

PUPPY ADDENDUM

(1) Puppies are work ... they are like having a small child that will need continued training and positive reinforcement in order to become the best dog that they can be as they do not come "trained". This means that a puppy will poop and pee whenever it needs to go ... the younger the pup, the more the poop and pee. Puppies cannot "hold" these functions for more than a certain period of time, no more than a baby can hold theirs and like babies, do best on a regular schedule that teaches them that there are times to eat, times to play and times to do their business. Generally speaking, a puppy can control their bladder one hour for every month of age ... so if a puppy is two months old, the puppy can usually hold it for about two hours and should not be expected to go longer than this between bathroom breaks or they're guaranteed to have an accident. For this reason an adopter(s) must be committed to the continued housebreaking training needed in order for the puppy to become the best that he/she can be.

_____ I understand and agree that either myself or someone of an appropriate age and responsibility will insure that my puppy will not be left alone for more than 4 hours each day in order to continue housebreaking training for my puppy.

(2) It typically takes 4-6 months for a puppy to be fully house trained, but some puppies may take up to a year. Size can be a predictor. For instance, smaller breeds have smaller bladders and higher metabolisms and require more frequent trips outside. During training, there are usually setbacks and an adopter(s) should expect a puppy to have a few accidents in the house as it is a normal part of housetraining.

_____ I understand that housebreaking my puppy may take an extended length of time and am committed to the training needed to housebreak my puppy. I further acknowledge that during this time period if my puppy has accidents, that I will continue working with my puppy.

(3) If a child in a household is under 7 years old, he/she is usually not developmentally suited for puppies 5 months old. Puppies have ultra sharp "milk teeth" and toenails and often teethe on and scratch children, resulting in unintentional injury to the child; the puppy then becomes something feared rather than loved. We find puppies being returned because a child or parent thinks the dog has "bit" and the puppy is then unfairly labeled a "biter". Unless a child is an unusually sensitive, low-key, respectful individual, a medium-to-large sized dog over 5 months old is usually the safer choice. Regardless of size, all interactions between small children and dogs should be monitored by a responsible adult and when there is no one to watch over them, they should be separated.

_____ I acknowledge that all children in my household are over the age of 7.

(4) Some parents bow to the pressure a child puts on them to get a puppy. The child promise with tears in his/her eyes that he/she will religiously take care of this soon-to-be best friend. The truth of the matter is, during the 10–15 year lifespan of the average dog, children grow in and out of various life stages and the family dog's importance in their lives will wax and wain. A child cannot be saddled with total responsibility for the family dog and then be threatened to get rid of the dog if the child is not providing that care ... it is not fair to child or dog.

_____ I acknowledge that I will take on the responsibility of being the primary caregiver of my puppy.

