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|  | BERRADELL BOXERS |

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**New Puppy Expression of Interest Application**

Thank you for contacting Berradell Boxers about our beautiful puppies. Congratulations on making it this far in the process to be considered as a worthy home! We are a bit fussy! No… actually, we are VERY fussy.

We only breed occasionally, with the aim to produce puppies of exceptional quality for our stud. We never know how many puppies we are expecting until close to whelping, and we don’t know how many – if any – we will keep until they are around six weeks of age, because it takes this long for them to develop and show their best assets. For this reason, we deliberately keep our waiting lists short and current. It also means we cannot ‘allocate’ or let you choose a puppy until we have chosen ours from the litter.

If you make it onto our wait list (based on your responses in this EOI and discussions to date), we will record what sex/markings you prefer (if any) in a puppy. We add puppy homes in an order of preference that suits our aims for our puppies: that is, to ensure their best future, puppies are offered on our terms, not merely on a ‘first come, first served’ basis. It is only fair to let you know this now, because some puppy family hopefuls are not prepared to wait or to undertake this lengthy EOI on these terms. Most, however, understand that it is a real privilege to even make it to our waitlist and are keen to hit us with their entire philosophy of raising and loving dogs. That’s great! You simply cannot provide us with too much information!

We believe temperament, health, type and soundness are all equally important because it’s these characteristics that make the best life-long companions for our carefully chosen puppy families. Show titles are great but are only a fraction of what it takes to produce great puppies! To ensure the best possible temperaments, our puppies come from carefully chosen lines and are raised on ‘Puppy Culture’ protocols (see [*www.puppyculture.com*](http://www.puppyculture.com)). Under this philosophy, puppies are gently challenged from three days of age to be calm, thinking, resilient and confident individuals with exceptional bounce-back. This process gives them a huge advantage in life. It’s a very time-consuming process for us, but it is best-practice puppy raising, so we work hard at it. For this reason, pups are not available until at least ten weeks of age.

Despite sharing our lives with many boxers since the 1970s, we have waited 40 years to begin our dream of breeding these fabulous dogs. In doing so, we have selected the very best pedigrees and breeding stock from health-tested and temperament-tested parents to be the foundation of our boxer breeding program. All come from top Australian boxer lines with generations of Champions and Grand Champions in their pedigrees. The Sjecoin lines feature heavily because they have proven, time and time again, to be the very best, both in the show ring and in the homes of passionate boxer-loving families.

Be warned! The boxer is a bright, bouncy and very energetic dog. Their exercise needs are not necessarily high – well, not as high as a working breed – but a good daily run for half an hour to ‘get the beans’ out is an absolute minimum, and anything above that is a bonus. What is essential, however, is TRAINING! There is little point in offering endless off-leash, uncontrolled exercise to achieve a calm, well-behaved dog – all you get is a very fit idiot. There is no substitute for training! Part of your commitment to having one of our puppies is that you will attend formal training, starting with Puppy Preschool, then further training with a dog club.

What is equally critical is the daily enrichment of a boxer. This involves him being included in all possible family activities – gardening, watching TV on the lounge, trips to the shops, cafes and dropping kids to school, being taken on special doggy-focussed outings to the beach, forest or river reserves, going camping and being included in family holidays or RVing adventures. Boxers are most content when they are an integral part of the family unit, indoors and outdoors. This is non-negotiable component of becoming one of our puppy families.

It’s the boxer’s sensitive personality and high intelligence that produces an extremely loyal family member – they NEED to be an integral part of the family environment. Boxers are not a breed that can be confined to the back yard and only occasionally given token human contact. Our puppies must never, EVER be kept on a chain. No dog should be, but boxers are more prone to separation problems than some breeds because they are so people-orientated. Providing a dutiful but boring hour-long walk every day around the same route on a short lead is not what boxers thrive on. If this is your plan, perhaps you need to consider another breed! If you are not planning to allow one of our puppies to grow up inside your home as your beloved, constant companion, and be included in everyday family activities for the rest of its life, read no further, because this is not what we want for our puppies. I can’t put it any simpler than that!

As stated above, a really important aspect of owning a boxer, and to make family time a pleasurable experience, is TRAINING! The bouncy boxer personality can quickly deteriorate into a frenetic, uncontrollable bundle of fizz if allowed, but the boxer is an intelligent breed, so their boundless energy is easily moderated and shaped, through consistent positive training, to be a good citizen. All dogs require training to teach them how to behave politely inside the home and in public places – some breeds more than others… The goofy boxer belongs in the needier category! So be prepared to commit to the joys of training.

There is a saying that whatever you put into your dog will be returned in spades – if you provide your boxer with boundless love and companionship, s/he will be your devoted friend for life. The time and effort you dedicate to training your puppy to fit into your human environment will result in a dog that fits like a glove around your lifestyle. It’s not down to the dog: it’s all down to you and your commitment to training. This does not simply involve attendance at a four-week Puppy Kindy program (although this is an essential part of puppy training!). It involves setting boundaries in the home from the day your puppy arrives. It involves nurturing your puppy to understand what behaviours are desired and acceptable through patient teaching and by encouraging repetitions of those desired behaviours through positive reinforcement. A puppy will quickly learn acceptable behaviours with consistent, timely, positive reinforcement.

When the puppy enters adolescence, a higher level of behavioural challenges are likely to occur, particularly if early training has been lacking. This is when formal obedience training can be useful. You don’t have to get into competitive obedience training, but Rally-O is a fantastic family pastime! You can also challenge your dog to acquire sporting skills such as tracking, lure coursing, nose work, agility, flyball and endurance. These sports give your dog stuff to do and stuff to think about, and boxers thrive on brain food. Teaching complex skills (tricks) is another great form of brain food for boxers. You can also enter the show ring and earn points to attain the title of Australian Champion! It’s a great buzz!

The most important aspect of owning a boxer is to allow the dog to be an integral part of your family (yes, I’m still saying it!). To be a welcome family member, acceptable behaviour is essential, and since good training is the way to reach the impossible(?) goal of the ‘perfect family dog’, I am here with you all the way, as a qualified and experienced dog behaviourist and trainer. By completing this questionnaire, I can better match the personality of one of our puppies to your lifestyle… so answering the questions truthfully is extremely advantageous!

Our puppies come with a pack of useful things such as a blanket with the smells of mum and the litter, toys, food and paperwork… but perhaps the most valuable part of your puppy pack is a comprehensive puppy training guide backed up with unlimited access to your very own trainer/behaviourist… for LIFE! If you ever have problems or need extra help with a particular skill, I am always on the end of the phone or, for my Tassie puppy families, within reach for a training session in person. I make this commitment to my puppy families to help make the puppy training experience as successful as possible, and to ensure the forever homes I choose really are FOREVER! However, a critical component of our relationship is this: our puppies ALWAYS have a place with us, so if ever your circumstances change and you need to rehome your dog, we MUST be contacted and offered the dog first. For the life of the dog, this is our commitment to you. Our puppies must never go to a rescue shelter or be surrendered to a pound.

If these conditions sound like the sort of life you will give one of our puppies, please provide some details about your family and lifestyle by responding to the questions, below. Yes, we are nosey, because we’re trusting you with the lifelong care of one of our precious creations! We make no apologies for this. All we ask is that you answer with total honestly – please don’t simply write what you think we want to hear… you might be surprised by what we do and don’t like!!! If you don’t know the answer, please research it! Some of these questions are intended to be thought-provoking, not to eliminate you from our boxer family, so please don’t feel daunted! We are here to help the right families through this process and will provide you with unlimited help, both through the Puppy Management Guide in your puppy pack, and personally.

***This survey is long and will take up plenty of time in your busy schedule, but if you are too busy to answer these questions, do you have time to raise a puppy?*** Let’s go!

**Contact Details and the Family Unit**

Name of primary carer: Phone:

Email: Age: Gender:

Occupation:

Full Time: Y / N Part Time: Y / N Casual: Y / N

Describe work hours and schedule:

Name of secondary carer (if applicable): Phone:

Email: Age: Gender:

Relationship (and years) with primary carer:

Occupation:

Full Time: Y / N Part Time: Y / N Casual: Y / N

Describe work hours and schedule:

Address at which the puppy will (mostly) live:

Address at which the puppy will spend most of its daytime hours:

*Children in the home* (please list ages as at 1/1/19):

Name: Age: Name: Age:

Name: Age: Name: Age:

Name: Age: Name: Age:

*Other pets in the home*:

1. Name: Species: Breed: Age:

Experience/temperament with puppies (describe):

Experience/temperament with other dogs (describe):

2. Name: Species: Breed: Age:

Experience/temperament with puppies (describe):

Experience/temperament with dogs (describe):

3. Name: Species: Breed: Age:

Experience/temperament with puppies (describe):

Experience/temperament with dogs (describe):

If there are any temperament issues likely to be experienced in other pets in the home, describe how you will manage this:

*Visitors*:

Please describe regular visitors/house guests who are likely to meet the puppy and note their experience with puppies and dogs (e.g. Granny visits every Sunday lunch, loves feeding dogs her table scraps; 19yo son stays on weekends and during uni breaks, love kicking a footy with the dog); etc:

Do any of the main carers have regular or occasional absences from the home?

Please describe your family’s experience with the boxer breed:

Is there any other helpful/relevant information about your experience or family unit to share with us?

**Your Puppy**

What sex would you like your puppy to be? Boy \_\_\_\_ Girl \_\_\_\_ Either \_\_\_\_

What colour would you prefer? No preference \_\_\_ Plain red\_\_\_ Flashy Red\_\_\_ Plain Brindle\_\_\_

Flashy brindle\_\_\_ White\_\_\_ Other/specifics:

**The Home Environment**

*Type of property* – select one that best describes the puppy’s home:

Unit \_\_\_ Terrace \_\_\_ House (small block) \_\_\_ House (large block) \_\_\_

Small Acreage \_\_\_ Farm \_\_\_ Other (describe):

*Status of property*:

Rental? Y / N Mortgaged? Y / N Owned? Y / N

Other (describe):

*‘No go’ zones:*

What areas (if any) are ‘no go’ puppy/dog zones in your house and/or yard/farm?

*Where and percentage of time the puppy/dog will spend its daylight hours?*

Inside \_\_\_\_ % Outside \_\_\_% Free access to both (e.g.) doggie door \_\_\_\_%

Other (describe – e.g. comes to work on back of ute; comes to work into office; dog minder/doggie day care; dropped off at friend/relative with dog/s; etc):

*Where will the puppy/dog sleep? (Circle the most likely answer/s for when as a puppy and use a square around the most likely answer/s for when as an adult dog):*

Own bed in kennel outside: Y / N Own bed in garage: Y / N

Own bed in laundry: Y / N Own bed in lounge/family room: Y / N

Own bed in adult’s bedroom: Y / N Own bed in child’s bedroom: Y / N

On lounge: Y / N On adult’s bed: Y / N On child’s bed: Y / N

In bed with adults: Y / N In bed with child: Y / N

Other (describe e.g. shared bed with ‘Fido’ the other dog in laundry; sharing adult’s bed with ‘Fifi’ the cat; in a crate in what ^^above^^ location etc):

*Outdoor living space*: **PHOTOS MUST BE PROVIDED**

Please tick, provide percentages where appropriate, and describe in detail the yard/s and facilities that the puppy will have at his/her disposal to live and play:

*Fences*:

Type of construction and height:

Gates and security measures (locks, tether chains/dog lines etc):

*Shelter*:

Trees \_\_\_\_ Awnings \_\_\_\_ Under-cover areas \_\_\_\_\_ Kennels \_\_\_\_\_ Dog runs \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:

*Surface*:

Grass \_\_\_\_\_ Cement \_\_\_\_\_ Gravel \_\_\_\_\_ Dirt/soil \_\_\_\_\_ Bitumen \_\_\_\_\_ Decking \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:

*Other*:

Pool \_\_\_\_\_ Trampoline \_\_\_\_\_ Water features \_\_\_\_\_ Gardens \_\_\_\_Vegetable plot \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:

High points (for vision beyond solid fences) \_\_\_\_\_ Activity equipment (agility obstacles) \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:

Who, if anyone, will be at home with the puppy during the day for his first few weeks? And months?

Will that person (if any) keep the puppy with them 100% of the time? Explain:

What are your thoughts on crate training? (Some people think crates are bad. Do you?)

Have you ever used a crate and or puppy pen with a puppy or a dog before?

Describe the average expected daily routine of your puppy/dog, from sunrise to lights out:

**Socialisation, Enrichment, Exercise and Training:**

What do you understand the term “Puppy Socialisation” to mean/involve?

Do you know at what age the critical window of socialisation closes for a boxer puppy?

What sort of extra socialisation/exercise/enrichment/training will your puppy receive until the age of adolescence? (List any special considerations):

What sort of exercise/enrichment/training will your goofball teenage boxer receive until the age of maturity into adulthood? (Yeah, I know, trick question – boxers never grow up, but humour me!!). List any special considerations:

Does an adolescent dog need to continue with socialisation? Explain:

What sort of special exercise/enrichment/training will your adult boxer receive until his/her geriatric years?

Does an adult dog need to continue with socialisation? Explain:

What sort of special enrichment and exercise considerations will your geriatric dog receive?

*Training:*

Do you have any previous experience with puppy/dog training? (Tick and describe)

Home training only \_\_\_ Describe what skills:

Puppy Kindy \_\_\_\_ then home training (describe):

Club training \_\_\_ Basic level obedience \_\_\_ Intermediate Obedience \_\_\_ Advanced Obedience \_\_\_\_

Competitive Obedience/Rally-O \_\_\_\_ Agility/sports \_\_\_ Shows \_\_\_ Other:

Will your new boxer puppy be attending Puppy Preschool/Kindy? If so, is this at your local vet clinic or with a dog trainer? (Please advise the name of the vet/vet nurse or dog trainer):

Do you have any dog trainers in your area who you may use for training advice? (If so, please list their name/business name):

Are there any dog clubs in your area? (If so, please name them). What activities do they offer?

What qualifications do the instructors of the organisations in the preceding two questions hold and what methods do they use? (E.g. they have a Delta Society Cert IV and use clicker training; they have an NDTF Cert III and use positive reinforcement; they are club instructors that hold Obedience Competition titles, the bloke down the road used to be a police dog handler and uses check chains, etc):

Do you have an interest in obedience training? If not, do you think you would be prepared to make time to participate in this sport with your boxer? What other sports, if any, might you like to try? [This is another thought-provoking question – an answer to the negative is not going to preclude you from being eligible for one of our puppies!!!].

**Recreation and Holiday Time**:

What are your favourite hobbies, sports and past times? Will your puppy/dog join you in these activities?

Do you enjoy jogging or bike riding? Y / N

If so, at what age would you start giving a puppy running/cycling exercise? Why?

If you live in an urban area, what exercise/socialisation would your puppy receive each morning/evening and where?

If you live on acreage, what exercise/socialisation would your puppy receive each morning/evening and where?

If on acreage, would your puppy/dog stay mostly at home since there’s so much space to run around?

What sort of holiday destinations do you/your family most love to visit for vacations? (circle one or more):

Bali (or similar) Caravanning Tent camping Gold /Sunshine Coast

Farmstays Beach shack (own? or rented?) Holiday unit (own? or rented?)

How often and for how long do you like to stay?

Will your puppy/dog go too?

If you answered no to the above question, have you considered searching for pet-friendly accommodation options and taking your dog along? (Describe the likelihood of your dog joining you on what type of vacation, and what apps/social media services you might tap into for this to happen):

On those occasions when your dog cannot accompany your family on holidays, what sort of care arrangements are you likely to source?

Boarding kennels Y / N House sitter Y / N Dog Minder Y / N

Are any of the above care situations with relatives, friends? Y / N Describe:

If not, is the boarding kennel, house sitter or pet minder an organisation with whom you have previously established a rapport?

What are your thoughts on boarding kennels? (Name your favourite if you have one):

Do you have a favourite doggie day care for when you go to work? (Name and location):

If it is a commercial enterprise, have you inspected their premises (if not, is this because they don’t allow it?):

**Health and Wellbeing**

*Vaccinations and worming*:

Our puppies are ready for their new homes at ten (possibly up to twelve) weeks of age. This variation in age will depend on their psychological development: whether any typical puppy fear-period stress is evident in the individual and how far the puppy has to travel to you (e.g. a long, stressful air flight with connections is not advisable when a puppy is experiencing the Week Eight/Nine fear period). Puppies will be up to date with vaccinations and worming as relevant to their age at handover.

Do you understand that the puppy vaccination program MUST be completed under your care (with the 12-week C5), possibly with a 16 week C5 (depending on your vet’s advice), followed by a booster vaccination one year later, and then a booster every year/three years (depending on the vaccine used by your vet)?

Y / N

It is becoming widely understood that adult dogs can be over-vaccinated. Have you heard of the titre test? What is its purpose?

We worm our puppies every two weeks from two weeks of age. Once in your care, s/he will require worming every month until six months of age and then – provided the puppy is kept in a clean environment – every six months or so. More regular worming is required if the dog visits environments that are likely to be infected with worm eggs. (Vets will recommend more regular worming, but dogs are better not to be wormed unnecessarily with such toxic chemicals. It’s far safer to keep their environment clean of faeces).

Have you heard of the faecal test? If so, what is its purpose?

How often would you clean the dog’s environment of faeces?

Heartworm is a deadly disease in most areas of Australia. How will you prevent this?

*External parasites:*

There has been considerable controversy recently regarding the use of some of the newer treatments for external parasites (fleas and ticks). Are you aware of how toxic and deadly they can be in some dogs? Y / N

Please name the drug group at the centre of this controversy and the product names that it is sold under?

*Sterilisation:*

What do you understand to be the best age to have a dog spayed/neutered (desexed)? Why?

Are you aware that sentiment is changing on the best age (or even whether) to sterilise a dog? Are you willing to consider the breeding communities’ stance on the health benefits of waiting until a dog has reached full maturity (14-16 months in the boxer) before removing their sexual organs which produce important hormones used in structural development – even if it is contrary to the opinion of some ‘old school’ vets? Y / N

At what age does your vet recommend sterilisation be completed?

Are you ready to ensure the strict management of your sexually viable adolescent dog (to avoid breeding or being bred by accident, and to prevent their wilful escape behaviour to seek a mate) until sterilisation at full maturity is performed? What does this entail?

*Breeding:*

Your puppy comes with registration/pedigree papers which you will need to transfer into your name. There are two types of registration: Main Register (for show/breeding stock – if bred, their puppies can be registered) and Limited Register (for pets / non-breeding stock – if bred, their puppies cannot be registered).

Would you like to use your boxer puppy to start breeding and or showing? Y / N (Which?)

If no, are you happy to sign and adhere to a non-breeding agreement as a condition of sale? Y / N

If yes, would you become a registered breeder with your relevant state body? Y / N

Have you ever bred puppies before? Y / N (Describe):

*Enrichment*:

What is the concept behind the term ‘Enrichment’ in relation to the health and wellbeing of your puppy/dog?

What toys do you feel achieve the best enrichment and why? When might they best be applied?

What are the best boredom-busting toys/props to leave with a puppy/dog when you have to leave them home alone for a long period?

What are your thoughts about trick training? Are tricks merely party stunts or do they have a beneficial role in the enrichment of a dog? Explain.

Is it bad to leave a young puppy alone for long periods when s/he first comes home, or up to twelve months of age? Explain:

What is separation anxiety? Explain how to prevent it in the management of a young puppy:

If there is anything else you’d like to add to help us with your application to join the Berradell Boxers family and take up the role as the lifelong carer of one of our precious puppies, please feel free to add further notes here:

***Thank you for taking the time to complete this very comprehensive questionnaire! Your endurance is to be commended and, already, we know you are committed enough to raise a puppy!***

***We look forward to reading your responses and will be in touch soon.***