

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I'M INTERESTED IN BUYING A PUPPY FOR MY SISTER/BROTHER/MOTHER & FATHER/BEST FRIEND.

WE DO NOT SELL DOGS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL NOT BE THE OWNER OF THE DOG. BUYING AN AKITA AS A GIFT OR TO HELP SOMEONE OUT IS NOT A GOOD IDEA. FIRST, DOGS ARE NOT GIFTS, THEY ARE A RESPONSIBILITY. AND SECOND, WE NEED TO GET TO KNOW THE POTENTIAL OWNER TO ENSURE A PROPER MATCH IS MADE FOR A LONG-LASTING RELATIONSHIP.

I WANT TO BUY A PUPPY TO BREED TO MY DOG.

WE DO NOT SELL ANIMALS FOR BREEDING PURPOSES UNLESS THE ANIMAL IS TO BE SHOWN TO ITS CHAMPIONSHIP. COMPANION ANIMALS ARE SOLD UNDER A SPAY/NEUTER CONTRACT AND UNDER THE AKC'S LIMITED REGISTRATION.

I HAVE A DOG ALREADY, AND WANT TO GET AN AKITA OF THE SAME SEX TO KEEP HIM OR HER COMPANY.

THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT A GOOD IDEA. AKITAS ARE TYPICALLY AGGRESSIVE TOWARD SAME SEX DOGS. MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LULLED INTO A SENSE OF SECURITY THAT THROUGH OBEDIENCE TRAINING THEY CAN KEEP THIS AGGRESSION AT BAY, BUT OUR OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIENCE LEAD US TO BELIEVE THIS IS NOT THE CASE: EVENTUALLY, THERE WILL BE AN INCIDENT, AND THE PROBLEMS WILL ESCALATE FROM THERE. WE CAN CITE NUMEROUS EXAMPLES OF THIS HAPPENING; AND WHEN AN INCIDENT HAPPENS IT IS WORSE THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY IMAGINE. THE BOTTOM LINE IS WE WILL NOT SELL AN AKITA OF THE SAME SEX AS YOUR CURRENT DOG UNLESS YOU ARE AN EXPERIENCED OWNER AND/OR HAVE THE FACILITIES AND THE WILLINGNESS TO SEPARATE THE DOGS WHEN PROBLEMS HAPPEN.

WHY DID YOU BREED THIS LITTER?

WE BRED THIS LITTER TO PRODUCE A DOG THAT WE WISH TO WORK WITH TO CONTINUE OUR BREEDING PROGRAM. WE HAVE KEPT A PUPPY IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER FROM PRACTICALLY EVERY LITTER WE HAVE BRED. WE DO NOT BREED LITTERS GRATUITOUSLY JUST TO PRODUCE PUPPIES OR TO MAKE MONEY, AND THESE LITTERS ARE CAREFULLY PLANNED, SOMETIMES YEARS IN ADVANCE.

I'M INTERESTED IN A PUPPY FROM YOUR LITTER. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

YOU NEED TO CONTACT US BY EITHER E-MAIL OR PHONE AND LET US KNOW.

HOW MUCH ARE YOUR PUPPIES?

THE PRICES OF THE PUPPIES DEPEND ON WHETHER YOU WANT A SHOW QUALITY ANIMAL OR A COMPANION ANIMAL. WE CURRENTLY CHARGE \$2,000.00 FOR SHOW QUALITY ANIMALS, AND \$1,000.00 FOR COMPANION ANIMALS.

THAT SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF MONEY.

YES, IT IS A LOT OF MONEY. AND FOR THAT PRICE YOU GET A PUPPY WHOSE LITTER WAS THOUGHTFULLY PLANNED, CAREFULLY VETTED, AND PROPERLY RAISED BY A BREEDER THAT IS KEEPING A PUPPY TO CONTINUE THE LINES, AND TO PRODUCE A SOCIAL ANIMAL THAT WILL PROVIDE YEARS AND YEARS OF LOVE AND COMPANIONSHIP. IF YOU ARE TRULY INTERESTED IN GETTING AN AKITA AND ARE NOT ABLE TO AFFORD THESE PRICES, PLEASE CONSIDER A

RESCUE AKITA. YOU CAN FIND RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS AT THE AKITA CLUB OF AMERICA WEBSITE – WWW.AKITAklub.org – OR BY GOOGLING “AKITA RESCUE”.

FOR THE PRICES YOU’RE CHARGING, I’D BE BETTER OFF BUYING FROM A PET STORE.

THAT’S A MATTER OF OPINION. AT A PET SHOP, YOU ARE LIKELY TO PAY AS MUCH, OR MORE THAN WE ARE CHARGING AND GET A LOT LESS FOR YOUR MONEY. AND IF THAT’S YOUR MAIN CONSIDERATION, THEN WE ARE PROBABLY NOT THE BREEDERS FOR YOU. IN ADDITION, WE OFFER A WARRANTY AGAINST DEBILITATING HERITABLE DISEASES THAT EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THOSE OFFERED BY PET STORES.

DO YOU OFFER ANY REBATES?

WE OFFER AN INCENTIVE TO COMPANION ANIMAL OWNERS – A \$100.00 REBATE UPON PROOF OF SPAY OR NEUTER, AS WELL AS COMPLETION OF A PUPPY OBEDIENCE COURSE.

I’M NOT SURE I CAN COME UP WITH THE WHOLE PRICE OF THE PUPPY. CAN I MAKE PAYMENTS ON THE PUPPY?

YES, YOU MAY MAKE PAYMENTS ON THE PUPPY. HOWEVER, WE WILL NOT RELEASE THE PUPPY TO YOU UNTIL ALL PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. AND, SHOULD YOU DECIDE NOT TO TAKE THE PUPPY AFTER YOU HAVE MADE PAYMENTS, THOSE PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

DO YOU ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS?

NO. AND IF YOU’RE BASING YOUR DECISION TO BUY A PUPPY ON WHETHER OR NOT WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS, THEN WE ARE PROBABLY NOT THE BREEDERS FOR YOU.

HOW DO I GET ON A WAITING LIST?

YOU CAN E-MAIL OR CALL US AND REQUEST THAT WE PUT YOU ON OUR WAITING LIST. YOU WILL NEED TO TELL US WHETHER YOU WANT A SHOW-QUALITY OR COMPANION ANIMAL, AND A MALE OR A FEMALE. THE MORE FLEXIBLE YOU ARE IN YOUR SPECIFICATIONS FOR A PUPPY, THE MORE LIKELY WE WILL BE ABLE TO FULFILL YOUR REQUEST. WE WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE EXPECT A LITTER, WHAT THE TIME FRAME IS, AND WHAT OUR PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE IS OF YOUR PICK ORDER ON THE LIST.

WHAT IS A PICK ORDER?

PUPPY BUYERS CHOOSE THEIR PUPPIES IN ORDER OF PRIORITY ON OUR WAITING LIST. THE FIRST CATEGORY ON THE LIST IS THOSE WANTING THE FIRST PICK MALE OR FEMALE SHOW-QUALITY ANIMAL, OR OVERALL PICK OF THE LITTER. THAT FIRST PRIORITY PICK IS USUALLY RESERVED FOR THE BREEDER (US) AND/OR THE STUD DOG OWNER. THE NEXT PRIORITY IS THE SECOND PICK SHOW QUALITY DOG, EITHER MALE OR FEMALE, AND SO FORTH. AFTER ALL SHOW QUALITY COMMITMENTS ARE TAKEN, BUYERS WANTING COMPANION ANIMALS THEN PICK IN ORDER OF THEIR POSITION ON THE WAITING LIST. WE HAVE TYPICALLY FOUND THAT OUR BUYERS’ PREFERENCES ARE FULLY MET WITH THE PUPPY THEY ULTIMATELY SELECT.

BUT, WHAT IF I WANT A SPECIFIC COLOR OR MARKINGS?

IF YOU WANT A PUPPY WITH SPECIFIC MARKINGS OR A PARTICULAR COLOR, YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT YOUR PREFERENCES AND WE WILL KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN PLACING THE PUPPIES. OUR MAIN PRIORITY IN DOING A BREEDING IS THE HEALTH AND TEMPERAMENT OF THE PUPPIES WE PRODUCE; CONSEQUENTLY, WE DO NOT SELL PUPPIES ACCORDING TO COLOR

PREFERENCES, AND CAN MAKE NO PROMISES YOU WILL GET A PUPPY WITH THE EXACT MARKINGS YOU WANT, ESPECIALLY IF OTHER BUYERS WILL BE MAKING THEIR SELECTIONS BEFORE YOU DO. AT THE TIME WE DO THE BREEDING, WE WILL HAVE A GOOD IDEA OF THE TYPES OF COLORS AND MARKINGS THAT WILL BE PRODUCED, AND WE WILL BE GLAD TO TELL YOU ABOUT OUR EXPECTATIONS. AGAIN, THE LESS FLEXIBLE YOU ARE IN YOUR DESIRES FOR A PUPPY, THE LESS LIKELY IT IS WE WILL BE ABLE TO PLACE A PUPPY WITH YOU.

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF A PUPPY IS SHOW-QUALITY OR A COMPANION ANIMAL?

WE EVALUATE THE SHOW POTENTIAL OF A PUPPY BASED ON HOW CLOSELY IT COMES TO MEETING THE IDEAL AKITA AS DEFINED BY THE STANDARD. AT A BARE MINIMUM, THE PUPPY MUST HAVE ALL NOSE AND EYE PIGMENT, PROPER STRUCTURE AND BITE, PROPER TAIL SET AND UPRIGHT EARS, A LEVEL TOPLINE, AND DESCENDED TESTICLES (IN A MALE). THEN, WE EVALUATE CERTAIN "FINE TUNING" WE WISH TO HAVE FOR OUR BREEDING PROGRAM. THOSE PUPPIES ARE THE ONES WE CONSIDER TO BE SHOW QUALITY, THOUGH SOME PEOPLE MAY HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS.

DO YOU EVER SELL SHOW-QUALITY DOGS TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT TO SHOW?

YES. SHOW QUALITY IS OUR OPINION OF THE PUP'S POTENTIAL IN THE SHOW RING AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO A BREEDING PROGRAM, BUT OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS CARING HOMES FOR OUR PUPPIES. IF WE DO NOT HAVE BUYERS WANTING A SHOW QUALITY DOG, THEN THOSE PUPPIES ARE SOLD UNDER OUR COMPANION ANIMAL CONTRACT, AT A COMPANION PRICE.

DO YOU REQUIRE A DEPOSIT?

IF YOU WANT US TO HOLD YOUR PLACE IN THE PICK ORDER FOR A PUPPY, THEN WE WILL REQUIRE YOU TO MAKE A DEPOSIT. OTHERWISE, WE WILL GO TO THE NEXT PERSON ON THE WAITING LIST.

HOW MUCH IS YOUR DEPOSIT?

WE REQUIRE \$500.00 FOR SHOW-QUALITY ANIMALS, AND \$250.00 FOR COMPANION ANIMALS. THE BALANCE IS DUE WHEN THE SALES CONTRACTS ARE SIGNED AND THE PUPPY IS TRANSFERRED TO YOUR OWNERSHIP.

WHEN DO I MAKE THE DEPOSIT?

WE USUALLY DO NOT TAKE A DEPOSIT UNTIL AFTER WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE DAM IS PREGNANT. ONCE THE PUPPIES ARE BORN, IF YOU WANT YOUR PLACE ON THE WAITING LIST HELD WE WILL NEED A DEPOSIT; OTHERWISE, YOUR PLACE WILL GO TO THE NEXT PERSON ON THE LIST.

HOW DO I MAKE A DEPOSIT ON A PUPPY?

TO MAKE THE DEPOSIT, FILL OUT THE PUPPY BUYER INFORMATION SHEET, AND MAIL IT TO US ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK. THE BEST WAY TO MAKE THE PAYMENT IS EITHER CASHIER'S CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, OR ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EITHER THROUGH THE BANK OR PAYPAL). A DEPOSIT MADE BY PERSONAL CHECK WHICH BOUNCES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED VALID AND YOUR PLACE ON THE WAITING LIST WILL BE FORFEIT.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT GETTING A PUPPY FROM YOU?

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, WE WILL TAKE YOU OFF OUR WAITING LIST. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND AFTER YOU HAVE MADE A DEPOSIT ON A PUPPY, YOU WILL FORFEIT YOUR DEPOSIT.

HOWEVER, WE ARE REASONABLE PEOPLE, AND IF IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE EXPERIENCED A SERIOUS SETBACK, THEN WE MAY BE ABLE TO WORK WITH YOU.

WHAT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT SELLING A PUPPY TO ME?

IF WE CHANGE OUR MIND ABOUT SELLING A PUPPY TO YOU, IT IS FOR A GOOD REASON. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS WOULD BE IF WE DISCOVER YOU MISREPRESENTED SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF, AND WE FEEL THIS WOULD NOT BE A SUITABLE PUPPY FOR YOU. IN THIS CASE, WE WOULD REFUND YOUR DEPOSIT.

DO YOU SELL YOUR PUPPIES UNDER A CONTRACT?

YES, WE DO. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE MAIN POINTS REQUIRE COMPANION ANIMALS TO BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED, SHOW QUALITY ANIMALS TO BE SHOWN TO THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP, AND REQUEST THE PUPPY OWNERS OBTAIN OFA CERTIFICATION AT 2 YEARS OF AGE (SO THAT WE CAN TRACK OUR OVERALL BREEDING PROGRAM). WE ALSO WARRANT AGAINST DEBILITATING HERITABLE DISEASES.

WHAT KIND OF GUARANTEE DO YOU OFFER?

WE WARRANT THE PUPPIES AGAINST ANY UNQUESTIONABLY HERITABLE DEFECT THAT WILL SERIOUSLY COMPROMISE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE OR WELL-BEING, PROVIDED OFA HIP CERTIFICATION IS OBTAINED AT THE AGE OF 2 YEARS. FOR A COMPANION ANIMAL, WE MAY REFUND THE PURCHASE PRICE OR OFFER A REPLACEMENT PUPPY, AT OUR DISCRETION. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT A PROBLEM OCCURS OUTSIDE OF THAT TIMEFRAME, WE ARE OPEN TO DISCUSSION.

WHAT KIND OF HEALTH CLEARANCES DO THE PUPPIES' PARENTS HAVE?

AT A VERY MINIMUM, THE DAM HAS BEEN CLEARED OF HIP AND EYE DISEASE. SINCE WE DO NOT CONTROL THE TESTING STATUS OF THE STUD DOG (UNLESS WE OWN HIM), WE WILL SELECT A STUD THAT HAS SIMILAR OR BETTER HEALTH STATISTICS, OR ONE WHOSE LINES WITH WHICH WE ARE EXTREMELY FAMILIAR IN THE ABSENCE OF THOSE. THERE ARE SEVERAL CONDITIONS IN AKITAS, HOWEVER, FOR WHICH NO GENETIC TEST EXISTS, IN WHICH CASE WE MUST RELY ON OUR EXPERIENCE IN AND OBSERVING THE BREED AND OTHERS' BREEDING PROGRAMS.

THE PRESENCE OF HEALTH STATISTICS IN THE PEDIGREE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT MEAN THAT A PROBLEM MAY NOT OCCASIONALLY CROP UP, BUT, AS BREEDERS, WE DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO ENSURE THAT LIKELIHOOD IS MINIMIZED.

WHEN THE PUPPIES GO TO THEIR NEW HOMES, WHAT KIND OF VET CARE WILL THEY HAVE RECEIVED?

AT THE TIME THE PUPS GO TO THEIR NEW HOMES, THEY WILL HAVE RECEIVED THE FIRST 2 OF 3 PUPPY SHOTS, BEEN WORMED, HAD AN EYE CHECK TO ENSURE THERE ARE NO HERITABLE EYE DISEASES, AND HAD A HEALTH CHECK PERFORMED BY OUR VET. IN ADDITION, THEY WILL HAVE BEEN MICROCHIPPED FOR PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION IN THE EVENT THEY GET LOST.

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT DO YOU OFFER NEW PUPPY OWNERS?

WE ARE AVAILABLE TO OUR PUPPY BUYERS OVER THE LIFETIME OF THE DOG TO OFFER OUR SUPPORT AND EXPERTISE WITH THE BREED. WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR NEW PUPPY HOME, WE ALSO PROVIDE A MULTI-PAGE GUIDE OUTLINING WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO RAISE AND TRAIN YOUR PUPPY TO DATE, AND WHAT WE RECOMMEND AND WHY IN THE FUTURE. YOUR PUPPY WILL HAVE BEEN MICROCHIPPED FOR PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION IN THE EVENT HE OR SHE IS

LOST, WITH US LISTED AS THE IMPLANTER; IN THAT WAY, WE WILL ALWAYS BE NOTIFIED IF THE DOG ENDS UP IN A SHELTER AND THEY ARE UNABLE TO CONTACT THE PUPPY OWNER. AND FINALLY, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT WE REQUIRE PUPPY OWNERS TO RETURN THE DOG TO US AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO KEEP THE DOG, SO THAT WE MAY ENSURE THE DOG IS PROPERLY CARED FOR THROUGHOUT IT'S LIFE.

WHEN CAN I MEET THE PUPPIES?

WE START ALLOWING VISITORS TO MEET THE PUPS ONCE THEY ARE UP AND WALKING, SEEING AND HEARING, USUALLY AROUND 4 WEEKS. BECAUSE WE MAY HAVE PRIOR COMMITMENTS, APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED, WHICH CAN BE ARRANGED EITHER BY PHONE OR E-MAIL.

WHEN DO THE PUPPIES GO TO THEIR NEW HOMES?

OUR PUPPIES USUALLY GO TO THEIR NEW HOMES AROUND NINE TO TEN WEEKS OF AGE.

CAN YOU SHIP A PUPPY TO ME?

YES, WE CAN SHIP A PUPPY TO YOU. WE USUALLY USE DELTA, WHICH HAS ALWAYS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB, AS MINNEAPOLIS IS A HUB CITY FOR THEM, MOST FLIGHTS ARE DIRECT TO MAJOR CITIES, WHICH IS LESS STRESSFUL ON THE PUPPY. THERE ARE USUALLY TEMPERATURE RESTRICTIONS GOVERNING THE TIMES A PUPPY CAN BE SHIPPED. YOU CAN SEE THESE AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ON THEIR WEBSITE.

IF WE SHIP A PUPPY TO YOU, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING FOR THE SHIPMENT, AS WELL AS THE COSTS OF A CRATE TO SHIP THE PUPPY IN AND SECURING A FLIGHT CERTIFICATE.

WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY WHEN I GET MY NEW PUPPY?

YOUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO ABSOLUTELY ADORE AND CARE FOR THE PUPPY FOR THE REST OF ITS LIFE. YOUR SECOND RESPONSIBILITY IS TO GET A VET CHECK TO ENSURE THE PUP'S HEALTH WITHIN 72 HOURS OF TAKING POSSESSION OF THE PUPPY. YOUR THIRD RESPONSIBILITY IS TO CONSULT WITH YOUR VET, GIVEN OUR PUPPY PACKET, ON A FUTURE COURSE OF VET CARE.