

## Health, Soundness & Guarantees

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### What we do to stand behind our dogs:

Health is the most important thing we breed for. To ensure healthy puppies, we only breed healthy dogs. How do we ensure healthy parents? Several ways: Our dogs are health tested - before breeding. Each dog is tested for hereditary conditions per the guidelines of the Poodle Club of American. We happily provide proof of those tests.

Vaccination: All our dogs receive vaccinations as puppies. When it is time for boosters, we do titer tests to see the level of immunity the dogs have to different diseases. If necessary, we boost, but this is rare. If titers have not been run during the two years leading up to breeding, we run them again. Our current vaccine protocol for puppies uses single antigen vaccines spaced very carefully to ensure full immunity without reactions.

Before a breeding takes place both the potential sire & dam are examined by a board certified Theriogenologist (Vet who specializes in reproduction). This exam includes all the things an annual physical would entail (perhaps in greater detail), but also includes a check for reproductive soundness. Our "repro vet" also helps along the way with prenatal visits, newborn puppy care and anything else that comes up. It is a great peace of mind to have a wonderful team on our side.

Soundness: What does it mean? There are two sides to this coin - Physical and Mental. Physical naturally includes health, but it goes beyond to include fitting into a standard approved by the American Kennel Club and the Poodle Club of America. It also includes having the physical ability to do the things you want your Poodle to be able to do. We ensure physical soundness by breeding only dogs who have proven themselves in the AKC show ring. It is not easy to obtain an AKC Championship, but we believe it is the best test for "fitting into the standard". By the way, not all AKC Champions should be bred - it is only one piece of the puzzle. We also very critically evaluate our potential parents for physical faults. All dogs have faults. Some eliminate dogs from being bred, others we correct with selective breeding. For example if a dog has weak hocks, we wouldn't breed it. If it has a tail that curves over its back, we'd breed it to a dog with a straight tail. Before any puppy leave our house it is structurally evaluated by an unbiased second party. This evaluation helps us to ensure we are keeping the very best show dog and it helps to ensure we are placing the right dog in the right home. The dog who is going to spend its days running agility is not the same dog that is going to be a companion for a retired couple.

Temperament or mental soundness is another huge piece of the puppy puzzle. Every dog has its own personality, but we try to breed for a happy, confident, eager to please puppy. Step one in this process to to breed dogs with that personality to other dogs with that personality. Shy, possessive, aggressive, or unsure dogs are eliminated from our breeding program. The second part of temperament is how the puppies are raised. We do not have a kennel. All of our dogs, including puppies, are part of our family and live in our house together. The puppies are exposed to age appropriate stimulation from birth to the time they go to their new homes. We use different ideas from different sources to accomplish this. Some of our favorites are Carmen Battaglia's [Breeding Better Dogs](#), Clarice Rutherford's [How the Raise and Train a Puppy You Can Live With](#) and Teah Anders' [Click 'n Connect](#). We believe in socialization and training. Puppies get a good start here, but continuing socialization and training are required by anyone who purchases a Harmony Miniature Poodle. We will help you find a good puppy

class and are available to answer questions and concerns, but it is your job to continue what we started.

So what about that guarantee? We have researched “money back guarantees” from other breeders. Many contain cost-prohibitive refund clauses. We believe those breeders are counting on you not being able or willing to jump through those hoops. It may seem like they have a “money back guarantee”, but how much are you willing to spend to get your purchase price back. We want to be honest and real.

We promise that we have done all we can to ensure great Poodles. If at any point in your Poodle’s life you need to return the dog, we will take it back unconditionally. If the dog is sick and you can’t take care of it - return it. If your life situation has changed and you can’t take care of your dog - return it. If the Poodle is not living up to your expectations - return it. We will always take back the puppy. In fact, our contract says that the dog must come back to us unless you have written permission from us to place the dog into a Harmony-approved home. We only refund money within the first 30 days of your having the puppy. This is not because we don't believe in our dogs, but because we have already reinvested that money plus more back into Harmony Miniature Poodles. We are always willing to talk about a free or reduced price puppy in the future as long as you still qualify as a “perfect fit” for one of our Poodles.

Suzi & Phil Francis