



# Valaurah Farms

## Guardianship

## Contract

## Female

Valerie Mitchem

[valerie@valaurahfarms.com](mailto:valerie@valaurahfarms.com)

985-705-2797

### **-OUR MISSION-**

You can't claim to love dogs and only be in favor of rescue. If you truly love dogs and want the best for the species, you need to also support the idea of responsible breeding. If the only dogs you deem acceptable to own are the sad and sickly messes made by irresponsible breeding practices bought through the proxy of rescue, and demonize the practice of responsible preservation breeding then the idea you're ultimately supporting is that the only dogs that should have a place in this world are those bred irresponsibly. We should want - DEMAND - better for our dogs. And that means advocating for the breeding of **better** dogs. Dogs that can live long and happy lives. Responsible rescue will always be necessary, but if we continue to vilify and discourage responsible breeding we simply won't have any healthy dogs left to enjoy. I need guardians who fully support my mission to bring healthier and better bred dogs into our community. Dogs that have had full health testing and are unaffected by the many health conditions common in poodle and doodle varieties.

Sadly, many doodle breeds currently have so many health issues because they have been so poorly bred by irresponsible breeders due to the huge boom in popularity. These "backyard breeders" as they are commonly called target popular and desirable breeds simply to make a quick buck off the puppies. They breed without investing any money into health testing the parents prior to breeding and thus end up producing puppies that are affected

by severe genetic disorders. We are working very hard to fix this by only breeding the healthiest dogs available.

## **HOW DOES GUARDIANSHIP WORK?**

As reputable and responsible breeders, we care about the well being of our animals first and foremost. In order for us to give our dogs the best possible life while also being a part of a breeding program, it is important for us to limit how many dogs we keep at our home. To be a good breeder of quality dogs, however, we also must keep, evaluate, and continuously add quality bloodlines to our breeding program. We like to keep a few of our pick puppies to monitor their growth and development. Some will eventually fit into our breeding program, but as we only breed the best, some also will not make the cut. We prefer to place these pick puppies in guardian homes. A poodle/doodle needs to be a part of the family to develop their full potential. That is why we have a guardian program. The guardian home program is an excellent deal for the dog, it's a good deal for the guardian parents, and it's a good deal for producing an exceptional poodle/doodle breeding program. It's one of those "win - win" situations for everyone involved. The family receives a quality, health tested and top pick dog. I am able to improve the breed by using only the best for bettering the breed. And the reason we initiated our guardian program, the dog lives in a home as a spoiled pet and gets lots of attention. We are giving the dog to the guardian family to raise and love and keep as a member of their family forever. This program allows local families an opportunity to own one of the best poodles/doodles available at zero cost.

As a guardian home puppy grows up, we closely monitor the temperament, drive, and health. If the dog is exceptional and a great ambassador of the breed in all aspects, he/she will be used in our breeding program. Before any dog is bred all genetic testing will be performed as well as going to a reproductive specialist vet to be cleared for future reproduction. If the dog does not pass all genetic testing and is not deemed healthy enough to carry litters by the repro vet, she will be spayed at the expense of the breeder and all ownership paperwork will be transferred to the guardian at that time. If she passes all testing and is cleared for reproduction her breeding career will begin on or after her second heat. She will be evaluated after every litter by

the repro vet and both timing of breedings and length of breeding career will be at the breeder's discretion upon the professional opinion of the repro vet.

Females are generally in guardianship until the end of her 6th year of age or until completion of 4th litter. After the 6th year of age or completion of 4th litter (whichever comes first), breeders will pay to have the dog fixed and all ownership papers will be signed over to the guardian family forever. Males are in guardianship until they turn 8 years of age. At 8 years of age, breeders will have male neutered and all ownership papers will be signed over to guardian parents forever. General life expectancy of a well bred and cared for poodle or doodle is around 14 years but can live up to 18 years with lots of love and care.

As an added thank you to our wonderful guardians I do allow guardians to reserve one puppy out of their guardian dog's last litter to keep as a beloved pet at half cost. This puppy is intended as a pet only, not for resale and not for future breeding unless discussed with me prior and the decision to release breeding rights would be solely at my discretion. Breeding rights would be an additional cost if deemed acceptable.

## **MANDATORY QUALIFICATIONS**

MUST BE IN A STABLE LIFE SITUATION (NOT PLANNING TO MOVE OUT OF THE AREA FOR AT LEAST 6 YEARS AND MUST ALWAYS RENT/OWN A PLACE THAT HAS YARD ACCESS AND ACCEPTS ANIMALS)

YARD MUST BE ESCAPE PROOF AND CLEARED OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS THAT A DOG COULD GET INJURED FROM

GUARDIAN MUST NOT OWN ANY INTACT MALES OR OTHER AGGRESSIVE DOGS

YOU MUST BE ABLE TO CARE FOR THE FINANCIAL DEMANDS OF A DOG. FOOD, VET CARE AND GROOMING IF NEEDED.

YOU MUST BE READY TO DEDICATE TIME AND ENERGY INTO THE TRAINING OF YOUR DOG. ALL GUARDIANS MUST TEACH THE BASIC COMMANDS OF: SIT, DOWN, STAY, COME, NO, DROP IT, LEAVE IT. KNOWING THESE COMMANDS HELPS KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE.

MUST BE ABLE TO GIVE YOUR DOG AMPLE ATTENTION, EXERCISE AND AFFECTION DAILY. GOLDENS ARE DEDICATED FAMILY DOGS AND REQUIRE LOTS OF LOVE.

MUST BE COMPLIANT WITH ALL THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT

## HOW DOES THE BREEDING PORTION WORK?

Once the female is of the correct age, she must be monitored closely. Generally, poodles and doodles do not cycle nearly as often as some other smaller breeds. Some cycle every 6 months but many have longer cycles once every 9 months to a year, so it is important not to miss it. When she starts to go into heat her female genitalia will swell and start to bleed. At this time breeders must be notified right away. Breeder will then keep in close contact with the guardian to decide the correct timing of the matings. Generally, most successful matings take place 9 to 14 days from first signs of swelling/bleeding. Breeders will schedule matings usually every other day of fertile window stopping after the 3rd successful mating. During her fertile time it is imperative that the guardian watch her extra closely and avoid taking her out of the house for walks or to dog parks. She must be watched closely even in her own yard. Many accidental matings tend to happen with neighbor dogs as unfixed males are notorious for jumping fences to get at a female in heat and many females are known to try and escape to find a male during her fertile time. Breeder may decide to do progesterone test, in which case the guardian would need to work with the breeder to set up vet visits for this.

## WHELPING

Approximately 63 days after ovulation and conception, a female will deliver her litter. At around 45 days into the pregnancy an x-ray can be performed to get a headcount of how many puppies she is carrying. **We do not do x-rays unless there is a medical reason to do so.** Female will stay with her guardians up until the week before she delivers. During the pregnancy it is very important for the guardian to report any concerns or changes to the female to the breeder promptly so that veterinarian care can be given. At around 3-5 days before the estimated due date (or potentially earlier if she is showing signs of going into labor earlier) she will come to the breeder's home to whelp. During this time she will be given extra love, attention and be able to get comfy in her whelping box. Female dogs love to nest and get an urge to spend more and more time in their whelping area as the time

nears. She will also be given extra nutritious foods and supplements to help her through whelping.

### **COMMONLY ASKED QUESTION: WHY CAN'T THE GUARDIAN WHELP THE PUPPIES AT THEIR HOME INSTEAD OF THE BREEDER'S?**

Although it may sound fun and easy, whelping puppies is serious business. Many medical emergencies with the newborn puppies can arise during the birth and days after requiring immediate action. Puppies can get stuck in the birth canal, mothers can suffer from eclampsia or hemorrhaging. If the mother's milk does not come in right away, if she refuses to nurse or you have fading puppies, you must bottle feed every 2 hours around the clock which equals no sleep for weeks. Without things like plasma, saline IV drips on hand and the medical experience to administer them yourself many fading puppies die before you can even get them to the vet. This is why I prefer to whelp the litter at my home. Many guardians do not have the time to dedicate to 24/7 bottle feeding or the medical knowledge on how to administer a saline IV or plasma to a dying puppy. Aside from the medical emergencies that can arise puppies are HARD WORK. Pups must be socialized, loved and each must get ample human attention. And don't even get me started on how much cleaning is involved!!! Alas, it is my passion and I love every minute of it.

### **COMMONLY ASKED QUESTION: WON'T FEMALE BE UNCOMFORTABLE WHELPING IN A STRANGE PLACE?**

This is a common question and an important one! Before a puppy ever comes to live with a guardian family, she will spend time with me at our home first. This time together bonding instills not only trust but familiarity with my home. Dogs never forget the scents of the people and places they bond with for their entire life. That is why I take the time building a relationship with my guardian puppies before they go to their new loving homes. I also will take the female to all her vet appointments and occasional play dates at my house throughout the year. I also prefer to be the one to pet sit when guardian families must leave town. When it is time to whelp, the mother remembers the home and the breeder and feels comfortable and at ease. This comfortability only intensifies after every litter delivered at the breeders home. It just becomes her second home. Guardian programs wouldn't be so popular and successful among reputable breeders if the dogs did poorly with the transition.

## **WEANING**

Female will stay at the breeder's home and nurse and teach her young until the puppies are 8-9 weeks of age. At this time the mother naturally will start to actively avoid her pups as her job is finished. At this time she will go back home with her guardians. Guardians are always welcome to come visit mama and the puppies during this 8-9 week stay and we encourage the guardians to still come visit and play with the pups until they go to their forever homes at around 8-12 weeks old.

## **EXPENSES: WHO PAYS?**

The breeder covers any and all expenses involved in reproduction for the course of the entire guardianship term. This includes all genetic testing, reproductive visits, any special supplements or medications and all veterinarian care from pre-pregnancy through postpartum.

Guardian is responsible for covering normal non-reproductive pet care expenses including:

- Once yearly wellness exam, any vaccinations due, regular deworming treatments
- A teeth cleaning every 2 years
- A valid city dog license (proof of these must be submitted to breeder)
- Regular professional grooming every 6-8 weeks (breeder reserves the right to request a certain style of cut occasionally for professional pictures)
- Additionally, any expenses that come from an accidental injury or illness in the care of the guardian. If an injury acquired in a guardian's care is so extensive it requires a dog to be put down or loss of reproductive ability, the guardian will be required to repay the original price of the dog set forth in contract. Breeders reserve the right to take females to all vet and health related appointments.

Guardian must also supply the list of items outlined below prior to the guardian puppy entering into their home to begin guardianship.

- Good quality leash and collar with tag supplying dog name and contact number of guardian
- A large wire crate. Must be large enough for a fully grown poodle/doodle to stand up, turn around and sleep comfortably (not squished). A large hard plastic crate is also acceptable.

- A quality fish oil supplement to be given daily (breeder will supply info on which to purchase)
- A quality dog multivitamin to be given daily (breeder will supply info on which to purchase)
- High quality treats and chews (breeder will supply info on which to purchase)
- High quality food.

## **DOG FOOD**

Dog food must *never* be changed from what the breeder has approved. Because the dog will spend periods of time at the breeder's home it is important for both the guardian and the breeder to feed the same thing. Sudden changes to the type of food the dog is consuming causes them all kinds of issues like gastrointestinal discomfort, severe diarrhea and can cause pregnancy complications in a pregnant dog.

## **OPTING OUT OF THE PROGRAM EARLY**

We always attempt to place dogs in permanent and stable forever guardian homes but I do understand sometimes unavoidable things come up. In the case that the guardian wishes to opt out of the program early due to a long distance move or other life change, the dog can be returned to the breeder at any time but a two week notice is always appreciated. Local (within 10 miles) moves are fine but breeders must be notified of change and new living arrangements must follow all the terms of this contract. Longer distance moves (20+ miles further from address you were originally granted guardianship on) will be at the discretion of the breeder. If you would like to opt out before the age of retirement and ownership transfer but wish to still keep the dog, breeders may allow guardians to purchase the female outright. This is not guaranteed and will be decided on a case by case basis. If purchase option is granted, females would be spayed and upon payment all legal ownership documents would be transferred to guardians.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF THE DOG ESCAPES OR RUNS AWAY/GETS LOST?**

As a guardian, it is your main responsibility to keep this dog safe, healthy and emotionally happy. There are many ways to prevent a dog escaping the

home. Keeping up a sturdy, escape proof fence, checking for digging under the fence line and keeping things away from the fence that the dog could use to climb up over the fence. Remind family members to keep the front door and windows without screens closed. Always use a leash outside the home and train your dog to obey the "come" command. Sometimes accidents and uncontrollable situations do happen. If a dog escapes or gets lost on your watch, the breeder must be notified immediately. Both breeder and guardian will form a search effort. Search efforts will continue until the dog is found or for 2 weeks. If the dog is not recovered safely and unharmed/unaltered after two weeks, the guardian will be responsible for repaying the breeder for the original cost of the dog set forth in this contract.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF THE DOG DIES?**

Hopefully this never happens to one of my guardian pups, but all things must be discussed. All dogs placed into guardianship will have had all genetic testing and veterinarian checks to rule out any fatal health issues like heart problems. Although very unlikely, in the case of a fatality due to anything reproductive related, there will be no repercussions for the guardian. Breeder will pay for all burial/cremation costs and final expenses. In the case of a fatality due to negligence or abuse on the part of the guardian, the guardian family will be responsible for repayment of the original cost of the dog set forth in contract.

Examples of fatality due to negligence or abuse:

- Death via poisonous substance

- Death by getting hit by car while unsupervised

- Death as a direct result of physical abuse or starvation

- Death via uncontrolled climate (too hot, too cold)

## **DISQUALIFICATIONS FROM THE PROGRAM**

We don't want any of our dogs to lose their guardians. They become attached and love their guardians dearly. It is not in the dogs or our best interest for their guardian to be terminated but there are some extreme cases in which we reserve the right to remove a dog from the guardian early. Some of these cases include:

Any proven or highly suspected negligence or abuse of the dog  
Guardian failing to report when female is in heat  
Guardian not participating in regular updates on pup requested by breeder  
Guardian losing the dog more than once  
Dog becoming badly injured in the care of the guardian more than once  
Female being accidentally (or purposefully) bred by a male other than the breeder's stud while in the care of the guardian  
Guardian failing to report suspected health problems or contributing to health problems like obesity or malnutrition  
Dog is living in unsafe or unsanitary living conditions (both inside or outside)  
Guardian disregarding direct requests made by the breeder  
Guardian making any medical decisions for the dog without consulting the breeder first  
Guardian is unsupportive of the breeding program

I, the breeder, do reserve the right to terminate a guardianship at any time and repossess any dog on guardianship if I feel the dog is not being cared for properly, guardian is not supportive of the program, guardian disregards any direct requests from me, or guardian is not following any of the rules of this contract.

I, the breeder, do reserve the right to random inspections to check the health and wellbeing of the dog, that correct food and supplements are being provided to the dog as per outlined in this contract and that the dog is living in sanitary and acceptable living conditions.

**I, the guardian, understand all of the above mentioned rules and terms to guardianship. I have read this contract fully and will abide by ALL stated**

**rules to this contract. I understand this is a legally binding contract and will be upheld in a court of law.**

Breeder, Valerie Micham

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian/Guardians printed first and last names:

X \_\_\_\_\_

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Guardian signature 1 X \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian signature 2

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Home address:

X \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DOG NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DOG BREED: \_\_\_\_\_

SEX: M F

MICROCHIP ID # \_\_\_\_\_

DOG REPAYMENT AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GUARDIAN INITIAL \_\_\_\_\_