



## Our Guardianship Program

Thank you for your interest in bringing the joy of golden retrievers to more families like yours through our guardianship program. We are thrilled that you're interested in becoming a guardianship family, and we are excited to partner with you to bring healthy, happy puppies into this world!

We are fully committed and devoted to excellent health testing, conformation to breed standards, and proper personality testing to ensure we're making the best choices possible for the breed. We hand select our top puppies to be eligible for our guardianship program, and we match these prospective puppies to families who are willing to nurture and love the puppies. As they grow of age to participate in the program, we screen for conditions that commonly affect the golden retriever breed to ensure the breed is continued in a healthy and sustainable way.

By partnering together, we know that the dogs in our guardianship program will enjoy a fulfilling and memorable life at home with you, but will still be able to help us continue the future of the breed. We are excited to invest in a relationship with you so that together we can bring the best golden retrievers to other families!

Listed below are the details of our guardianship program. If there is ever something we can do which you feel will be beneficial, please don't hesitate to ask or make a suggestion!

Thank you for your interest in our guardianship program. We are excited about the possibilities!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jordan Beck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jordan Beck**, Owner



## Guardianship Program Summary

- You purchase a Southern Water Dogs puppy who qualifies for our guardianship program for \$1.00 (which saves you the \$2,800 cost of a puppy).
- The dog grows up in your home under your supervision and training with your family.
- Breeder pays for DNA and OFA health testing between birth and two years of age. These tests are simple and aren't stressful for the dog. The DNA testing is done with a saliva sample at home, and the OFA testing is performed by an x-ray and a vision screening at a veterinarian and veterinary ophthalmologist's office.
- If the dog passes the health testing to the breeder's standard, the dog will start breeding when she is two years of age or older and is vet approved for breeding. When she goes into heat, the female dog is brought to the breeder's selection of stud to breed between days 10-14 of her heat cycle, and then she goes back home to you.
- Thirty days after mating, she will have an ultrasound at either our vet or yours to confirm pregnancy at the expense of Southern Water Dogs.
- Approximately seven to eight weeks after mating, the female dog is brought to the Southern Water Dogs facility to have her puppies. The dog will stay with the breeder until the puppies are weaned (at approximately five to six weeks after birth).
- The female dog will typically have up to four litters of puppies unless the breeder's veterinarian deems it unhealthy to the female dog to continue with pregnancies. Once the dog has four litters, she is retired from the breeding program and her paperwork is fully transferred over to you.
- As a part of the guardianship program, you maintain the breeder's nutritional standards, ongoing vaccinations, regular vet visits, emergency care, training, etc for the dog at your own expense. The breeder pays for all breeding related expenses.



## Next Steps

1. Give us feedback on your interest in the program. If there are any questions or concerns, let's go through them together. Maybe you have some ideas or feedback that can contribute to a better working relationship. If so, let's talk!
2. Sign a guardianship contract and adopt a Southern Water Dog! Since together we'll be investing in this puppy to meet the standards of the Southern Water Dogs breeding program, we need to have a contract in place. Although contracts are formal and can be quite firm in tone, they help to clarify the terms between us so that we're all on the same page from the very beginning. We want to ensure that our guardianship families are happy and just as excited about puppies as we are! A signed contract will help us to move forward along that path in a defined way.
3. Upon signing the contract, you can pick up your new furry family member!
4. Be in communication with us. We'll be there every step of the way to help you and to be your partner in this. We can help keep track of the female's heat cycles, the vet visits, and vaccinations, or anything else that would be helpful to you. We're always here for you whether that's helping with boarding the dog over your vacation, providing recommendations, or answering questions about the puppy process.
5. Expectations in the guardianship program: We ask that you commit to love this dog as your family member and provide the physical care, love, training and financial support that naturally come along with owning a dog.

We are incredibly thankful for your participation in our guardianship program, and we commit to supporting you!