

# Guardian Information

## FAQs

### **Can we come visit our dog's puppies at your home?**

No visitors are allowed due to the risk of bringing in a lethal virus (Parvo) to the pups. The mom usually is VERY focused on her babies. We are willing to provide photos when we are able and you can follow your puppies on Instagram.

### **Does it negatively affect the dog emotionally to go from the guardian's home to the breeder's home?**

No.

Remember they will already "know" us from the times we have taken them for testing or when we have "dog sat" for you. We try very hard to give them so much attention and love that it is a pleasant and enjoyable experience for them.

This is also important as everything the mother feels causes things to happen inside her body that can affect the babies. The less stressed and the more relaxed she is, the better it is for babies. So, it is very important that the guardian home not make the transition difficult for the dog.

If you act upset or nervous or sad about leaving her, she will feel even more agitated and we need to make sure that doesn't happen.

### **What kind of food do I need to feed?**

We require you to stay on the same food that we feed here at the ranch. We feed Nutisource Large Breed Puppy

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000WFEK5O/ref=as\\_li\\_qf\\_asin\\_il\\_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=lkbernedood01-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=B000WFEK5O&linkId=254c8c36904546ed1c98df56b6985192](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000WFEK5O/ref=as_li_qf_asin_il_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=lkbernedood01-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=B000WFEK5O&linkId=254c8c36904546ed1c98df56b6985192) until 6 months then transition (transitioning should be over the course of at least 2 weeks) to Victor in the yellow bag. They need to stay on the same food that we feed. When they come to visit, to be boarded or for birthing or breeding, it needs to be the smoothest transition. Food helps this immensely. Do not change foods.

### **Where do I register my dog's microchip?**

You don't. Your dog is already registered to us. You can change the registration once you have fulfilled your contract.

### **What do I do during vet visits?**

Routine vet visits for check in and updated shots are acceptable. We require that no Lepto vaccine is ever given. Bordetella is acceptable. No oral flea and tick meds. Topical only. We use Revolution. It seems that a lot of vets no longer carry this but you can get it off Chewy.com. You just need your info and the vet's info and Chewy will do the rest! Rabies should be given at 6 months not before. **No vaccines or flea meds should be given during pregnancy or after breeding.**

Do not give any supplements or medications without consulting us. These things may reduce fertility or harm a pregnant dog. The NuVet Plus supplement is what we recommend and is acceptable.

**If your dog is sick and you are making an emergency appointment, you need to contact us immediately!! Before your appointment! We need to be informed of any problems or on going issues.**

### **What kind of insurance should I get?**

We will send you a link for Trupanion insurance when you first get your puppy. You get a free 30 days then you can sign on with them after that if you wish. Sometimes you can get insurance through your work. There are other pet insurance options that you can research. **We require you to have insurance** and it's a good idea all the way around. We cover all birthing and pregnancy expenses but insurance covers anything catastrophic or routine. Vet appointments for ears alone can be spendy.

### **What do I do with the dog if I am going out of town?**

We board free for 14 days a year and after that, it is \$25/day. If they are coming for breeding, birthing or health testing, that doesn't count toward your 14 days.

Family or friends can watch them but not while the dog is in heat. They need to have our number ready in case something happens. People watching them need to be made aware of what a heat looks like and they need to call us immediately if the dog goes into heat while you are

away. If you have a pet sitter, please inform us before going out of town so we can offer assistance as needed.

### **What do I need to know about breeding and heats? What is the timeline?**

First heat is skipped and will be at 8-12 months old. You will see some swelling under her tail before heat starts and then little drips of blood. They are sometimes small drops or smears where they are laying. Sometimes, they are licking themselves more than usual and cleaning themselves up. A good rule of thumb is to wipe their vulva each day once they are of age with a paper towel to see if there is any blood.

We breed on second heat unless the dog is under 15 months. Dog comes to the ranch by day 7 of heat cycle (first signs of blood) and will stay about 10 days. This may not always fall on a weekend so you need to be prepared to get them here when needed.

Heats are every 6 months.

If the dog gets bred and doesn't take then we wait for the next heat to breed again. Sometimes there will be a split heat (where they go into heat again sooner than 6 months, usually 6-8 weeks after breeding, but this is rare).

Heat is about 21 days long.

The best window for breeding is at 7-14 days. That is when they are most fertile, but they can remain fertile for at least a week after that.

After breeding, assuming it's successful, a dog will have their puppies 60 days after. Our calendar starts 60 days after first tie or Artificial Insemination.

We will need the mama to us by day 55, Blythe will coordinate this timing. We may have you either bring the dog to us or have your vet see them for an ultrasound at 30 days and possibly an x-ray at 50-55 days. We will coordinate that with you as well.

Please have your dog groomed short when coming to the ranch for whelping. It makes it easier for puppies to nurse and for coat care.

Mamas will stay with us 6-8 weeks or until milk supply is depleted enough for it to be safe to go home.

Dogs have heat every 6 months regardless if they give birth or not. This means that your girl will go into heat about 2 months after you have her home to start the process all over again.

If you have one of our studs, you will need to be open to coming on short notice to breed a female in heat. He will remain with us for at least 7 days.

## **What do I do when my dog is in heat?**

Do not panic! **Let us know immediately at the first signs of heat.** This can be swelling around the vulva, swelling of the area between vulva and anus and/or bleeding.

There is to be no off leash work during this time. Walks on leash are still ok and recommended. Keep your dog away from any male dog that is not neutered and no common dog areas. No vaccines should be given while in heat or while pregnant. If you have a scheduled appointment for vaccines, you will need to reschedule until after whelping. Flea medications are also to be suspended during pregnancy.

## **How often do I groom? What are the best tools?**

Our dogs need to be kept clean and brushed. You are the faces of LK and we want to make sure our Guardian dogs are well taken care of. Part of this is grooming. Dogs need to go to the groomer monthly and be brushed every day. They need to be kept short, because when they come to the ranch, we can not maintain a long coat. The groomer should be cutting nails and cleaning out ears. If your groomer does not do this, make sure you ask them to.

On our Amazon recommendation list there is a brush called the Chris Christensen brush.  
[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00KAJTPZ2/ref=as\\_li\\_qf\\_asin\\_il\\_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=lkbernedood01-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=B00KAJTPZ2&linkId=94d0518ec4c188168f62c8fbebba9c39](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00KAJTPZ2/ref=as_li_qf_asin_il_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=lkbernedood01-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=B00KAJTPZ2&linkId=94d0518ec4c188168f62c8fbebba9c39)

It is a patented style of slicker brush and is second to none. There are no other brushes like it. It is expensive, but you will never need another and it has a lifetime guarantee.

The blower is your best friend! It blows out wet paws and wet bodies along with dust and debris which can cause skin irritation and dandruff. The blower uses forced air (warm or cool) to blow out the water and gets air to the skin keeping the skin in good health. A regular blow dryer dries with heat and can damage hair, burn skin and take FOREVER!

<https://www.amazon.com/SHELANDY-Stepless-Adjustable-Grooming-Blower/dp/B06WLQPJ58?tag=lkbernedood01-20>

There is a how to video on our website under the Training Program tab.

## **Does my dog need to be kenneled?**

YES! All dogs need to be kennel trained. No sleeping in beds or on furniture. All dogs should have a kennel available to nap in and should be sleeping in one at night. If your dog whines and cries in the kennel, they might be hot. Bernedoodles, poodles and mini Bernese all sleep hot. A

light blanket or towel are the best things for in the kennel. The kennel should be a plastic travel kennel. No wire kennels! Here is a link to the kennels we require.

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B003E77OG4/ref=as\\_li\\_qf\\_asin\\_il\\_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=lkbern-edood01-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=B003E77OG4&linkId=d4bcab51a9d51fcb6cdb45f62e1fd90f](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B003E77OG4/ref=as_li_qf_asin_il_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=lkbern-edood01-20&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=B003E77OG4&linkId=d4bcab51a9d51fcb6cdb45f62e1fd90f)

### **Can my dog be kenneled all day while I'm at work?**

Dogs and puppies are not allowed to stay in a kennel all day. If for any reason that you are unable to care for them during the day and/or your lifestyle has changed to where there is no one home all day, we need to rethink being a Guardian. This is a very hard decision to make but being kenneled all day is definitely not the best life that we want for our dogs.

### **What if something happens to my dog or there is a medical issue?**

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. Please consult with us before getting care at a veterinary office.

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 require you to be responsible for our financial loss. If your dog is injured or dies or 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. Fortunately, we have never had a serious injury or loss to any dog in our guardian program.

### **What happens during pregnancy?**

The dog may act a little more tired, or not eat normally for a few weeks. In the last couple of weeks of pregnancy, she is usually becoming hungrier and sleeps more as time progresses. Otherwise, normal activity is typical and it is important to continue with walking the dog right up to the end. This helps during delivery.

Being in shape is always best. Normal play and romping and running during the first half of pregnancy is great. After that, we limit activity to walks on a leash and no ball chasing type of activities.

No chemicals may be given during pregnancy. We require no vaccinations, worming, flea medicines and heartworm during this time. If there is an illness or injury we are to be involved in determining how she is treated.

### **What am I financially responsible for?**

The guardian home pays for any normal care items for the dog. Food, dishes, leashes, beds, normal veterinary care or worming, toys, etc. If the dog becomes sick in your care and needs to have an emergency visit to the vet, you are responsible for that bill.

We pay for all expenses related to health testing for breeding purposes, all breeding and litter expenses.

We pay \$500 toward a spay. That is what our vet charges. If you choose to use a vet closer to you, you will be responsible for any expenses above that.

### **Can I take my Guardian dog to the local dog park?**

NO! Dog parks are breeding grounds for infection and have unaltered dogs. Also, there is no guarantee that other people are training their dogs to have good manners and we don't want to have an accident.

### **What kind of training do I need to do?**

We require dogs to have leash manners (not pulling on leash), know sit, down (lay down), stay/wait, and come. Your dog should not be jumping up on anyone or anything. Dogs are not allowed on furniture and **MUST BE KENNEL TRAINED!**

We don't allow the use of a harness. The best way to leash train videos are on our website under the Training Program tab.

When teaching sit, do not push down on the back end of the dog. This can create future problems with hip joints. You can watch videos of our trainers teaching sit, down, wait/stay and come on Instagram under #lkpuppytraining or #lkpuppyschool. There are a bunch to choose from.

If you would like to take advantage of our extended training program, the price is the same for Guardians and is listed on our website.

### **What are my responsibilities regarding Instagram?**

You are expected to post weekly. I know we all get busy and sometimes it's hard to make the time, but taking a quick picture and posting it takes little time. Please make sure you have "Guardian for @lkbernedoodles" in the bio. Please feel free to post more! Have fun with it! Put your dog in clothes or funny hats! Have the kids help!

### **What do I put on my dogs tags?**

You need to have a collar with tags on at all times. The tags should have Kate's phone, number 541-510-5989 and your number. Do not put your pet's name. We require you to have tags and a collar on at all times even when at home. .

### **What happens if we join the guardian home for a quality breeding 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 contract as we find some want the discounted dog but have no intention of honoring the contract. We want to work with you and for this to be a 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 and break the contract by using the dog for their own breeding program.

### **Can I change my dogs name?**

No. We have all the health testing and information on the dog/puppy. Their name needs to remain consistent.