**Hokusei Kashinoki Hokkaido Ken Prospective Home Questionnaire**

Thank you for your interest in my Hokkaido. I began my preservation efforts with Shiba Inu, later focusing on the Hokkaido breed in the US in 2010 as it was not yet represented, which generally led to an interest in the other Japanese breeds such as Kai Ken. Since then, I have produced the first two litters of Hokkaido born in North America, have imported multiple Hokkaido and founded the breed club, Hokkaido Association of North America (HANA), while achieving AKC admittance/recording into their Foundation Stock Program. Visiting Japan in 2017, seeing friends there, and importing additional Hokkaido on our way back was certainly a highlight of my time with Japanese breeds.

By the time you have received this application, you should have already done a great deal of research on the breed beyond their physical traits. Due to their rarity, most will not be able to meet the breed in advance, but you should have at least made attempts to speak to their owners. You should be fully aware of the common health conditions present in this breed, especially the genetically linked CEA disease that is prevalent in Hokkaido. Ideally, you will have even lived with a Shiba or other related independent spitzy breed, and be familiar with prey drive and off leash training precautions. You should be established in your home and career so that a new puppy will be well cared for and not subjected to instability. Potential housing issues should be prepared for (moving and can’t take your pet? It’s not the time to get one!) Planning how to manage work/home life with a new family member should be discussed with everyone in the home. You should have the ability to be present for your puppy at least every 4 hours during the day while they are young and learning about house training. Hokkaido can take much longer than Shibas to house train, which means if you work 12 hour shifts, you must have people present in the home to be with your puppy for potty breaks, meals and training, or else reconsider adding a puppy to your life.

I have imported many more Hokkaido than actually make it into my breeding program, and therefore have only a limited number of breeding dogs to work with. All are raised inside the home, however all now live in cooperative homes at this point. I view this as a very serious endeavor, one that I am passionate about, and I am hopeful for the breed to continue to grow. I am happy with the results of my efforts to date, and am realistic about the setbacks I have encountered. I tend to view Hokkaido breeding more as a preservation effort to help increase a failing population of a breed on the verge of extinction, rather than on the production of pet puppies.

I do have a fall 2020 breeding planned from Umma and Naka. Umma was born out of my first imports, and is fully health tested. She has produced 1 litter to date, while living in the care of her co-owners Jason and Ayako in Portland, OR. Naka was a more recent import we are all very excited about, living with a dog training/Shiba breeder friend in Kansas. He has some performance titles already and is in the process of completing all of his health checks. He is a very nice outgoing boy and is genetically diverse from the current population. I will accept a small number of applications for this breeding. An initial application fee of $500 is required to join my waitlist, and covers services rendered as the puppies grow.

As this breeding population is still quite rare and not well established outside Europe and Japan, I do not have generations of health tested Champion dogs behind my own dogs. As soon as they get here from Japan, they are tested, but many do not pass screening. I cannot ethically offer a promise of health for the life of the dog as many are recent imports, but I can offer lifetime breeder support and full transparency. My goal is to decrease the number of unknowns with every breeding and therefore over time improve health and temperament to the best of my ability. In general, I expect my litters to be reasonably healthy companions like their parents. There will be a lot of breeder support no matter what happens, and I have a strong interest in finding great dedicated homes who want to keep in contact.

Puppies usually go home at 8-9 weeks, will have AKC-FSS registration and pedigree, microchip, 1st vaccines, de-worming, basic crate and house training, and will have been well socialized to other dogs, children, and people by that time. Puppies are sold with a contract from $2500-$3000 depending, which reflects import costs, registrations, training, health testing and maintenance expenses. I do not ship, so puppy pick up must be face to face. Average litter size is around 4. The price may vary depending on number of puppies available and results of litter health screenings. Application fee goes toward services rendered. Preference is given for performance homes and homes able to delay spay/neuter until their dogs are old enough for breeding evaluation.

If you are seriously considering a Hokkaido, please take the time to fill out my screening form. Your answers will help me determine if this breed is going to be a good fit with your lifestyle. Additional info is on my webpage www.masakadoshiba.com. The Nihon Ken Forum is also a good resource to learn more about the six native Japanese breeds.

***Contact Info***

*Date:*

*Name and age:*

*Home Address (no PO boxes):*

*E-mail(s):*

*Phone(s):*

*Occupation:*

*Driver’s license number:*

*Name and contact of Veterinarian:*

*Name and contact of other reference if no prior pets:*

# Background

*-Why are you interested in buying a Hokkaido? What attracted you to the breed?*

*-What activities do you see yourself sharing with your Hokkaido?* *(Companionship, Hiking, Therapy, Agility, Showing, etc.)*

*-Have you had dogs before? What happened to each one? How long did they live, what did they die of? Please describe:*

*-Are you a member of any dog or animal related clubs? (4-H, breed clubs, etc.)*

*-Please describe your experience with dog training, and what plans have you made for your Hokkaido’s training? Puppy classes are mandatory and adult level obedience training is required as well.*

# Your Situation

*-Where will the dog spend the day? The night? How many hours a day will the dog spend alone? Have you made plans for the puppy to have potty breaks and walks if you work?*

*- Hokkaido are still tied to their recent hunting ancestry from Japan, and this litter has active performance/show dogs in their pedigrees. What exercise will you be able to provide morning and evening so your Hokkaido will be ready to settle when you are ready to settle?*

*-Do you have any other pets that your future Hokkaido would interact with? Please describe:*

*-How many adults are in your home? Do you have any babies, toddlers, or children (under 14)? If so, do they have any dog experience and how do you plan to manage everyone around your Hokkaido?*

*-Does anyone in the home have any animal allergies?*

*-Does everyone in the home want a dog? Are they prepared for a noisy puppy in the middle of the night? What is your potty training plan?*

*-Please describe your home, neighborhood and yard? If no yard, how do you plan to exercise your dog?*

*-What are the pet size or noise requirements where you live? Depending on your lifestyle, an apartment may be a challenge for your Hokkaido if you work away from home for long hours as they often find ways to entertain themselves when under stimulated.*

*-Do you need a landlord’s permission to own a pet?* *Would you mind a home visit before purchasing a puppy?*

*-Do you have a preferred sex or color of Shiba? (Puppies may be white, black and tan, sesame, brindle or red).*

# Requirements

*I require all puppy buyers to sign a contract that they will spay/neuter their dog no earlier than 6 months to avoid growth issues, and no later than 12 months if the dog is not in a breeding program.*

*I require that owners responsibly contain any intact dogs and not breed them outside of the contract. I reserve the right to withhold registration and litigate if these conditions are not met.*

*Puppy buyers agree that they will maintain regular contact with the breeder and take good care of the dog, returning him or her to me if they can no longer keep their puppy. Microchip registration is under my name with owners as secondary contact.*

*I also require that you take the puppy to a series of approved positive puppy training classes and an additional set of classes for obedience after puppy classes are complete.*

*I strongly encourage obtaining pet insurance prior to puppy pickup. I do require that the dog not be kept as an outdoor dog, or tied up regularly as a means to keep him or her at home. Are you willing to comply with these requirements?*