Hello,

Thanks for inquiring about our guardian home process. It's a program that is designed to benefit everyone involved, the puppy, the guardian home, and the breeder. We are so thankful for our guardian homes and are always in need of others interested in the program so that we can continue the successful way our breeding program works without ever needing to kennel raise a dog.

The following is how each involved benefits:

• We do not believe that puppies or dogs are best served by being kennel raised. Dogs are social animals who adore their families and want to be with them, involved in their daily lives and participating as loved family members. By placing them in a home environment that will be their forever home from the time they are puppies, or by placing as a young adult, we are doing our best to ensure their happiness and best start in life. We never have to kennel raise a dog by utilizing guardian homes, and we feel best about this method and how it works in our breeding program.

• The majority of our current guardian homes are either families who can not afford to purchase a dog, or simply liked the idea of how our programs works and want to be a part of it with us. For those who can not afford to purchase a dog outright, the guardian home option is fantastic as the family is only required a little time for bringing the dog to us when we need her/ him for testing or breeding.

• We benefit as a breeder because we do not need to have or utilize kennels. We do not have to care for more dogs than we are comfortable with or can manage easily in our own home. We know each dog has a forever home from the time they are young. There are always a lot of questions that people have about the guardian program, and I've tried to anticipate most of those and answer them below. Hopefully the info doesn't overwhelm you. I'd rather address all the questions right upfront than to have someone feel like they weren't really aware of how it worked. And, in all honesty, it's a very simple program even though it may seem like a lot of details. Let me know if you have any other questions after reading this email.

Here are the typical questions that someone has about the guardian program:

What guidelines do I have to follow when raising the puppy or dog?

• The family needs to feed a high quality food. We are advocates of health nutrition for dogs, and for feeding foods that will not cause health issues down the road, things like cancer or tumors or allergies, etc. The foods are easily found at dog food stores, but not usually found at large chain stores like Walmart. We ask you NOT to feed grain free as our vet has shown us studies proving grains are imperative to dog health.

• We ask the family to avoid all chemicals unless necessary, and to not give supplements or medicines unless approved by us or your vet.

• If the dog becomes sick or injured, we need the family to notify us right away so we are involved in all decisions regarding the treatment of the dog. In many cases I can save the family a lot of money if it is a simple issue, and in other situations the treatment may need to be specific if the dog is going to be bred soon, or is pregnant.

• We ask the family to practice safe handling of the dog. Not to leave the dog outside if they are not at home. Don't let the dog sit in the back of an open pickup. Use a leash in public. Provide basic obedience training so the dog has manners. All things that should be done to protect your dog anyway.

• The guardian home is responsible for the transportation of the dog to us for breeding or having litters, or for the initial health testing at around 9 months of age.

What age do you start breeding the dog?

• Most girls are fully mature by about 14 or 15 months. We will usually breed on the second heat at or following this age. Males reach maturity earlier around 9 months however we wont breed until 12 or 13 months after he has all his testing done.

How long is she/ hewith you when you breed?

• As soon as the family is aware the dog is in heat we will have them arrange to bring the dog to us by about day 3 - 7 of the heat cycle. She will remain with us for about one week, and then they can pick her up and take her back home. Male dogs can either be brought to us each breeding for about 30 min to an hour or can stay with us for about a week.

How long is a dog pregnant?

• Dogs are pregnant for 63 days.

How long is she with you when she has the litter?

• She will come to us between 7 - 9 days before she is due with her litter. This gives her time to settle in to our bedroom, get used to seeing the whelping kennel and become very comfortable with being in our room and being with us all the time.

Can we visit her when she has the puppies?

• We welcome families visiting. We do wait until puppies are at least three weeks old though. The mom's become extremely protective of their newborn babies in many cases, even with their guardian homes. Since the guardian family has not been in our bedroom with her when she whelped the puppies, she is nervous about them coming in the first week or two. Not that she doesn't want to see them, because she does, but simply because this has become her quiet, safe place for the puppies, and she is unaccustomed to the family being in that place. Usually by the time puppies are two weeks old the mom is ready for little breaks from the puppies and enjoys seeing her family much more than earlier in the process. She is settled into being a mom and things are much happier for all involved during the visit. No handling of puppies is allowed during the visiting as we practice specific neuro stimulation of the puppies during the first few weeks, and they do not like handling at all at this age. The handling we do of them is very specific up until they are about 5 weeks of age, and then more general play begins to happen.

Does this negatively affect the dog emotionally to go from the guardian home to the breeder's home?

• No. There is an initial "Where is my family going?" when they bring her to us, but in every situation the dog is settled and comfortable and doing very well within an hour or two. We try very hard to give them so much attention and love the first couple days that it is a pleasant and enjoyable experience for them. This is also important as everything the mother feels causes things to happen inside her body that can affect the babies. The less stress and the more relaxed she is, the better it is for babies. So, it is very important that the guardian home not make the transition difficult for the dog. If they act upset or nervous or sad about leaving her, she will feel that even more greatly and we need to make sure that doesn't happen. Bringing her and hanging out in our bedroom with her for an hour or so and just pretending like it's any other visit you'd make is very important. If we can have the family sneak out so the dog isn't even aware they've left, that is usually best too. She rarely acknowledges for more than a couple of minutes that anything has happened.

What happens during pregnancy and what do I have to do differently with the dog?

• Pregnancy is actually very easy. I have a list of what happens each week during the development of puppies, and I give that to our guardian homes at the time we begin breeding. The dog may act a little more tired, or not eat normally for a few weeks. The last couple weeks of pregnancy she is usually becoming more hungry and sleeps more as time progresses. Otherwise, normal activity is typical and it is important to continue with walking the dog right up to the end. This helps during delivery. Being in shape is always best. Normal play and romping and running during the first half of pregnancy is great. After that, we limit activity to walks on a leash and no ball chasing type of activities.

• No chemicals may be given during pregnancy. Any illness or injury we have to be involved in determining how she is treated.

What happens if the puppy gets sick or injured while in the guardian home's care?

• While the dog is in guardian's care and home, any illness or injury that happens is their financial responsibility. We must be involved in knowing what is going on and determining medications, but the family is responsible for those expenses. The most common problems being an ear infection or cut on the foot.

What expenses do we pay for and what things does the breeder pay for?

• The guardian home pays for any normal care items for the dog. Food, dishes, leashes, beds, normal vaccinations or wormings, toys, etc.

• We pay for all expenses related to health testing for breeding purposes, all breeding expenses and litter expenses.

How many litters do you usually breed before retiring the dog?

 • We contract for four litters for a female, and seven reproductive years for males.

What happens if the dog doesn't pass a health test like you want them to for becoming a breeding dog?

• We are very careful to begin with which lines we work with, and it's not typical to have a health test come back so poorly that we have been unable to use the dog as a breeding dog. Remember, that breeding quality and pet quality are two different things. Just because a dog may not be the best breeding candidate doesn't mean they aren't the perfect pet. Most of the testing we do are very specific, serious things, and we have already thoroughly screened the line and health testing of parent dogs, so it's not likely we'll encounter a problem that would cause us to say we can't breed with that dog. If we did though, then we'd simply have the guardian home pay the cost of the spay or neuter surgery and sign over ownership and she would be their dog.

Do you want us to keep the dog clipped a certain way?

• We ask that families keep the dog in one of the typical cut for a poodle or doodle and to groom them regularly with a groomer. The most important part is the head and ears. We want them to have the look a poodle or doodle is supposed to have, especially when they come to visit us the first time around 9 months of age as I try to get a lot of pictures of them for the website. It's very easy and most groomers will do okay if given specifics when you take the dog in. If you do the grooming or cutting yourself, it's not that difficult and I can give specifics on how to do it. It's actually quite fun. I enjoy my time clipping away at the coat. : )

We don't want to be controlling or intrusive into a family’s life. It's fun for them to be involved in a part of breeding and we are grateful to them for how they help us work our program in such a way that we can work with a lot of lines but not have to kennel raise dogs. Let me know if you have other questions.

Thank You