

# Puppy Care Contract

This contract is to set the expectations of who is responsible for the care of the puppy before and after it leaves Motley Acres Farm, and any illnesses or injuries that happen as a result. The buyer, or purchaser, is the person who buys the puppy from Motley Acres Farm, and will be hereafter referred to as 'buyer' or 'you' or 'your'. The seller, or breeder, is Barbara Lockwood, owner/operator of Motley Acres Farm, and will be hereafter referred to as 'seller' or 'me' or 'I'. This contract must be read in detail by the buyer. Any questions or concerns need to be addressed before the document is signed by either party. Each page must be signed by the buyer.

## Seller responsibility BEFORE the puppy leaves Motley Acres Farm

Puppies can leave Motley Acres farm once they turn 8 weeks old, and not a single day before.

Puppies will receive maternal care with 24 hour supervision of the seller for the first couple of weeks, and once they are 2 weeks old, they will be started on a de-worming schedule. All puppies get worms or internal parasites and all puppies can get a parasite called Coccidia that is found in the blood. They get it from the mother's milk while nursing. I de-worm for the removal of internal parasites starting at the age of 2 weeks and continue treatment up until the day the puppy goes home. I use Safe Guard and Nemex in rotation. Please remember that these products are insecticides. I lean towards the side of caution in dosing to not make any puppy sick from insecticide toxicity. If your puppy is found to have any internal parasites, this does not mean that your puppy is un-healthy, it just means that you must keep up on the treatments. Your vet can help you understand the frequency and amount for dosing.

Right around 4 weeks old, the puppies are weaned from their mothers. This is when they really start to socialize with each other, our kennel kitties, and family members. They will continue internal parasite treatments and will start eating solid puppy food. Around 3 weeks after they stop nursing it is time for their first set of shots. Motley Acres Farm gives the first round of vaccines right around 7 weeks old. The seller will document precisely when the vaccines were given and precisely what the puppy was vaccinated with. Any puppies leaving Motley Acres Farm after they turn 10 weeks old will receive a second set of vaccinations, and again, will be administered by the seller. If the puppy is being flown to its new home, depending on the age of the puppy and where it is going, it may also receive a Rabies vaccine before leaving Motley Acres Farm. Different states have different laws on when a puppy is to be vaccinated for rabies, and Motley Acres Farm has no control over these regulations.

Puppies being flown to their new homes will be seen by a licensed veterinarian within 4 days of their flight, though I do everything possible to have it be within 48 hours of leaving the farm. At this time, the puppy will be looked over with a fine-toothed comb and given a written certificate that it is healthy and able to fly.

Warning: puppies that were vaccinated for parvo within the last 5-12 days with a modified live vaccine can falsely test positive for the disease when a snap test is used. Only a stool sample sent to an independent laboratory can give a definitive diagnosis of parvo. Giving a parvo vaccine to a puppy is literally injecting it with live viral particles which stimulate the immune system to generate antigens leading to eventual immunity. That is why they can falsely test positive near the time of being given a vaccine because the snap test scans for the antigens.

Every puppy will be seen at least once by a licensed veterinarian between 5 and 8 weeks old. The buyer will be provided with a written vet check report on your puppy. If there are any health issues detected during the vet exam, it will be disclosed to the buyer immediately, and they will be given the option to select a different puppy or back out for a full refund.

Puppies from Motley Acres Farm are monitored and cared for nonstop and do not leave the property until they go to their new homes. Furthermore, we do not allow any visitors to bring any pets with them for any reason. Veterinarian visits are scheduled as farm calls. If there is a circumstance that warrants a trip to the vet for a particular puppy, the buyer will be notified immediately. Motley Acres Farm is a safe, clean, disease free environment for puppies to grow and develop. If your puppy becomes injured or ill in any way before the departure date, your puppy will be isolated and you will be notified immediately of the condition and veterinary protocols for treatment provided at the seller's expense. In these cases, the buyer will be given the option for a full refund, replacement puppy, or possibly a discount if they want to move forward with the same puppy. These scenarios are handled on a case-by-case basis circumstantially, and the buyer will be given options should a situation arise. There is no textbook on what to do in these situations, so we always offer the option for the buyer to back out for a full refund if something happens before the puppy leaves the farm.

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Buyer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Buyer responsibility AFTER the puppy leaves Motley Acres Farm

Once the puppy leaves Motley Acres Farm, it is the responsibility of the buyer to keep the puppy safe from danger and contagious diseases. A puppy is not immune from contagious diseases such as parvovirus, distemper, kennel cough, etc. until several weeks after the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of puppy vaccinations. Some veterinarians even recommend 4 sets of shots. Be sure to contact your vet to understand the proper protocol and risk for your area before you take your puppy home. Some veterinarians disagree on the timing and frequency of puppy vaccines. It will be up to you, the buyer, to keep your puppy away from public areas that could be contaminated with disease until after they have completely built up immunity to diseases. Ask your vet about titer analysis to determine immunity. Some swear by it, and some think it's completely unnecessary.

Motley Acres Farm implements a schedule for vaccines to be administered 3 weeks after the puppies stop nursing, then each set thereafter in 3 week intervals for the best chance at building immunity. Your vet may disagree on the number of vaccinations given, and the frequency between administration. Ask around and choose a vet that you trust.

It may not be safe for your puppy to be in public places until 3-4 weeks after its last set of vaccines. If your puppy receives its first vaccines at 7 weeks old, then is revaccinated at 10 weeks and 13 weeks, then that means that your puppy may not be immune to contagious disease until it is at least 16 weeks old. Public places include, but are certainly not limited to: dog parks, puppy kindergarten, training facilities, doggie day care, playgrounds, running paths, sidewalks, pet stores, grooming facilities, rest stops, your friend's yard, your neighbor's yard, sometimes even your own yard. The list goes on and on. You should not set your puppy down at the vet's office or let them go potty in the public area or parking lot. During your puppy vaccination appointments at the vet's office, keep your puppy in your lap at all times or in a crate for safety until they have had time to build up immunity.

The seller is not a veterinarian of any kind. It is the responsibility of the buyer to take the initiative to speak with their veterinarian and seek education and advice on how to raise a healthy, happy puppy PRIOR to bringing their puppy home.

**The seller does not assist the buyer with any vet bills associated with any contagious disease, injury, ingestion of foreign or toxic material, or trauma that occurs after the puppy leaves Motley Acres Farm.**

The seller very highly recommends that the buyer purchase pet insurance and make sure that the policy activates the day you pick up your puppy. Pet insurance policies that cover preventative care, annual check-ups, vaccinations, emergency visits, broken bones, hospital stays, contagious disease treatment, diagnostics, etc. are very affordable and will give the buyer peace of mind should something happen to your new puppy. Comprehensive policies that cover everything, and have a \$250 deductible, are usually in the \$30 a month range. You can tweak your plan and change your deductible to suit your needs. It is highly encouraged that you consider this option and shop around BEFORE you take your new puppy home. Some reputable, affordable providers include, but are not limited to: Nationwide Pet Insurance, Trupanion, Healthy Paws, Pet Plan, and countless others. AKC even offers coverage. Plans can be cancelled at anytime should you no longer see a need to keep coverage on your pet.

**Again, the seller does not assist the buyer with any vet bills associated with any contagious disease, injury, ingestion of foreign or toxic material, or trauma that occurs after the puppy leaves Motley Acres Farm.**

The seller always encourages the buyer to pick their puppy up in person. If the buyer is an out of state client and wishes to fly their puppy to its new home, be advised that neither the seller nor the buyer have any control over the environment that the puppy is exposed to during the time of transportation. For this reason, it is strongly encouraged that clients wishing to fly their puppies purchase pet insurance should the puppy pick something up while traveling. The buyer assumes the risk of all scenarios that can happen while flying a puppy to its new home.

By purchasing a puppy from Motley Acres Farm, the buyer understands that puppies are live animals and sometimes things happen. By signing this contract, the buyer agrees that they have the financial means to provide proper veterinary care, either out of pocket or covered by pet insurance, should an incident occur after the puppy leaves Motley Acres Farm, which results in injury or illness to the puppy.

**Again, the puppy may not have immunity to contagious diseases for at least 3 weeks after the last series of vaccinations. Ask your veterinarian about titer analysis and vaccination protocols to make sure your puppy has built up immunity.**

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Buyer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra tid-bits of useful information for the buyer:

Please remember that puppies and dogs can get fleas and ticks. It comes with the territory. Motley Acres Farm exterminates inside and outside the kennel for insects every Spring. As diligent as I am at keeping a clean environment, once every couple of years I find a flea on a puppy. I cannot guarantee that your new puppy will not have any fleas. I will never send a puppy home to anyone if I am able to find anything at all. Please don't panic if you find one. Call me immediately and I will walk you through it. Young puppies cannot be treated topically with flea preventative until they are 12 weeks of age. Please use only flea shampoos specifically indicated for puppies until the age of 12 weeks. After that, you will want to work with your veterinarian to determine the proper maintenance schedule and find a product that works for your area (some areas are more prone to fleas and ticks than others). Your vet may even suggest alternating products to help prevent parasite resistance to the treatments you use.

If your puppy starts to act depressed or lethargic within a day or so of arriving home, don't panic. First of all, puppies want and need to sleep a lot! They play hard in short bursts and then crash hard. Also, it can be very scary and stressful for a puppy to be taken away from their litter mates and the only living situation that they have ever known. If this happens, I strongly recommend closely monitoring the puppy's temperature on an hourly basis if you are genuinely concerned. It should range from 99.5 to 102.5°F. Call your vet if you have concerns to determine if the puppy needs to be seen.

Warning: puppies that were vaccinated for parvo within the last 5-12 days with a modified live vaccine can falsely test positive for the disease when a snap test is used. Only a stool sample sent to an independent laboratory can give a definitive diagnosis of parvo. This is not the belief of Motley Acres Farm, this is factual information provided by professionals. There are many diseases that identically mimic parvo symptoms that your vet may not test for if a positive result is returned in a snap test. You will want your vet to test for parasites as well as bacterial infections such as campylobacter so that if your puppy does get sick, it is being treated for the correct illness.

Crate training is recommended for families that will be leaving their new puppy at home while they are at work. This should be done until the puppy is house trained and you can trust them not to eat anything dangerous. If you do crate train, Please do not put a divider in it, they can get their head stuck between the divider and the crate itself. It can choke your puppy to death in just a minute. If you are still in the training stage, and want to encourage your puppy to hold it, I recommend a small round laundry basket placed upside down in the back of the crate, instead of using a crate divider. This is called crate crunching, and keeps the puppy confined to a small area, where if they urinate or defecate, it will be unpleasant to lay so close to, and will encourage holding it. Please do not expect young puppies to be able to hold it for more than a few hours at a time. Someone will need to come home throughout the day to check on them and let them outside. Expecting an 8 week old puppy to wait 8 hours to go potty is really asking too much. A crate is not an appropriate means to punish a dog. Ever. The only thing they learn is that the crate is bad and unsafe. It should be just the opposite – a place of comfort and security. If you are personally uncomfortable with using a crate, then I would recommend using baby gates to close your puppy off into a specific area or room of the house that is safe. This could be a kitchen or bathroom or hallway. Make sure that there is nothing that the puppy can chew on and swallow.

I recommend that the puppy stay on the same puppy food that they are used to. I feed Purina Puppy Chow Tender & Chunky or Health Morsels. If you change the puppy food please do this under veterinary guidance and slowly over a period of time, mixing your new puppy food with what the breeder has been feeding. Any sudden change could upset their tummies and make the puppy not eat or display symptoms such as diarrhea or vomiting. Please remember that your puppy is still very young and fragile. Your vet can help you determine when to switch formulas, and what brands to switch to.

When a situation occurs where the puppy is being purchased as a birthday or holiday as a gift, the seller must be notified prior to the puppy leaving Motley Acres Farm. Otherwise, the paperwork will be addressed to the wrong person. The seller is more than happy to hold the puppy here and care for it up to 9 weeks of age free of charge. The extra fee after 9 weeks of age is \$50.00 for the first 7-15 days and \$100.00 for 16-31 days. This way the puppy will receive appropriate vaccinations and de-worming along with the proper care until the new owner can pick the puppy up or make arrangements for shipping. The extra fee is due at the time of pick up or before shipping along with all shipping charges.

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Buyer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a local client, Motley Acres Farm will refuse to sell any puppy to any buyer who wishes to use Drummond Animal Hospital in New Bethlehem, PA for veterinary services. Absolutely no exceptions. If this pertains to you, and you placed a deposit on a puppy before you were informed of this, kindly let me know, and I will return your deposit to you.

If a puppy is returned for any reason, refunds are determined on a case-by-case basis. The puppy must be seen by a licensed veterinarian for a health check within 48 hours before returning the puppy. At this point, you have forfeited your deposit, but a refund can be given after the puppy is re-homed and boarding, veterinary, and marketing expenses have been taken out.

If the buyer cannot keep the puppy or dog that was placed with you from Motley Acres Kennel due to an unforeseen life event, please do not take it to a shelter! You must offer the puppy or dog back to Motley Acres Farm. I will reimburse you what I can after I re-home the puppy or dog and deduct expenses. Reimbursement will be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on what it takes for Motley Acres to rehome him/her. By signing this contract, you are agreeing that you will never abandon your dog or puppy at a shelter or otherwise.

What should the buyer have PRIOR to bringing home their new puppy?

1. Knowledge and information – educate yourself and ask questions
2. Pet Insurance (strongly recommended if you don't have the means to cover vet bills out of pocket)
3. A crate or baby gates to keep the puppy safe should you have to leave your home
4. Purina Puppy Chow Tender and Chunky or Healthy Morsels and a food and water bowl
5. Plain pumpkin (canned is fine so long as it is plain). This is an excellent source of fiber should your puppy develop loose stool or an upset stomach
6. Lots of toys that are safe to chew on. If they can fit it in their mouth, they can swallow it! If they can chew it apart, they can swallow it! I recommend Nylabone, Kong, and Jollyball products. Toys should always be the appropriate size and durability. When in doubt, get the bigger one!
7. A thermometer (can be purchased at your local drug store or pharmacy – digital or mercury is fine)
8. Puppy shampoo (if you live in an area prone to fleas and ticks, be sure to also get some flea and tick shampoo)
9. Grooming tools – regular grooming is crucial to the health and wellbeing of adult dogs, so make sure you start while they're young so they learn to love it!
10. A leash and collar
11. A safe place to play and go potty
12. A good, trustworthy veterinarian

By signing this contract, the buyer agrees that they have read thoroughly and understand all of the terms and conditions of this Puppy Care Contract, for their puppy purchased from Motley Acres Farm and Kennel. The buyer agrees that all questions they have pertaining to the terms of this agreement have been elaborated on and answered by the seller prior to either party signing the document.

Buyer Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Buyer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

Seller Print Name: Barbara Lockwood, Motley Acres Farm

Seller Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

Barbara Lockwood, Motley Acres Farm and Kennel

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Email: barbaraann5139@yahoo.com

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Buyer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_