

CAN WE VISIT THE PUPPIES?

There is something about new life that draws people. We get many requests from families that want to come visit our puppies, and that isn't surprising. Who doesn't want to touch and hold and smell a newborn puppy? We understand this desire completely, but in the interest of safety for our puppies, we have a visitation policy in place to protect the little lives that are in our care.

Our visiting policy allows for families with a deposit to visit that particular litter once the puppies are 6 weeks of age. We also only allow adults at these visits, no children, no exceptions. Visits are limited to 30 minutes for each family. Why do we have such a strict visitation policy?

Safety of the Puppies

1. Immature immune systems. Puppies are not protected against disease that can be brought in on shoes or clothing. Many breeders have lost entire litters of puppies due to disease being brought into the breeder's home. You don't have to touch a puppy to transfer disease to them. Your shoes and clothing can bring it in and leave it on the floor or furniture, only to be transferred to the paws of the mama dog, who then transfers it to her babies.
2. New mama dogs are extremely protective of their babies. When strangers enter the home, even if mama is in another part of the house, she hears their voices and kicks into a highly emotionally charged state. This stress causes her body to create cortisol, which enters her milk. When the puppies consume the milk the cortisol then causes them to become stressed as well. A stressed puppy is more likely to succumb to illness and fail to thrive.
3. Stressed mama dogs will panic. They jump up and away from their puppies to assess what they think is a threat, and many times unintentionally step on or crush a puppy. The mere sound of a stranger's voice in another room will cause them to panic and can result in an injured puppy, or even death.
4. The puppies are reserved by purchasing families. Would you want to have a puppy reserved and know that a lot of other families were being allowed to come and hold or play with them and put them at risk? We'd like to raise and socialize our puppies in such a way that their risk to disease and/or injury is as low as possible so that we can deliver healthy puppies to the families who are waiting for them.
5. No children allowed at visits. Children get very excited around puppies and we've seen more than our share of accidents or injuries as a result. Experience has taught us that it's simply better to require children to be left at home and to let parent's introduce their children to their new puppy after the puppy has left our care. That eliminates risk to our puppies and financial responsibility should a child injure a puppy while visiting.

Schedules, Personal Safety

1. We have a normal life that includes jobs/business, children and their activities, home and property needs, church and other responsibilities in addition to caring for our puppies and dogs. Our daily lives are very busy and accommodating the many requests we receive from strangers to come by and visit just isn't possible. This is why visiting is reserved only for those who have deposits on a particular litter and only after puppies are 6 weeks of age and the risk of illness or injury greatly decreased.
2. Inviting perfect strangers into our home is a risk. We enjoy meeting the families who have reserved a puppy, once the puppies are old enough to safely be visited. It's a totally different situation to receive an email from a random stranger who is passing through asking to come by and see our dogs. Not only is this a risk to personal safety, but it would also compromise our home environment, which we appreciate and love and want to protect. Our home is not a store front open to strangers. It is a home.

We realize many families want reassurance that we are what we say we are. There are many ways for this to happen before you are able to come personally visit the litter you are receiving a puppy from. There are several online forums where you can post asking about us. We have many references on our website. Our veterinarian knows us well and you can contact them for a reference. Hopefully our policy is one you will view as being responsible and a reflection of being a quality breeder who cares about our puppies and our purchasing families.