**Red Spring Farm - Guardian Home Packet for Female Dogs**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Guardian Home for Red Spring Farm! We love our Guardian Homes, as they are an important part of our breeding program. We have decided to offer you a pick of the litter doodle pup, with waived purchase price, in exchange for a service… you are to provide a loving, indoor family home for the entire life of the dog. You are in charge of all pet-related care. This includes keeping your dogs UTD on flea/tick/heartworm prevention (<provided by Red Spring Farm), grooming, training, socialization, insurance, and exercise –JUST as you would with a pet dog! You are also responsible of all travel associated with getting your pup to/from Red Spring Farm for health testing, breeding, and whelping.

At about 1 year of age, your female dog will undergo health testing, which includes genetic screening, a thorough bodily exam, an eye exam by a veterinary ophthalmologist, hip x-rays (under anesthesia), elbow x-rays, a patella exam, and a heart exam. This is all *breeding related* care that is handled by Red Spring Farm. Should the dog pass all of these examinations, it will then be admitted into Red Spring Farm’s breeding program. If it does not pass as a breeding dog (as interpreted by Red Spring Farm) the dog will be spayed at YOUR expense and rights will be signed over to you. After the dog is ready to retire from our program, Red Spring Farm will spay her free of charge, and ownership rights are given to you.

Breeding female dogs will have up to 4 litters in her lifetime at Red Spring Farm. Expect her stay in our home to be approximately 8 weeks each time. During this time, you are welcome to visit after the pups are over 2 weeks old, and we will have a puppy-cam installed so that you can check in on your baby during the day.

**How the Estrus Cycle Works in a Female Dog**

We often get the question – how old will my female dog be when she has her puppies? Well, this is all based off her estrus cycle (aka “Heat” cycle). Female dogs typically go in “heat,” twice a year (every 6 months). However, the length between heats greatly from dog to dog with the average cycle length being between 5 and 8 months. Symptoms of heat include an enlarged vulva, slight bleeding/discharge, changes in mood/activity level, excessive licking of the genital region, and increased interest from other dogs. The female dog is in heat for about 4 weeks after the first symptoms are visible. Dogs are not receptive to being bred the entire time they are showing symptoms of heat- in fact, most dogs are only fertile for a few days in the middle of their heat period, usually around the 2nd week of her heat. Thankfully, to make breeding easier, there is now a blood test that can determine if the female is near ovulation. When the dog is 1 year of age, I will go back over some of the signs and symptoms of heat in the female dog to help prepare you to stay on the look-out! We breed the first heat cycle after 1 year of age, and as long as the dog is in good health, we breed back-to-back heat cycles because there is an increased risk of cancer when a heat cycle is “skipped”. In an ideal world, we would love to breed at 1 ½, 2, 2 ½, and 3, then retire from our program... but sometimes nature has other plans!

**Insurance Requirements for Guardian Homes**

We require all of our dog’s to be covered by insurance. If a medical emergency occurs under your watch of the guardian dog (and the medical problem is not related to breeding, whelping, or lactating) YOU are in charge of that expense. We recommend, and personally use, Healthy Paws Pet Insurance. No pet insurance company covers breeding related expenses, we do not require it because we benefit… we require it so that you won’t be paying thousands of dollars for the surgery if your pup eats a sock.

**Our Vet:**

The guardian home will take the dog to Red Spring Farm’s vet.

Dr. Porter

Botetourt Veterinary Hospital

5598 Roanoke Rd,

Troutville, VA 24175

If you are located more than 1 hour from our home, and you already have a relationship with a vet local to you- we MAY be willing to let you go to your local vet for annual vaccinations/exams. However, if you choose not to use our veterinarian above, all expenses are are YOUR responsibility. All records must be transferred to our vet after each visit.

**Daily Feeding Instructions**

**From 8 Weeks Until Retiring From Our Program:**  All of our dogs and puppies should be taking the Wellness Food Supplement EVERY DAY. How much your dog receives depends on its weight, follow the chart below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Recommended Daily Feeding For Your Dog:** | |
| Less than 20 lbs. | 1/2 tablet |
| 20 - 40 lbs. | 1 - 1 1/2 tablets |
| 41 - 60 lbs. | 1 1/2 - 2  tablets |
| 61 - 80 lbs | 2 - 2 1/2 tablets |
| For each additional 20 lbs. add a 1/2 tablet. | |

**Kibble:** All of our dogs are on Life’s Abundance All Life Stages. We do NOT use the grain free formula. Make sure you specifically get the green “All Life Stages” bag, this way, we do not have to worry about female dogs transitioning to a new food before coming to us.

**Treats and Chews**

At Red Spring Farm, we use Life’s Abundance Tasty Rewards Training Treats when working with our puppies and adults. They are healthy, tasty, and can be broken into pieces that fit the size of the dog. We also give baby carrots and other dog-friendly fruits and vegetables as treats, as it is PROVEN that dogs who eat fresh fruits and veggies regularly have a lower incidence of cancer. We like the Life’s Abundance Porky Puffs- the other stuff is stinky (which is good because it is natural- but seriously the bully sticks STINK).

Though we almost exclusively use Life’s Abundance or homemade treats and chews, we do not require you to only stick to the Life’s Abundance for treats/chews, we just ask that you purchase high quality, safe products. There are certain items that you **CANNNOT use**:

* Rawhide Chews of Any Sort
* Nylabones
* Pupperoni
* Beggin’ Strips
* Canine Carry Outs
* Greenies
* Nylon/ Plastic Products
* China-Made Products
* Grapes, Tomatoes, Avocado, Mushrooms, Onions, Cherries, Asparagus
* **Greasy** Bones/Pig Ears/Pig Skin, Tendons, etc.
* Cow hooves if your dog swallows’ pieces)
* When in doubt, always check ingredients list! Avoid BHT, BHA, Corn Gluten, Food Dyes (Blue 2, Red 40, Yellow 5 and 6), Propylene Glycol.
* If it looks fake, it probably is! Use common sense when looking for a new treat or chew!

**Guardian Home Contract**

The intent of this agreement is to provide \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Guardian) with a Red Spring Farm Goldendoodle at no purchase price in order to keep the dog in our breeding program.

Ownership of this dog, microchip # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will remain the property of the Breeder, Kristen Morgan, until 4 litters have been whelped. At that time, the dog will be spayed or neutered at the Breeder’s expense and ownership will be transferred to the Guardian. The Guardian does not have ownership or interest in puppies produced from this dog. The Guardian will take possession after the dog has weaned her 4th litter of pups. At the time of Guardian possession, the Breeder is not liable or responsible for the dog.

**The Guardian has the responsibility to:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Safely confine the dog with use of a physical fence, supervised underground/electric fence, or walks on a leash. Never let the dog run at large.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Provide house breaking.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Keep dog accustomed to walking on the leash and to periods of time in the crate daily, either sleeping or resting.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Provide daily mental and physical stimulation, but not to over exercise the dog (this includes excessive jumping, use of stairs, heavy exercise/running and sports/agility) before the age of 24 months. The Guardian will not allow the dog to become overweight. This is because hip dysplasia can be caused environmental factors.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Complete at least 1 basic obedience training class with the Guardian Dog By 1 Year of Age
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Feed the high quality diet required by the Breeder- Daily Life’s Abundance “All Life Stages” Kibble (or appropriate puppy formula) and Wellness Food Supplement. Chews and treats made by Life’s Abundance are highly preferable. We will provide a list of recommended treats and chews.
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Provide veterinary care as needed at Red Spring Farm’s veterinarian. Any non-routine vet care is at the guardian’s expense.
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Keep the dog free of fleas, ticks, and other external parasites using the prevention method available for pickup at Red Spring Farm.
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cover the dog with an approved pet insurance company. We recommend Healthy Paws.
10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Transport the dog to breeder’s home for breeding purposes, health testing, etc. Every effort will be made to give the Guardian 72+ hours of notice before delivery is needed.
11. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Contact the Breeder immediately in the event of any serious illness or accident, including diarrhea, vomiting, loss of appetite, and injury.
12. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Give contact information for the caretaker of the dog during any vacation or absence. The dog will never be placed in a boarding or doggy daycare facility without the Breeders written permission. The Breeder is usually capable of dog-sitting your Guardian Dog!
13. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Use only the recommended veterinarian for the care of the dog- send all copies of veterinary care to the Breeder.
14. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Notify the Breeder immediately when a female comes into heat.
15. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Never have unaltered dogs, or litters born in household, or around the dog, during the breeding life of the Dog. The Guardian will not allow the use of the dog for breeding. Intact breeding dogs, litters of puppies, or rescued dogs that have not been cleared by Red Spring Farm may not be in the home while Guardian Dog is part of the Red Spring Farm program.
16. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ License the dog with city and keep license current (rabies tag). Provide Red Spring Farm with a copy.
17. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ensure that there is no smoking in the home where the Dog resides for the lifetime of the Guardian Dog, as this can cause cancer and respiratory illness which could lead to death.
18. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Take the dog to a professional groomer every 6-8 weeks, be mindful of the Dog’s appearance, as it represents Red Spring Farm. Females will be given short haircuts before birth!
19. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ensure that all persons residing with the Dog understand and abide by this contract.
20. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Keep the dog well socialized with people of all ages and other dogs
21. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Never rehome or surrender the dog without the Breeders written permission. In the event that the Guardian would like to terminate this agreement, the dog will be returned to the Breeder.
22. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ All members of the household agree not to breed dogs (of any breed) while the Guardian Dog is in the home. This is because the Guardian Dog represents Red Spring Farm.
23. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Red Spring Farm is not liable for any accident, or injury to anyone which occurs while the dog is in the care of the Guardian family (this includes bites, illness, and/or accidents resulting in damage of property, bodily injury, or death).
24. If married, in the event of a separation or divorce, the dog will be cared by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This contract can be terminated if the Breeder finds the Guardian to be noncompliant with the guidelines set forth in this contract. If this should occur, the contract will terminate and the Breeder will take immediate possession of the dog. Should the dog lose its breeding capabilities (as judged by the Breeder), become stolen or lost, or dies due to *negligence* on the part of the Guardian, the Guardian agrees to pay a replacement fee of $3,500. In the event that the dog becomes lost or dies during the Breeder’s care, the Guardian contract will terminate and the Breeder will provide a replacement puppy from a litter. The ownership of the future puppy will be with the Guardian and the contract will be void. If the Guardian allows the dog to breed without consent of the Breeder, or if the Guardian refuses to provide the dog to the Breeder at any time, then the Guardian will owe the breeder $30,000 for the Guardian Dog and $10,000 for any puppy born. If the Breeder has to take the Guardian to court to collect any of the payments listed above, the Guardian will also be responsible for all legal costs incurred. The contractual agreement is made, executed, and will remain in the jurisdiction of the State of Virginia as close to the Breeder’s home as possible.

**The Breeder has the responsibility to:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Provide Guardian with a healthy dog (to the best of our knowledge)
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pay for flea, tick, heartworm prevention medication, and annual exams and vaccines while the dog is in Red Spring Farm’s breeding program (the **Guardian** is responsible for transporting the dog, and picking up/keeping the dog UTD on the parasite prevention).
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pay for all veterinary costs associated with responsible breeding (such as OFA or Pennhip hip and elbow testing, OFA Patella testing, CERF exams, DNA testing related to genetic diseases and coat type). The **Guardian** is responsible for **all** non-breeding related expenses, including but not limited to: food, grooming, training, and non-routine and emergency veterinary care such as accidents, injury, or illness.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Spay the dog after 4 litters have been whelped.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Provide support and resources to the Guardian Family as needed.

Red Spring Farm: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_