

I was faced with a dilemma on what to do once my current breeding dogs get to be of age to retire. All of my dogs live in my home and are treated as family, and I couldn't imagine rehoming them like most breeders do

I had an increasing demand for puppies and a wait list a mile long, but wasn't about to become a puppy mill- I want my dogs to all get the attention they deserve and be treated as part of a family - & knew I'd never be able to part ways with my girls I have now - they will stay with me for life, right where they belong even after their breeding days are gone.

I heard about doing a Guardian Program & knew it was the best thing for me & my dogs. We work with our guardian families by using a simple contract & we provide support & guidance all along the way. At the end of the guardian program, ownership will be transferred & the dog will belong 100% to the guardian family

Here is how it works:

- STEP 1** People interested in becoming a guardian family must apply (we are very selective and only highly qualified families will be approved to foster our breeding dogs) **POTENTIAL GUARDIANS MUST:**
- have previous dog experience
 - have a fenced in yard (when not in a fenced area, dog is to be kept on a leash)
 - be willing to train puppy and teach basic obedience commands (sit, lay down, stay, come, etc) & also teach puppy to walk on a leash
 - ensure that puppy is socialized to adults, children, other animals, etc - this is very important
 - provide appropriate veterinary or emergency care when needed
 - feed dog a diet approved by the breeder which will include high end grain free dog foods (no table scraps are to be given ever)
 - be willing & able to identify & notify breeder immediately when a female begins her heat cycle (you will be given information packets that will teach you all of this)
 - not allow a female in heat near any intact males (guardian home cannot have any intact males)
 - communicate, cooperate, and coordinate with the breeder regularly and be willing to provide transportation necessary regarding any breeding related activities.
- STEP 2** If approved, we will do a quick home visit so we can meet one another & see if it's a good fit. Our breeding program depends on the quality of care provided by our guardian families & we want them to have the best home life possible.
- STEP 3** Puppies for Guardian Program are chosen by the breeder. Usually we are looking for certain qualities & traits to improve our program & the breed & to get rid of any undesirable traits there may be.
- STEP 4** Anytime after 8 weeks, puppy will go to the chosen guardian family free of charge. The puppy will be in her forever home and will grow up being a part of the family - the benefits of this (in comparison to having breeding animals thrown into cages where they're not socialized much or treated the way they should be) are tremendous! A dog that is stress free and happy will also do much better with pregnancy & motherhood, so it is a win-win situation for everyone.
- STEP 5** Puppies are never bred on their first heat cycle. When she will have her first litter will vary & will depend on her health & if her body has matured enough to have a litter (breeder will decide when & if she will be bred & will consider the females health, how well she tolerated any previous pregnancies & motherhood, etc). Once in heat, she will be with breeder for 1-2 weeks to breed, then will return to guardian home for the remainder of her pregnancy.
- STEP 6** You will have to surrender dog to breeder a week before her due date. She will whelp & will stay with breeder until puppies are weaned (usually when puppies are 7-8 weeks) then will be returned to guardian family (you will be able to visit & come see the puppies if you arrange it with breeder)
- STEP 7** Once there have been 4-5 litters born, the female will be spayed at breeder's expense & ownership of the dog will be transferred to the guardian family - this eliminates the stress of rehoming her because she will already be in her home so all that will need to be done is transferring the ownership paperwork.