

# CAN WE COME AND VISIT THE PUPPIES IN PERSON?

**The answer is.. YES! (with some guidelines)**

We get many requests from families that want to come visit our puppies, and that isn't surprising. Who doesn't want to touch, hold and smell a newborn puppy? We understand this urge completely, but in the interest of safety of our moms, puppies and our whole flock, we must have a visitation policy in place to protect the little lives that are placed in our care.

Why?

**Safety of the PUPPIES always comes FIRST**

1. Immature immune systems. Puppies are not protected against diseases 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 completely by accident. **You don't have to touch a puppy to transfer disease to them.** Your shoes and clothing can be a carrier and bring diseases to the premises and leave them on the floor or furniture, only to be transferred to the paws of others, who then transfer it to the babies.
2. New mother dogs are extremely protective of their babies. When strangers enter the home, even if the mom 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 that milk, the cortisol then causes them to become stressed as well. A stressed puppy is more likely to succumb to illness and may fail to thrive. This can be deadly for puppies in just a matter of a few days as they are so small.
3. Stressed mother dogs will panic. They jump up and away from their puppies to assess what they think is a threat, and at 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.

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4. This is why puppy visits are primarily reserved for purchasing families. Would you want to have a puppy reserved and know that a lot of other families were potentially allowed to come and hold or play with those puppies 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.

## Schedules, Personal Safety

1. We have a normal life that includes jobs/business, children, grandchildren and their activities, home and property needs, Holidays, 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 our clients to come by and visit as important as they are to us, just isn't possible.

2. Inviting (sometimes) what equates to perfect strangers into or even to our home for short visits to select a puppy can be risky in this current climate. Please understand *we always enjoy meeting the families who have reserved a puppy, once the puppies are old enough to properly and safely be visited.*

But! It is a totally different situation to receive a text/call/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 could potentially compromise our home environment, which we value, love dearly and want to protect. For this reason, visits are STRICTLY reserved for deposit placed customers or customers we have fully pre-vetted as coming to place a deposit on a specific puppy!!! 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.

## Visitation Timing

1. We do not allow visitors to touch and/or hold their puppy until they are at least 4 weeks old. *We can allow a visit to pick out or place your deposit on your puppy, but no touching is allowed. Look but don't touch! We also do FaceTime for puppy selection to allow you more time for your potential puppy selection.* Your 4-week visit is your chance to love, snuggle bond with your baby, this visit is just for a taste of what is to come as you "gear up" for your new baby. We will see you again at 8 weeks for pick-up and time always flies by very quickly. See you soon!