



SHURBEEZ SHIH TZU

P.O. BOX 1461, Moses Lake, WA 98837

GUARDIAN HOME EXPLANATION

We do not believe that puppies or dogs are best served by being kennel raised. By placing them in a home environment that will be their forever home from the time they are puppies, or by placing them as a young adult, we are doing our best to ensure their happiness and best start in life. We never have to kennel raise a dog when utilizing guardian homes.

The majority of guardian homes are families who would never purchase a high quality Shih Tzu at full price. There are others who simply like the idea of how our program works and want to be a part of it with us, or those who have been invited to be a part of our program. Regardless of what brings you to Shurbeez Shih Tzu, our guardian home option is a fantastic way to have a beautiful, genetically tested, microchipped, breeding quality Shih Tzu.

We also benefit as a breeder because we do not need to have or utilize kennels. We do not have to care for more dogs than we are comfortable with or can manage easily in our own home, and we are thrilled that our guardian dogs can receive more on-on-one attention in their forever home. We know and are grateful that each dog has a forever home from the time they are young while they also help to carry on our Shurbeez Shih Tzu bloodlines.

But how does it all work...

There are always a lot of questions that people have about the guardian program. This collection of questions and answers below are our best attempt to address all questions right up front so someone does not feel like they weren't really aware of how this program works. Hopefully the information doesn't overwhelm you. It really is a very simple program even though it may seem like it has a lot of details.

The main thing to remember is, if we as a people truly reject the idea of supporting disreputable breeders (*I refuse to use the term Puppy Mill because that is an Animal Rights term) and keeping dogs out of shelters, to my knowledge there is no better way than a guardian program to breed dogs in a humane, loving environment. If consumers support reputable breeders who provide optimum care to their adults, excellent neonatal care, use proven nurturing & training practices to raise puppies well, and support new owners with ongoing training and help, then there will be fewer dogs who become unmanageable and have unsupported owners who don't know how to care for their puppies and dogs.

People will always find a way to get a dog for their family, and most people unknowingly choose disreputable breeders and shelter dogs - because disreputable breeders are over-producing, do not pre-screen adults for undesirable traits, don't raise puppies well, and are only concerned about how many puppies they can pump as cheaply as possible - then they sell to an unknowing buyer who wants a puppy now without knowing what to look for in a breeder or puppy.

Unfortunately, when people choose a shelter dog, pet store dog, or dog from a disreputable breeder, they are supporting the individuals who create the dogs that end up there. We value our dogs as family members and we hope that you can see how this program benefits families and our four-legged friends!



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What is the initial cost for me to be a guardian home?

- Guardian Fee for being part of our program is determined by us for each male- future stud, or female-future dam, usually \$1000 or less... that's less than 75% of the true cost of the puppy.
- The cost for a high quality, Shih Tzu with Full AKC registration is \$2500-\$4500+. Pet quality puppies from my lines cost \$2800+ & puppies that are breeding quality are \$3800+. You will receive a microchipped, genetic, health, conformation, and temperament tested dog that is high quality for less than market value, with the opportunity to earn bonuses.
- We will discuss the price you will pay at the time of your personal interview.

What guidelines do I have to follow when raising the puppy or dog?

- Guardian families must feed a high quality dog food. We are advocates of healthy nutrition for dogs, and for feeding foods that will not cause health issues; things like cancers, tumors, allergies, etc. The foods we ask you to feed are easily found and are top quality, affordable, have no by-products or fillers, etc. I require my breeding dogs to take NuVet Plus Vitamins- ask me about them.
- We require the avoidance of all chemicals unless necessary, and not giving supplements or medicines unless approved by us. This includes flea, heartworm, or any other medications or vitamins. We use and love NuVet Vitamins, those are approved. We occasionally use Advantix II for flea medication and your Vet will prescribe the heartworm medication, if necessary. The shampoo I use will repel fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes. Ask me about it if you're interested.
- Our dogs are to be kept current on annual veterinary care, vaccinations (including bordetella, rabies, DHPP, and Canine Corona) canine influenza and heartworm meds if prescribed - (never give leptospirosis).
- Our dogs are to be kept free from parasites including worms. Males should be dewormed every 4-6 months, females should be dewormed about 1 month prior to expected heat cycles (if not bred - every 4-6 months as well). She will also be dewormed on the same schedule as her puppies while she is with us.
- If the dog becomes sick or injured, we need the family to notify us right away so we are involved in all decisions regarding the treatment of the dog.
- We ask the family to practice safe handling of the dog:
 - Do not leave the dog outside if you are not at home, or for prolonged periods of time.
 - Don't let the dog sit in the back of an open pickup or travel unrestricted in any car (use a crate or seatbelt harness), or leave it alone in a car.
 - Your yard must be fully fenced with a 6 foot fence in good condition. Ask me about what to do if you have something different.
 - Use a leash in public. No walks off leash.
 - Provide basic obedience training and socialization so the dog has manners. All things that should be done to protect your dog anyway.
- The guardian home is responsible for the transportation of the dog to us when needed for breeding, litters, or any additional health testing. This is the most inconvenient part of the guardian responsibilities. Please think through this carefully. This is the guardian home's responsibility and part of how you earn the dog through the program. We do expect that the dog will come to us when needed, and be picked up when they are ready to go.



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- We require that all of our breeding dogs be kept away from any intact dogs of the opposite gender, unless we have arranged for a specific breeding for him/her. (There should be no other intact dogs of the opposite gender in the guardian home, whether you have a male or female guardian dog.) After being bred and returned to the guardian family females must still be kept away from intact male dogs until she is no longer bleeding or receptive. (Up to one month after she goes into heat) This means taking her out to go potty on a leash in your own yard so she doesn't dig out or a neighbor dog doesn't accidentally have access to her. Hormones are powerful things!
 - Every guardian dog must be potty trained within the first year.
 - They must be taught basic obedience commands including; come, sit, stay, down, kennel or crate - either professionally or by you.
 - We require that you crate train your dog so they are accustomed to being in their own crate during travel, sleeping, and or when you are not at home (you could also have a smaller gated off area if you don't want to crate them for hours at a time).
 - You must also train your dog to walk on a leash. We recommend the use of a harness instead of a collar for walking.
 - The guardian dog should be licensed in the county in which you reside, and the license should remain current.
 - The dog will be microchipped by the breeder and the records will stay in breeder's name until ownership is transferred to guardian(s).
 - If you do not own your own home you must bring a signed copy of our Rental Permission Agreement, which states that your landlord gives you permission to house the dog for the duration of your rental contract.
 - Breeding dogs should be kept away from dog parks, and take extreme care when visiting your local vet office. ** Although parks are great places for socialization, they are also places of great contagion. Many people who don't vaccinate their dogs, or strays or other feral animals can be there. Although your dog may be immune to diseases, they can track those diseases into our home for unvaccinated puppies from his/her own litter to pick up. **The vet is where people take sick animals. I never let my dogs touch the floor, tables, or chairs in the vet office. I will place a disposable potty pad on the scale, table, or chair - and then throw it away at the vet's office.

What age do you start breeding the dog?

- For a female, we will usually breed on the second heat, and after she is 12- 14 months of age. If a dog goes into heat at any time beyond 12 months, you must notify us immediately so we can assess whether or not we will breed. This will depend on how many other girls are cycling and having litters, as well as the individual dog's age and situation. *We would also like to be notified when your puppy has its first cycle, typically between 6-10 months of age, so we can have a calculated guess on when her next cycle will be.
- For a male we will usually wait until he is at least one year old until we use him as a stud.



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How long is he/she with you when you breed? What is expected when I bring my dog to you?

- As soon as the guardian is aware that the female is in heat we will have them arrange to bring the dog to us by day 8 - 9 of her heat cycle. She will remain with us for up to one week, and then you can pick her up and take her back home. If you live close enough she can go home daily and be returned daily for 3-7 days. She should come to us clean (freshly groomed), free of internal and external parasites (deworming begins one month before heat cycle), and current on her vaccinations. The hair on her vulva should be trimmed for her comfort and the safety of the stud.
- We will contact guardians of male dogs as soon as we know we have a female in heat that we want to breed him to, usually 7-10 days before you need to bring him to us. He will remain with us for up to one week per breeding. If you live close enough he can go home daily and be returned daily for 3-7 days. He should come to us clean (freshly groomed), free of internal and external parasites, and current on deworming and vaccinations. The hair on his prepuce should be trimmed short for his safety. **If we have little to no notice (less than three days) of a possible breeding, we will arrange to pick him up from your home instead of you being responsible to bring him to us without proper notice.
- Please be aware that we will not require the dog to stay with us longer than necessary or for long periods before or after they are needed. We try to accommodate schedules as much as possible.

How long is a dog pregnant? What should I expect?

- Dogs are pregnant for 63 days (9 weeks). Many whelp (deliver) between day 58 and day 67 after breeding. After she comes home from breeding we will send a package of folic acid tablets to take daily, and NuVet Plus that she will take once per week. These are the normal NuVet vitamins she should be used to eating 1/2 a tablet daily. She will only take one whole tablet per week after being bred. We will provide the ones you need during pregnancy. Too many vitamins during pregnancy are not good for the dog or developing puppies. She will stay on regular dog food throughout pregnancy. (*Life's Abundance All Life Stages), should be fed to all breeding dogs.) She may have a bit of morning sickness and not want much for a few days, this is normal. She may also want to eat more (up to 2-3 times as much as normal) the last few weeks of pregnancy, this is also normal. She should be allowed to eat more.

How long is she with you when she has the litter?

- She will come to us between 7 - 9 days before she is due with her litter. This gives her time to settle into our house and get used to seeing and being in the whelping box. It is important that she becomes very comfortable with being in our house and being with us all the time. We do not want the mom to feel threatened by us when she is getting ready to whelp.
- You should bring her to us freshly groomed with her belly and vulva area shaved.
- She will go home after her puppies are weaned and socialized. This will be approximately 9-11 weeks of age (it depends on her behavior toward puppies - some dams love to spend time with their pups others want nothing to do with them around 9 weeks of age. If she goes home earlier than 11 weeks our other dogs will help socialize the pups. She will be freshly groomed for you.



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Can we visit her when she has the puppies?

- We make visitation determinations depending on the dog, guardian, and situation.
- Please be aware that no handling of puppies will be allowed at first. Puppies are unvaccinated at this time, so strict protocols must be followed.
- You may visit the guardian dog and spend some time with her if she is doing well with leaving her puppies for short periods of time. We do try to limit this visit to one hour as our schedule is very busy and puppies are not best served by being away from mom for longer than that.
- If we feel that she will not tolerate a visit well, we can refuse to let the guardian family visit.

Does it negatively affect the dog emotionally to go from the guardian home to the breeder's home?

- No. There is an initial "Where is my family going?" when they bring him/her to us, but in every situation the dog is settled and comfortable and doing very well within just a few minutes. S/he will already be comfortable being in our home from his/her previous visits. We try very hard to give them so much attention and love the first couple days that it is a pleasant and enjoyable experience for them. This is especially important for our females, as everything the mother feels causes things to happen inside her body that can affect the babies. The less stress and the more relaxed she is, the better it is for babies. This is true for all of her pregnancy. So, it is very important that the guardian home does not make the transition difficult for the dog. If you act upset or nervous or sad about leaving her, she will feel that even more greatly and we need to make sure that doesn't happen. Bringing her and just pretending like it's any other visit you'd make is very important. If we can have the family sneak out so the dog isn't even aware they've left, that is usually best too. She rarely acknowledges for more than a couple of minutes that anything has happened.

How long is she with you when she has the litter? What happens during pregnancy and what do I have to do differently with the dog?

- Pregnancy is actually very easy. I have a list of what happens each week during the development of puppies, and I give that to our guardian homes at the time we begin breeding.
- The dog may act a little more tired, or not eat normally for a few weeks.
- The last couple weeks of pregnancy she is usually more hungry and sleeps more as time progresses. She will lay on her side more to help move the puppies as they transition into position for whelping. She could be more clingy as her pregnancy progresses.
- Otherwise, most normal activities are ok right up until the end of the pregnancy. It's important to continue with walking the dog and providing regular exercise right up to the end. This helps during delivery. Being in shape is always best. Normal play and romping and running during the first half of pregnancy is great. After that, (week 5) we limit activity to walks on a leash, no rough and tumble play or jumping off of sofas or beds, stairs can become difficult, etc.
- No chemicals may be given during pregnancy. She needs to be updated with vaccinations at least a month before her heat cycle or wait until after she weans puppies.
- We have to be notified immediately of any illness, injury, or abnormal discharge so we can be involved in determining how she is treated.



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How does my dog feel comfortable being left at your house for breeding or whelping a litter?

- We will arrange regular play dates at our home for your dog, once a month. Short visits with us so she/he will feel comfortable in our home. These visits are not meant to be a burden but greatly help your dog transition to a place he/she is familiar with when it is time to breed and whelp. The visits can be as short as 30 minutes or as long as a few hours. Plan some grocery shopping or go take care of a few errands. We can also watch the dog when you go on vacation at no charge.

What happens if the puppy gets sick or injured while in the guardian's care?

- While the dog is in guardian's care and home, any illness or injury that happens is your financial responsibility.
- We must be involved in treatment plans and know what is going on, but the guardian family is responsible for those expenses.
- Health insurance is recommended but not required during her/his breeding years. This insurance is for your protection because these dogs are extremely valuable, so it is ultimately up to you.

What expenses do the guardians pay for and what things does the breeder pay for?

- The guardian home pays for any normal care items. Food, dishes, leashes, beds, normal vaccinations or wormings, flea meds, heartworm meds (if necessary), toys, grooming needs, insurance, annual veterinary care, annual county licensing, etc.
- If the dog needs medications due to worms, illness, infection or anything unrelated to pregnancy, it is the guardian's responsibility to pay for those expenses.
- I require that you pay for and keep my breeding dogs on the NuVet Plus vitamin supplement. It costs about 30 cents a day. This will keep them healthy and lively well into their senior years. After the contracted time you may discontinue the vitamins at your discretion.
- Shurbeez Shih Tzu will pay for all expenses related to health testing for breeding purposes, all breeding expenses, and litter expenses.

How many litters do you usually breed before retiring the dog?

- For females we contract for breeding up until 5 years old, but most retire by the age of 4. We may only breed once, but we have the option until she is five years old. We are concerned for the well-being of our program dogs. If we find that the girl has problems with deliveries, it would be unhealthy for them to breed again, or she is not a good mother, we will skip a heat cycle or stop the breeding program with her. Males may remain in our program for up to the age of 8 years old. AKC allows sires to produce litters up to age 12, but we don't use our studs that long.

Who pays for the spay/neuter surgery after contract is fulfilled?

- We pay for the spay surgery after the girl has had time to recover from the last litter and have her hormone levels return to normal. This is usually about 6 weeks - 2 months after the puppies are weaned.
- When your stud's contracted time is up, or if we are no longer needing his genetics in our program, we will pay for him to be neutered.



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What happens if the dog doesn't pass a health test to become a breeding dog?

- At this stage in our business, we are typically placing puppies in their guardian home after genetic testing is done. We are very careful to know the lines we work with, select only high quality and conformation dogs, and it's not typical to have a health test come back so poorly that we have been unable to use the dog as a breeding dog. If a dog's genetics will not benefit our program they would be offered as a pet and not placed into our guardian program.
- Having said this, it is possible to have the dog disqualified from the program for social, emotional, or training reasons. This means if the guardian has not properly trained and socialized their dog and it displays qualities that we do not want to pass on to the next generation, we will discuss that with the guardian home. If the reasons we will not use the dog in our program are due to guardian negligence they will be required to pay for professional training, forfeit the dog to us, or pay the full pet price of the dog.
- Remember, breeding quality and pet quality are two different things. Just because a dog may not be the best breeding candidate doesn't mean they aren't the perfect pet. Most of the testing we do is very specific, and we have already thoroughly screened the line and health testing of parent dogs, and the pup - so it's not likely we'll encounter a problem that would cause us to say we can't breed that dog.
- If a dog is not utilized as a breeding dog for ANY reason by the time they are 3 years of age, the guardian will pay for surgical sterilization.

What are the grooming requirements and do you want us to keep the dog clipped a certain way?

- We ask that families keep the dog in one of the typical cuts for a Shih Tzu. The most important part is the head, ears, and tail. We want them to have the look a Shih Tzu is supposed to have, (we do not like a completely shaved face, head, ears, and tail). This is especially important when they come to visit us for the first time around 6-9 months of age. I try to get a lot of pictures of them for our website, Facebook, and future families inquiring about the appearance of dam and sire. I prefer a top knot for females until at least age 2 for pictures. After that you may trim it off if you prefer. I'm very open to your ideas as well.
- Grooming is very easy and most groomers will do okay if given specifics when you take the dog in. If you'd like to do the grooming or trimming yourself, it's not that difficult and I can teach you specifics on how to do it. It's actually quite fun. I enjoy my time grooming my dogs.
- We do require that the dog be kept groomed and mat free. Nails should be kept trimmed (weekly), baths given regularly (at least 1 per month or more frequent if smelly or soiled) and hair should be brushed daily. If you are unable to keep the coat in good shape yourself, you are required to use a groomer to do so. Regular brushing/combing should keep any length coat mat free.



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- If the dog is brought to us with a matted coat, or a coat that is in bad shape, we have the right to take them in to a groomer of our choosing and have them shaved down or worked on, but you will be responsible to reimburse us for that expense before the dog returns to you. Guardian dogs are ambassadors of our program, so it is important that they are maintained and not matted and in bad shape.

Can I have more than one guardian dog in my home? Or other pets?

- Yes, as long as all dogs are all the same gender or current pets of the opposite gender have been surgically sterilized.

What if I move during the time my pet is still under contract?

- As part of your guardian home contract we require you to live within a reasonable traveling distance of our home. Within two hours driving distance is generally the required distance, closer is preferred, as it makes traveling to us easier on you.
- If you move after signing the contract and before your contract has been completed you will be required to send, at your expense, the dog to us for breeding and/or whelping until the contract has been fulfilled.
- If you are moving just let me know and we can work something out.
- If you disappear with my dog you will be held financially responsible to pay me so I can replace the dog with a dog of equal value. That will most likely be \$4000 - \$5000 for the dog, and more for the potential loss of litters. You will also have to pay all private investigation fees and all our costs for litigation, etc.

Can I buy a puppy from a litter my dog whelps or sires?

- Of course! Guardian homes will always be placed on our Waiting lists.
- Please tell me early if you are interested in a puppy from your dog, or any of our dogs. I can place you on the Waiting List, but I will not displace people who are already on the list - so sooner is better. (**Sometimes our Waiting List is a year long or longer.)
- You could enter into a guardian contract, with my pick of the litter, if it is the same gender as your current guardian dog, begin a new contract with another guardian dog, or purchase a pet quality puppy for a discounted price.
- This offer of a discounted puppy from your guardian dog's litter is only for you personally. You may not sell this puppy, give it to a family member, or offer this benefit to extended family members or friends.

What if I have more questions?

- I always welcome any and all questions. There are no silly questions, only opportunities to learn more.
- Feel free to contact me by email, shurbeezshihTzu@gmail.com, that's the easiest way for me to communicate with you. If you'd rather speak in person or over the phone email me your number and I can contact you.



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Do you have incentives as I raise my guardian Shih Tzu?

- Yes, these are my Guardian Dog Incentives:
 - **2 or more AKC Champion Titles: NOC, OTCH, CH, CCH, GCH, GCHB, GCHS, GCHG, GCHP** = Guardian Fee refunded, Shurbeez will pay to register the title with AKC, guardian pays for training, handling, entrance, and all costs associated with showing.
 - **AKC Canine Good Citizen Graduate, CGC** = one time award of \$50, we will pay to register the title with AKC
 - **Professionally Trained and Certified Therapy Training** = one time award of \$50
 - **Professionally Trained and Certified Emotional Support** = one time award of \$50
 - **Professionally Trained and Certified Medical Alert** = one time award of \$50
 - **Professional Advanced Obedience Training** = Gift Card of Breeder's choice
 - **Each litter sired by a Shurbeez stud** = 10% of stud fee (this is only for litters from females outside our own program)
 - **Each healthy litter successfully whelped and raised by a Shurbeez dam** = \$100
 - **Maintain an Instagram page** for your dog, (guardian will post at least once per week and link each post to the Shurbeez Shih Tzu Instagram account by including the hashtag - #Shurbeezshihtzu) = \$50 annually for contract duration.
 - **Breeder reserves the right to give an extra bonus for those guardians who go above and beyond in advertising, or help the breeder in any other way.**
 - ****Let me know if you have further training you'd like to obtain and we will find an incentive for you! The good you do with the guardian dog reflects on our program, we are always happy to reward good ambassadors of our program!**

I am interested, how do I begin the process?

- Please fill out an application to be considered for a guardian home. After I review your application I will call you on the phone, or email you and we can chat. We like to meet the families we will choose as guardians and visit them in their home. After getting to know you a bit, (it really is an interview process), you can choose a puppy or adult if we have one currently available, or wait until we have one ready - then you'll sign the contract be able to take the puppy/dog home. Sometimes we have a puppy or dog waiting for the perfect guardian home, at other times there will be a waiting period.
- If you'd like to speak with one of our current guardian homes, just let me know and I can make arrangements.