER I understand that not every dog should be welcomed around the puppy as well as I should not allow every human that approaches to pet the dog. I love taking a puppy around a non reactive older dog and allowing the puppy to learn manners through the older dog. I understand the importance of leash training while socializing or really an obedience training while socializing. My vision for my puppy would for it to grow into a mature, obedient, and driven dog to help at my Therapy practice and one that I can take on my harder hikes as well as one I can take to a restaurant and it can sit comfortably at the table with me. Truly I am looking for my new best friend like how my first ridgeback was for me.

7. Tell us about the pets you currently own and the pets you have had in the past.

I currently own 2 cats (1 female and 1 male). They are both domestic short hair cats that have been around dogs a lot.

As far as ownership I have not "owned" a dog, but they were always my sole responsibility other than a vet bill. I was responsible for purchasing their food, toys, training needs etc. But the dogs I have been responsible for were the following:

Temba: my childhood ridgeback she passed away from old age when I was in high school (she was 14 when she passed)

Zola: this was my ex roommates dog. She was a ridgeback. He struggled to train her so I worked with her on her separation anxiety and leash reactivity extensively to the point she was able to join me on long hikes without being reactive!

I don't know if this is relevant to you but I also owned another cat during Covid. However at 7 months old he was diagnosed with a rare form of sepsis and must of been sick when i adopted him from the shelter. After spending thousands of dollars to try and save his life he unfortunately did not live long enough to make it to his surgery. He had multiple seizures and became mostly brain dead so I put him down.

8. Any children in the household? If so, what are their ages? What kind of experience have they had with dogs, particularly large dogs?

No children at the house.

9. Tell us about where you live. Apartment, house, farm...?

We live in a house/ farm. There is 8 acres of land that is NOT fenced. I understand with this breed being a sight hound the importance of safety commands, especially recall. The plan is since the dog is a sight hound to keep the dog on a training lead and work on recall relentlessly. In the meantime I live by a fenced dog park I can take the puppy to socialize and run around in while recall is being mastered. The property has walking trails and multiple gardens. Our landlords/ neighbors have a ridgeback on the property as well. He is 7 years old, has excellent recall, and is also neutered (i figured that would be helpful for you to know!)

10. Are you interested in a male or female puppy? Would you consider the opposite?

I have been mostly around females. I prefer females due to them being more of an aloof and independent. I would consider a male, however I feel size wise and temperament I am much more comfortable with a female.

11. Do you have a preference in nose color? Would you consider the opposite?

I would prefer a black nose. I really prefer the typical for the breed standard.

12. Where would the puppy live and sleep? Be as specific as possible.

The puppy would live in the house we rent (again landlords frequently ask when we are getting a ridgeback so they 100% consent). I would be crate training the puppy as I feel that is safest for the puppy since I cannot keep eyes on it 100% of the time if I am trying to sleep as well.

13. Do you have a plan in place for exercise and potty breaks for a young puppy?

Yes! My fiance often works from home so he plans to be able to let the puppy out. I also work flexible hours so on days my fiance is out for work I do not go to work until a little later so I am able to let the puppy out. We have talked extensively and since this dog would primarily be mine he would not be doing much of the training other than helping with potty breaks, walks, and giving the puppy lots of love!

14. Do you have a fenced in yard? If so, what kind of fence and how tall is it?

No- open 8 acres of blueberry fields, gardens, walking trails, and woods.

15. What kind of training protocols have you used for past dogs?

Positive reinforcement 100%. I love working with dogs. I know how to ignore and correct negative behaviors while reinforcing positive behaviors. The perk of the ridgeback as a breed is that they are typically very motivated by food, so I love training with their kibble when they are puppies or tiny training bites. I LOVE training a dog. It is my favorite part of ownership as I believe it strengthens and solidifies your bond with the dog. It brings me so much joy and fulfillment.

16. Are there any activities you are interested in being involved in with your ridgeback? Obedience, Rally, Lure coursing, Conformation, Therapy work...?

Obedience for sure. I believe I have found a lure coursing group near me. However I would want to find a "mentor" for this as I want to ensure I am introducing lure coursing safely and developmentally appropriate for the dog. The Dream would to have a dog with a calm enough temperament to bring into my therapy office. I am also planning on opening my own practice soon, so I really am hoping to train a dog to be in the office with me!

17. Do you have a preference for a show or a pet quality puppy? Would you be willing to allow your puppy to be shown by the breeder?

I would be ok with pet quality as long as the dog still has a ridge. The crowns of the ridge would not need to be super symmetrical for me, but I would prefer a dog closer to show quality. With me living in Indiana I wouldn't mind if the breeder wanted to show my puppy, but I don't know how the logistics would work out lol. However im open to it and we can collaborate to figure things out!

18. Do you understand that puppies placed on a Companion Contract must be spayed or neutered when they reach sexual maturity between 18 months and two years old?
Yes, I am a big advocate for spaying and neutering dogs!

19. Occasionally, we have puppies that are born without ridges. Would you be interested

in adding one of these puppies to your family?

Unfortunately I don't believe I would be interested in a ridgless ridgeback. I know this may sound silly, but I love getting stopped on my walks when I have had a ridgeback and people say "Wow, what kind of dog is that?" And I get to educate them on the breed and how amazing these dogs are. I love when people ask if the dog is "upset" and I get to tell them that they are one of the few dog breeds that naturally have a ridge. I love the history of the breed, I love educating others on how great (and very difficult) these dogs can be. And I feel that having a ridgless ridgeback would take opportunities like that away. Maybe this is silly of me but it is a strong preference to have a dog with a ridge.