

Grand Oakes Border Collies FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where will my puppy be raised?

A: In the house of course, along with the rest of the family. When the pups need more room to play, they will be moved to the show barn, and allowed to play and romp in the heated barn/office.

Q: What will you do with the puppies the first few weeks?

A: Each puppy will be handled daily and I will be doing "early neural stimulation" with each puppy as defined in "Developing high achievers." I don't believe that this method can take a below average puppy and turn it into a superstar, only careful breeding and genetics can do that. Hopefully these puppies have the breeding behind them to be high achievers regardless.

Q: What type of socialization/stimulus will they receive?

A: Each puppy will be exposed to different surfaces as they get older (i.e. the rules of "seven").. They will listen to music, and also cd's of noises including dog show sounds. Before your puppy comes home it will be exposed to a multitude of experiences, including riding in the car, meeting new people (both children and adults), limited exposure to birds, horses, sheep, as well as other dogs, just to name a few. All this should put them well on their way to being a perfect companion, but remember this is only the first step, it is up to YOU to continue from here.

Q: Will you be temperament testing the puppies?

A: Yes each puppy will be temperament tested at around 6-7 weeks. Temperament testing is an additional tool, to be used along with personal observation and experience, but should not be the sole determining factor in the puppy you get.

Q: What veterinary work will they have had?

A: Puppies will be wormed, have their first shots, and dewclaws removed. You will need to take your puppy to a vet for a checkup within 7 days and be sure to continue their vaccinations as your vet recommends. It is up to you to limit exposure to various diseases during these first months, until the puppy has full immunity.

Q: Have you ever had merle related health issues?

A: *No, There are no health issues with merles that are the result of a solid color x merle offspring. It is merle to merle offspring (which I don't do) that have health problems.*

Q: *Do puppies with blue eyes have any vision problems*

A: *No, no more than people with blue eyes (just joking).*

Q: *Will my puppy need to be checked for CEA?*

A: *none of the puppies can be affected and therefore CEA clear through parentage.*

Q: *When will the puppies be weaned?*

A: *Puppies will be started on solid food as soon as they are showing interest. I plan to wean them around 6 weeks of age, but that also depends on the puppies*

Q: *Is shipping a puppy safe, and how much does it cost?*

A: *Shipping a puppy is usually around \$300 in US (cost of airfare, crate, health paperwork). They have to fly live cargo. Not all planes can carry live cargo, since this is a cargo area, that is pressurized and temperature controlled for animals. Puppies are transported to and from the plane by van. I recommend shipping them American or Continental airlines if possible. You are responsible to pay for all shipping costs. You can also fly here and take the puppy back as carry-on. Though shipping is somewhat stressful, the important thing is to try to avoid shipping during the hot weather months. Here in Michigan, heat is not usually an issue. In summer months we can ship puppies at night, when it is cooler.*

Q: *What all comes with my puppy?*

A: *You will get a packet with your signed Puppy Contract (must be signed prior to you receiving your puppy), ABCA/AKC paperwork, Copies of Parent papers, and other pertinent information on them, shots/worming schedule, and other information such as feeding recommendations.*

Q: *Do you recommend puppy class?*

A: *Yes I believe all puppies should be enrolled in a puppy class, once they are 6 months of age, and only a class that offers nothing but positive reinforcement. You should not enter agility class until they are over 1 yr of age.*

Q: *Will you continue to provide assistance to me after I purchase the puppy?*

A: Of course, I am always happy to assist for the life of the pup. If for some reason down the road you need to give up the pup, I can also assist you in finding a suitable home. I hope that you will continue to keep me posted on your puppies progress, and share pictures and brags later down the road.

Q: What if my puppy begins to show signs of temperament issues?

A: Remember that improper socialization and training during early puppyhood, can negatively influence the development of the dogs temperament and behavior, and is a much larger influence than genetics. Enroll your puppy in a qualified puppy socialization class and you should avoid any problems. According to research, temperament of your puppy is 40% from genetics, and 60% from how you raise him/her.

.Q: What naming requirements do you have?

A: You must start the name with "GRAND OAKES" and you choose the rest yourself. .

Q: Do you recommend any supplements?

A: Yes, I recommend that pups be on a joint supplement (especially for performance dogs) for their whole life. I prefer Cosequin. I also use Conquer K9 (HA) . I also feed my dogs Nzymes/pro-zyme, salmon oil, and probiotics, along with fresh meats, vegetables, fruit that are less than 20% of total fed (when feeding a balanced dog food). Never feed extra calcium or vitamin D when feeding a balanced food.

Additional FAQ's especially for Performance dog owners

(Agility, herding, Frisbee, etc)

Environmental factors including but not limited to nutrition, exercise, injury, and/or training practices can be contributing factors to the development of many health problems such as hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, shoulder OCD, seizures etc.

Here are some important reminders about raising your puppy that I hope you will find informative.

The growth plate is the area at the end of the long bones where cells replicate and add more bone. This growth plate is soft while it is growing and is more readily injured. The age at which the growth plate closes differs for each bone and can only be determined through an xray by your veterinarian. Larger dogs growth plates close later than smaller dogs do. Any type of repetitive training exercises such as weave poles, jumping over elbow height, full height contact equipment, and even repetitions of ball, Frisbee, and even working stock at more than introductory stages can contribute to injuries such as soft tissue damage, ligament damage, OCD, hip/elbow dysplasia etc, therefore no excessive stress/training should be put on the puppy until a vet has determined the growth plates have closed or no sooner than 12 months of age. Even as tempting as it is to get your puppy ready for competition, remember that this patience you have now, will pay off with long term soundness down the road. Take the time to get your basics down, and don't be too anxious to start jumping.

In puppies (unlike people), excess food intake does NOT cause substantial increase in fat deposition, but instead causes rapid growth. Rapid growth can be deleterious for skeletal problems. Do not be anxious to see you dog put on weight.

Puppies should never receive extra supplements that could unbalance the diet. Puppies under 6 months of age are unable to protect themselves from an excess of calcium. Excess calcium and vitamin D have been shown to promote osteochondrosis. Stick to your balanced diet and limit supplements under 1 yr of age to joint supplements (Glucosamine, chondroitin, HA).

Excess protein (to an extent) does not cause growth problems, but excess calories does. Puppies have a much higher requirement for protein for new tissue formation and development of the immune system than adult dogs. Stick to a high quality feed that says it meets the nutritional requirements for you puppy.