# Sycamore Spring Farm English Shepherds Puppy Buyer Questionnaire

As a breeder, I feel an obligation to my dogs, the breed, our puppies and my breeding program to do everything possible to place the happiest, healthiest puppy possible in the best matched home environment for the puppy’s temperament and the new owners personalities, situation and goals for that puppy. The following questions will help us to determine IF we have a good match puppy for you. We want this to be the best decision YOU have ever made and result in an amazing, successful, forever relationship and ownership.

There are no right or wrong answers. Some questions are to evoke your thoughts about the subject which just might be more important than any/your answer. We just need to cover and discuss the matter. If you do not want to answer a question or you feel it is not applicable, just skip it.

Please fill in the information as completely as possible and at the end if you have any questions for me please include them. Please remember that we do NOT guarantee anyone a puppy until an actual match has been made. We DO NOT match newborn puppies. Selecting the right puppy is a process that takes time getting to know you and the puppy. Please keep a copy of this document for your records. If you receive a puppy from us this document will help to clarify our agreement and understanding regarding the future of our/your dog.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:
Phone #: Day:                                              Evening:
Best time to call:
E-mail Address:
Fax #:

Family Information:

1.  How many adults live in your home?

2.  Do you have any children? Ages of children in the home: What is their experience with pets?

3.  What activities do you enjoy in your spare time?

4.  Do any family members have allergies to dogs?

5.  Do the other members of your family also want to get a puppy?

6.  Who will be the primary caregiver for your puppy?

7.  Have you ever owned a dog before?  What is your story about that dog, what happened to that dog?

8.  Have you ever given a dog away before or taken one to the pound or shelter?  If so, what were the circumstances?

9.  If your family circumstances change (i.e. new baby, relationship, residence or job change) what will happen to the dog?

10.  Do you currently own any other pets? (See Q4 under Housing)

11.  Do you have a veterinarian chosen for the pup? Will you agree to have the puppy checked by a qualified licensed veterinarian within 15 days of ownership and provide a report back to me/the breeder? Have you estimated/considered vet expenses for a new pup?

Housing Information:

1. Do you live in a house/ apartment/ condo/ townhouse?
2. If renting, do you have your landlord’s permission to have a dog on the property? Have you discussed dog ownership with the property owner and will it affect the landlord’s insurance?

3.  Do you have a yard?                If so, how large?                If not, how do you plan to exercise your dog?

Is your yard completely fenced with secure fencing?          How high?

If not, do you have a secure run for the puppy to be in when not being safely supervised for its safety?

1. Do you have other dogs? Other Pets? Ages/Breeds?  If so, what are your plans to incorporate your new puppy into the current program? How smooth do you think it will be?

Breed Information:

1. Why have you decided to buy an English Shepherd?

2. Are you aware of health problems, which may affect an English Shepherd?

Have you heard of Collie Eye Anomaly? Do you know anything about it? How about MDR1, Do you know what that stands for and how we test dogs for the sensitivity? Are you aware that these genetic defects can be prevented? How? Will you discuss these conditions with your Vet and consider testing for them?

Have you heard of hip dysplasia in the Collie type dogs? Did you know that other joints can be affected and should be evaluated? Like shoulders or elbows? Did you know that there is no way to guarantee great hips or joints in a puppy even if the parents are excellent?

3. Are you aware that English Shepherds will bark, chew and dig, especially if left alone, get bored or are in confinement?

4.  How do you feel about a dog that sheds moderately but heavily during spring/early summer? Will you have time to groom the dog occasionally during the spring shedding period?

5.  Do you prefer a male or female and why that choice? Do you believe that there are any personality differences or character traits that show up more frequently in one sex or the other?

6.  Please rank the following factors in order of importance to you in your choice of a puppy (1 = most important):

Structure/looks         \_\_\_\_\_ Temperament             \_\_\_\_\_
Sex                           \_\_\_\_\_ Color                         \_\_\_\_\_
Family Companion       \_\_\_\_\_ Working/Stock Dog     \_\_\_\_\_
Potential Breeding Animal     \_\_\_\_\_ Potential Obedience/Agility Dog  \_\_\_\_\_
Pet Therapy              \_\_\_\_\_ Search & Rescue        \_\_\_\_\_
4H or FFA  Project   \_\_\_\_\_ Other(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

7.  Where will your dog live (inside, outside, combination of both)?

8.  Is anyone home during the day? How many hours on the average will your dog spend alone?

9.  Will there be someone available to feed and exercise the puppy during the day?

10.  Where will your puppy spend the time when no one is at home?( Room/crate/porch/stall)

11.  Where will your puppy stay if you go out of town? Or on vacation?

12. Where will the puppy sleep at night?

13.  Have you thought about how you are going to housebreak the puppy? Do you have experience in housebreaking a puppy? Who would you call for advice?

14.  Do you think you should crate train the puppy? Can you think of 3 good reasons why you should crate train your puppy/dog? Any reason why you should not? Do you have a proper size crate for a 55lb dog? I think crates are valuable for specific purposes, for training and for occasional or short term use, what are your thoughts?

Future Plans for your Dog

1. Have you considered the possibility of taking your puppy to obedience classes? Do you think it will/could be necessary? If you have any behavior problems with your dog who will you contact? Any problems that develop with your puppy need to be addressed ASAP!

2. Have you completed any dog training, workshops or show titles with any dogs?
Do you plan to show this dog?

3. Do you plan to spay or neuter your puppy? If not, do you plan to breed your dog? If you have any thoughts about breeding your puppy please have further discussion with this breeder. ONLY the best of the breed should be bred.

4. Do you plan to use your pup/dog as a working dog? Do you want an all-round farm helper or a stock or herd focused dog?

5. Our puppies include a Healthy/Sound Puppy Guarantee which will be confirmed by a recent veterinarian physical. Will you take your puppy to your vet within 15 days to confirm that you have received a sound and healthy puppy? Will you report findings back to me?

6.  Do you expect or plan to have any other puppies in the household during this puppies first 9-12 moths? If yes we would like to discuss the pros/cons of this with you during our match up process.

7. Are you aware of how important it is to adequately socialize a young puppy? How about how many unique social encounters a young puppy should have by the time it is 8 weeks old? 16 weeks old? Can you believe that studies show a puppy should have met, heard, smelled and seen HUNDREDS of experiences by 16 weeks of age!?!

8. If you experience any health or behavior issues with your pup/dog will you contact this/your breeder to inform her and for possible suggestions or advice? Catching potential problems early and correcting them can help insure your dog a great future with your family.

9. If for any reason in the future you can no longer keep this puppy/dog will you commit to contact this breeder and inform of the situation and discuss return or rehoming options? I am committed to my pups for life and hope you will be too. If you can no longer take care of your dog, I will.

 How did you hear about the English Shepherds of Sycamore Spring Farm?

 To promote responsible breeding, we request you advise us up front if you are interested in or plan to breed your puppy in the future. Breeding quality dogs is critical to eliminate preventable illness and heartbreak in the future. Most puppies purchased from Sycamore Spring Farm are purchased as companion, family or working farm dogs by owners who have no interest in breeding or showing; We believe that only the most perfect, best of the breed should be used for breeding purposes and that the evaluation period for making the decision to breed is a long one of 18 to 24 months. So while ALL our puppies are amazing only a select few of them SHOULD make it to the final cut as future breeding dogs. So if you are thinking of breeding one of our puppies, please let us know so that we can assist you in making the very best choice. Together we can breed ONLY THE BEST.

Hope to hear back from you soon, Nancy “Carol” Rollman/FarmerCarol

Call me if you have questions:301-788-6980. You can cut and paste this into an e-mail sycamorespringfarm@gmail.com or send by regular mail to; Sycamore Spring Farm ~ 6003 Elmer Derr Rd ~ Frederick MD 21703.