

## Guardianship in General

We want all of our dogs to live happy lives as members of a family and have the love and attention they deserve. For this reason, we only have a few of our dogs living in our home and the rest of our breeding dogs live in approved guardian homes. These homes are very carefully chosen.

It's a fairly simple program. The puppy will grow up in his or her guardian home as a beloved family pet. Females will come to us beginning around 18-24 months to be bred and then again to have her puppies. We will send lots of photos of the puppies to the guardian family and they will be able to come visit the puppies around 6 weeks old. Families of females receive \$250 for each litter produced as a "thank you" for their patience as she is away. Males come for a "honeymoon" as needed. Once she or he has finished their breeding career (usually 3-4 litters, could be more for males), we will pay for her/him to be spayed or neutered and they will reside permanently with their family. Being a guardian home for us can be a wonderful way to have a top of the line, health tested, family pet. It is a rewarding experience where families play a valuable role in helping to provide others with the joy of owning a puppy.

## About the program and Guardian Home Contract:

We are a small breeding program dedicated to producing beautiful, healthy puppies. We believe that all of our breeding dogs deserve a forever home. We've implemented our Guardian Home Program where we place our upcoming moms and dads in forever homes with suitable families. The guardians have the role of "parent" while we retain ownership and breeding rights for the dog until the dog retires. We do not begin breeding our female dogs until about 18-24 months, once all health testing is completed. Males usually begin breeding around a year old, after health testing is complete. We look for high quality in all categories, including but not limited to, health, structure, coat, and temperament, in all the dogs we choose to become part of our breeding program. For our females in guardian homes, we offer \$250 for each litter produced as a "thank you" for your patience while she is with us.

A Guardian family agrees to raise, train and care for a McClelland Doodle puppy throughout his/her breeding career. Ownership is transferred to the guardian family when the dog is retired from his or her breeding career.

We, as breeders, pay for all veterinary costs related to breeding. We also reimburse for yearly wellness exams and routine vaccinations if using our vet of choice - Lineberger Veterinary Hospital.

Females typically cycle every 6 months. Once their cycle begins, you must notify us immediately! We will have her come to us around day 10 and stay for about a week to "honeymoon". She will then return home until approximately 1 week before her due date. Gestation is about 63 days. She will come back to us to whelp and stay for about 5-6 weeks or until puppies are fully weaned.

Males will come to us for "honeymoons" as needed.

When the dog reaches the age of retirement (around 3-4 years for females - older for males), we pay for spaying/neutering, and the dog retires with you and enjoys the comfort of the home they have always known. Females typically have around 2-4 litters.

#### Notices

\* Guardian must live within 100 miles of breeder's home in Gastonia, NC. (Exceptions can be made if guardian is willing to drive to us as needed.)

\* Legal ownership of the dog (microchip # \_\_\_\_\_) remains with the breeder until the dog has produced up to 2-4 litters (for females, more for males), at which time the dog will be spayed or neutered at the expense of the breeder. Full ownership of the dog will then be transferred to the guardian.

\* Guardian has no right to puppies produced by this dog or to semen produced by the dog.

#### WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED OF YOU AS A GUARDIAN HOME

- Provide the dog with a safe and loving home, including but not limited to:
  - Contain the dog in a fenced-in yard or leash
  - Provide adequate exercise for the dog to prevent issues such as hip dysplasia
  - Train the dog on basic commands (sit, stay, leave it, etc.) or attend obedience classes. The dog should be well-behaved and able to stay alone or in a crate with no separation anxiety issues.
  - Dog must be housebroken
  - Feed the dog a high quality food that is approved by us. For breeding females, the food **MUST** contain at least 29% protein and 17% fat. **Wellness Complete Health** is our choice for our females. For families of females, if you are not feeding our food of choice, you must provide the food during their entire stay with us. We recommend any variety of Wellness food for our males.
  - Do not allow him/her to become overweight
  - Keep the dog socialized with dogs and people of different ages and sizes, especially children. If any issues arise, they must be put through training to overcome the issue.
  - Keep the dog clean and well-groomed AT ALL TIMES. They are representing McClelland Doodles so they should always be presentable.
- Provide the dog with basic veterinary care, including but not limited to:
  - Yearly wellness visits and vaccines as recommended by our veterinarian. We will reimburse via Zelle for yearly well checks and routine vaccines **if using our vet - Lineberger Veterinary Hospital.**

- Any medical issues the dog may have which are NOT related to breeding
- Emergency vet costs (NOT related to breeding)
- Keep the dog on monthly, year-round preventative medications against heart worms, fleas and ticks. **\*The ONLY flea/tick products allowed are Sentinel and Seresto Collars. We recommend Interceptor Plus for heart worms if using the collar.**
- Notify breeder **IMMEDIATELY** when the female dog has come into her heat cycle and be prepared to meet breeder upon request when dog is needed for breeding purposes. **This is very important! You will need to monitor your female closely each day.**
- For female breeding dogs, keep all unapproved intact male dogs away from her when she is in season. For males, keep females who are in season away to prevent accidental breedings.
- If guardian family goes on vacation or out of town for any reason and the dog is not staying with us, contact information for kennel and/or petsitter must be given to breeder before guardian family departs. **Please provide your sitter with our information as well. For females, make sure your sitter can recognize a heat cycle and contact us immediately.**
- If dog does not pass certain health tests and is deemed by breeder to be unfit to reproduce, the dog will then be spayed or neutered at the expense of the breeder.
- Guardian agrees to maintain this contract even if they relocate out of the area, including flying the dog back to the breeder at the expense of the guardian.
- Guardian agrees to keep in close contact with breeder, regularly sending photos of dog and gives clearance to breeder to use any photos sent for marketing purposes (social media, website, etc.)
- Should the dog die early of natural causes, this contract shall terminate. If the dog dies while in possession of the breeder, dog shall be replaced with a puppy from McClelland Doodles next available litter.
- If at any time the breeder finds the guardian to be non-compliant **for any reason**, the contract terminates and the dog shall return to breeder immediately.
- If the dog is altered OR bred purposefully without written consent of the breeder, guardian will owe breeder a sum of \$30,000. Any legal costs involved with obtaining this payment will also be paid by guardian.
- Allow dog to make regular visits to breeder's home and/or visit with other members of McClelland Doodles in-home breeding dogs to help them become familiar.
- Allow breeder to make scheduled visits to guardian home.

WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED OF US, THE BREEDER?

