**Depot Dachsies Philosophy**

Thanks for inquiring about our guardian home process.  We at Depot Dachsies believe in the win, win, and win philosophy.  We think we have a program where you win, your dog wins and we win.  So, everybody is a winner.  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 and avoid kenneling dogs when possible.

 **The basics**

1. We do not believe that puppies or dogs are best served by being kennel raised. Dogs are social animals that 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 feel good about this method, how it works in our breeding program and how the dogs and guardian homes benefit.
2. The majority of our current guardian homes were either families who could not afford to purchase a quality Dachshund, didn’t want to wait 6-12 months for one of our puppies or simply liked the idea of how our programs works and wanted to partner with us. For those who could not afford to purchase a Depot Dachsies outright, the guardian home option is fantastic as the family is only required to pay a fee of $350 when a dog is placed with them. You get a top quality dog, our pick dog and your dog gets a loving forever home!   All you invest beyond the $350 deposit is a little time for bringing the dog to us when we need him for breeding.
3. We benefit as a breeder because we minimize the use of 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 and are a cherished member of a family.  There are always a lot of questions that people have about the guardian program, and we’ve tried to anticipate most of those and answer them below.  Hopefully the info doesn’t overwhelm you.  We’d rather address all the questions 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 us know if you have any other questions after reading this email.

 **FAQ’s**

***How far can I live from South Easton and still be in  your guardian program?***

We ask that you live within a 45- 60 minutes’ drive of South Easton. It is your job to bring the puppy/dog to us when it’s needed for breeding and the closer you live the easier that makes things.

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

1. We prefer the family to feed Canadie as that’s what we use. However, if you use something else, let us know and we can discuss.  We are advocates of healthy nutrition for dogs, and for feeding foods that will not cause health issues down the road, things like cancer or tumors or allergies, etc.
2. We ask the family to avoid all chemicals unless necessary, and to not give additional supplements or medicines unless approved by us.
3. 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 we 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.
4. We ask the family to practice safe handling of the dog. To not leave the dog outside if they are not at home. Don’t let the dog sit in the back of an open pickup when driving.  Use a leash in public.  Provide basic obedience training so the dog has manners.  All these things should be done to protect your dog.
5. The guardian home is responsible for the transportation of the dog to us for breeding.

 ***What age do you start breeding the dog?***

1. Most males are fully mature by about 12 months. Winston is already mature!

 ***How long is he with you when you breed?***

1. When we have a female in heat and would like to use your male, we’ll contact you as soon as we know she’s in heat. Often there isn’t a long notice. We’ll know she’s in heat and contact you and we’d probably need Winston to visit within a few days. We may need access to the male for an hour or two a day for up to 7 days.

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

1. No.  You’re welcome to stay during the breeding or drop off and pick back up the same day. We’ll work with you on what’s easiest for you. We’re also open to having the male stay with us for the week if needed.

***What happens if the dog gets sick or injured while in the guardian home’s care?***

1. While the dog is in your care and home, any illness or injury that happens is your financial responsibility, just as it would be if you had a non-guardian pet.  We need to be involved in knowing what is going on and determining medications, but the family is responsible for those expenses.  We have your dog’s best interest at heart so it is good to have us to consult with.  If you are negligent and your dog is lost or dies when in your care we will ask for you to be responsible for our financial loss.  If your dog is injured or dies and can no longer participate in the program and you were being responsible, we will not hold you liable for the loss.  Bad things can happen to anybody.

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

1. The guardian home pays for any normal care items for the dog.  Food, dishes, leashes, beds, toys, flea and tick prevention, normal vaccinations or wormings, toys, etc.
2. The guardian must also pay to insure the guardian dog. We recommend Trupanion.
3. We pay for all health testing and for any injuries that might arise while in our care.

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

1. It’s difficult to say for a male. Since we only need them for a short amount of time during each breeding we prefer to contract for a specific amount of time rather than number of breedings. Given that it may take us years to find a high quality stud and males can produce puppies for a very long time, we’d like to put them under contract for 8 years. After the contract period, you are welcome to have him neutered and we will transfer all their akc paperwork over to you.

We will pay you $150 for every litter of 3 puppies, $250 for litters of 4 puppies and $400 for litters of 5 or more puppies. Most of our guardian boys aren’t used for breeding very often but we do love Winston and are excited for his future puppies!

***Who pays for the neuter surgery?***

The Guardians agree to pay for the neuter surgery. We will refund $150 once provided with proof of neuter and transfer all AKC paperwork to Guardians at that time.

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

1. Our standards are very high.  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 she isn’t the perfect pet.  Your dog can pass all the tests and we still may decide to remove it from the program.  We aren’t bashful about removing dogs from our program.  If we release your dog from the breeding program you can neuter your dog.   You will still have gotten a quality dog at a very low price.  Winston has passed all his current health tests but we may still do OFA testing.

 ***What happens if we join the guardian home for a quality discounted dog but don’t intend to honor the breeding contract?***

We make a great commitment emotionally and financially to our owners and guardian dogs.  We ask that you only enter into our guardian program if you are willing to make the same level of commitment to your dog and to us.  Unfortunately, we have been forced to put a penalty for those who break our contact as we find many want the discounted dog but have no intentions of honoring the contract.  We want to work with you and for this to be a win, win, win for all involved.    We work hard to select the best of the best of our dogs for our guardian homes.  We have a financial penalty to discourage those that would want to get a discounted dog or break the contract by using the dog for their own breeding program.   If you are willing to make an honest commitment to us and our breeding program we will be are very flexible and will do all we can to make this program work for you and your dog.

 We don’t want to be controlling or intrusive into a family’s life.  We consider our dogs and owners like extended family and enjoy the extra interaction we have with them in the guardian program. We are very fair and reasonable and want to work with you to make this a win, win and win situation for all of us.  We hope that you will consider partnering with us.