

Classic Heritage Golden Retrievers

More about our Guardian Program and Logistics

Hi There!

If you have read this far, that means you may be interested in becoming one of our guardian families, and you have likely already read the requirements and what we are looking for in our guardian families. We are very excited that you are considering becoming a guardian to one of our amazing Males or Females!

First, I want to clarify that we know all of the information here and on our site sounds like a lot, and some of it may sound unfamiliar to navigate, but please know that this program is actually quite simple in action. If you have any questions or if you are concerned about anything you read please don't hesitate to let us know and we can answer your questions in more detail. We are looking for a great partnership with excellent communication with our guardian families. We do know life happens, and we are human too, so we know sometimes things don't always work out according to plan, however we are looking for a family that will try their absolute best, and we will promise the same! Now let's get into some of the details...

What Goes on Before our Dogs Join our Breeding Program:

If you were to get one of our Males or Females in our guardian program before they have passed their health clearances and/or before they are proven, they would be considered young hopefuls of our breeding program. A young hopeful is a dog that we see potential in to help better our breeding program, specifically in the areas of the dogs health and temperament, but they have not reached the age of sexual maturity yet.

Before any breedings would take place all of our dogs complete OFA testing, where we check their hips, elbows, heart, and eyes. We also will do genetic testing for anything not cleared by parentage. We are selective of which dogs we will keep for our program based on many factors, but they also must score highly on their clearances. If a young hopeful does not score as high as we would like them to, that does not mean that they are not in great health or that they would not make for a perfect family member, it only means that we must be selective of our dogs that we choose for our breeding program.

If you have a young hopeful or an unproven girl/boy and they do not make it into our breeding program either because of not scoring in the highest categories for clearances or because the unproven girl was unable to have a pregnancy after two breeding attempts we will not use the dog in our breeding program. If the dog is not used in our breeding program, because of the aforementioned reasons the dog is entirely transferred over to you, at our base price of \$4,900. *If the dog is used in our breeding program or is already a proven dog, there is no cost to you as far as the purchase price of the dog.*

Male vs. Female

What does it look like to have a Male in our guardian program? Great question!... If you have a Male in our guardian program here is our typical process. We are able to give you a rough estimate of when we would have a girl coming into heat that we would like to have the Male breed with. Of course we are not in control of mother nature, however we have a really good sense of when our girls are expected to be in heat, and we will relay that information to you. Once we have a girl in heat we will, shortly after the heat starts, start doing progesterone testing, so we know exactly what dates breedings would need to take place. You would bring the Male to Classic Heritage on the dates needed, or if it is more convenient to schedule, you can bring the Male right before breeding is set to take place, and we would board him here free of charge until breeding is done, anywhere from three days to a week. After that, you are set to go home! If we have a confirmed pregnancy, and once the puppies actually are born, we do love to have both parents here for visits so that our puppy families can meet Mom and Dad. For litter visits we usually do two visits (between 4-8 weeks), and of course you are welcome anytime to visit the pups!

Now that you know what it entails to have a Male in our program, let's talk about our Females!... If you have not had a Female that was not spayed before, many people are nervous about the girl's heat, but really it is not as scary as it sounds!! We would let you know about when we would expect her to come into heat (typically every 6-9 months), and we would also help you to know some of the signs that she may be in heat. Most of the time you will only see a drop or two of blood, it is typically very subtle, you will likely notice the behavior changes more. She may lick her genitals more, be a little tired, more "clingy," and a little moody. After you let us know that your girl is in heat, we would shortly after start doing progesterone testing at our vet. If you are located near our vet you are welcome to take her to the appointments, or you can drop her off with us once her heat has started. Progesterone testing allows us to know exactly when ovulation is and when breedings need to take place. After breeding, she comes back home with you, and roughly 28 days later we would have a vet appointment to confirm pregnancy. If pregnancy is confirmed, we have roughly another 3-4 weeks before she would come back to us to whelp her pups! Our puppies go home at 10 weeks and older, so their Mama's normally stay with them through 10 weeks. It is not a requirement, but we do love if you want to be a part of the whelping and puppy process, it is a ton of fun, and you get to visit your sweet fur baby!

Retirement for our Guardian Dogs:

The health of our parents is the most important thing, so we console with our amazing veterinary team and schedule regular exams and bloodwork before and after each breeding and pregnancy. Our Females will have no more than four litters before they retire. Our Males usually retire around 5-7 years of age, depending on the quality and quantity of semen.

When the dog is older and completes his/her breeding obligations, Classic Heritage will pay for spay/neuter and your dog comes home to enjoy the wonderful life you have provided for him/ her since they came to live with you.

Additional Information and Clarification:

Occasionally there is still confusion about the process and the question of; is the dog owned by Classic Heritage or your dog? Simply put - The dog is yours and your family member, but we own the breeding rights of the dog until ownership is given up upon retirement.

If you choose to move forward and apply to become a guardian home you can also view the contract and the questionnaire on our Guardian Page. When reviewing the contract, please keep in mind that we have to put certain things in the contract to protect the dog, it is not to scare you away! As long as you are a loving home that can take care of the dog, keep him or her healthy and safe, and you can communicate with us, we will have zero problems!

We have had amazing success with this program and our guardian families, it is the best option for all parties involved! If you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to us!

Thank you and best wishes!

- ***CHGR Team***