

Things to ask before you place a deposit...



1. Why should I choose Farmstead 51?

We believe that we raise the best Golden Retrievers in the Midwest. Our breeding dogs are members of our family, have completed rigorous health testing, are obedience trained and are great examples of the specific breed. Our dogs live with us, inside our home, so we can pinpoint parental traits that are passed along to the puppies because we spend so much time with the parents and the puppies. We only breed AKC Registered Golden Retrievers. With this, we can confidently give information to Farmstead 51 families about the coat, size and temperament of a puppy they are choosing to take home. We spend 24 hours a day- 7 days a week with our newborn puppies in our custom whelping room and Puppy Nursery. Our puppies are highly socialized, litter-box trained, and all medical care is completed by our vet team. Our goal is to help you find not just a dog but your next family member, a family member that will be with you for the next 10 years of your and your children's lives. We love helping people become Farmstead 51 families!

2. Are the puppies AKC Registered?

All Golden Retriever parents are AKC registered with full breeding rights. Puppies will come with limited AKC registration and a spay/neuter contract unless breeding rights are included at the time of purchase (only to approved breeders).

3. What health testing have the parents completed?

All breeding males and females have successfully completed genetic testing for all common breed-specific diseases as well as orthopedic testing for hips. There are additional breed specific orthopedic tests that are completed and passed including elbows, hearts, and eyes. All adult dogs have completed or are in the process of completing OFA CHIC. We breed for temperament, size and color in that order.

4. Do you own both the parents and how many do you have?

We currently have 12 dogs in our program, 9 of them live in our home. We have 5 Standard Poodles (Teddy, Phoebe, Molly, Reba, Stormy), 4 Golden Retrievers (Flossy, CJ, Ursela, Charlie), 2 Goldendoodles (Max, Loretta) and 1 Old English Sheepdog, Winston. All are intact and part of our breeding program. We do use Charlie, Teddy and Winston for stud services to other approved females and occasionally will use another stud dog for breeding. All the dogs live inside with us but spend lots of time outside on our 7 acres. They are socialized to children, busy places and often travel with us on vacation. They are sporty, active dogs but also enjoy napping in a sunny spot on the living room floor. Several of our adult dogs are registered therapy dogs or are working toward completing that training. Teddy, Winston and Max live with our "family" but are regularly at our home with our F51 herd.

5. What is the typical size of a Golden Retriever you raise?

It depends on parentage but typically 60-80 pounds as adults. We do have American and English lines in our program.

6. What color are your puppies?

It just depends on the parents color and background genetics.

7. Where are your puppies born and raised?

All of our puppies are born in a dedicated area of our home. We have transformed our finished basement into a whelping room, nursery area, kitchen, laundry and bathroom. When we have puppies, we are in this space 24/7 so it's comfortable for us as well as the moms and puppies. This area is highly cleanable and is cleaned and sanitized daily.

8. How old are the puppies when they go home?

The puppies can go home with families at 8 weeks of age. The first weeks of life are spent in the whelping box with Mom where she feeds and cleans them. When the puppies turn 3.5-4 weeks old, we start weaning them from Mom, start them on softened puppy food and start litter box training. They also move to the Puppy Nursery where we begin to socialize them to new sight, sounds, smells and textures. Families with a deposit on the litter will visit Farmstead 51 during the designated Puppy Play Day to see the puppies and start to narrow down your list of possible puppies. Selections occur at 7 weeks of age. Many of our puppies go on to our Angus' Academy program to get a head start on the important lessons of living with a family.

9. Are the puppies seen by a vet and receive any shots/worming?

Yes, the puppies will be seen at least three times by our vet team at Blue Springs Animal Hospital. At 2 days old, they visit the animal hospital to have dew claws removed and receive a general check-up. At 5.5 weeks of age, they receive initial vaccinations, microchipping and deworming. At 7.5 weeks of age, they receive a second round of vaccinations. They will need 2-3 additional vet visits for Rabies vaccination as well as other prophylactic vaccinations after they go home with you. They will also need to be spayed/neutered per your veterinarians recommendation.

10. How will I know when you have puppies?

If you've already placed your deposit, we'll keep you informed by email every step of the way. If you haven't placed a deposit, keep checking Facebook and at our website www.farmstead51.com for the latest news about past, current and upcoming litters.

11. How can I get on a deposit list?

Your \$250 deposit will be applied to our general waiting list and then as litters are opened you will be consulted and moved to a specific litter. Your deposit is non-refundable but is transferrable to another litter per your request. We maintain our waiting list in the date order that deposits are received. Contact us by phone 816-820-1683, email farmstead51@gmail.com, Instagram or Facebook DM.

12. How long will I have to wait for a puppy?

While we can't control Mother Nature's timing, we do have a pretty good idea of when each female will be ready to breed and we have a planned breeding schedule for the next several years. Females only have breeding cycles 1-2 times per year so we only have puppies from that female 1-2 times per year. From the time a pair breeds, your puppy would go home 4 months later. Pregnancy lasts 9 weeks and then the puppies stay with us for 8 weeks. Patience is the best policy!

Don't hesitate to ask additional questions. We are always available to help you!

Nick & Eden Thurber

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F51 Mercantile: Your Dog's Shoppe for high-quality accessories

www.f51mercantile.com

What happens now... patience is key!



1. What are the exact steps from receiving my deposit through my puppy coming home?

- a. Confirmation of receipt of deposit and place on the waiting list (don't be scared by this number, things move fast!)
- b. Farmstead 51 visit (if schedule permits and we don't have puppies under 6 weeks old)
- c. Breeding occurs- Farmstead 51 will contact you with this preliminary information and your spot on the specific litter
- d. Reserve your spot in Angus' Academy!
- e. Confirmation of pregnancy around Day 30 after breeding
- f. Confirmation of litter size by x-ray around Day 55 after breeding
- g. Whelping (delivery of puppies) around Day 63 after breeding, watch Facebook as puppies are born!
- h. Puppies are labeled with a colored yarn for identification purposes
- i. Families are notified when puppies are around 4 days old if they will be receiving a puppy from this litter
- j. Important dates email is sent with lots of key dates about your puppy coming home
- k. ENS training begins at Day 3 and Socialization begins at 4 weeks of age!
- l. Order your puppy starter kit!
- m. Vet visits at 2 days old, 4, 5.5 and 7.5 weeks.
- n. Families attend scheduled puppy play days
- o. Select your puppy at 7 weeks of age.
- p. Schedule a pick-up time. We can help you with out-of-town or out-of-state delivery as well!
- q. If a puppy needs to stay at Farmstead 51 after 8 weeks of age, there will be a \$25 per day charge for food, training, grooming and overall care.
- r. Puppies go home at 8 weeks of age. Provide final payment (prefer cash or check) and take home your new family member or puppy goes to Angus Academy!

2. How do I select a puppy?

All of our puppies are well socialized and you really can't go wrong with any Farmstead 51 puppy. BUT, you want to find a puppy that reacts to you, makes eye contact and wants to engage with you or your child. Tell us what you're looking for, what your future goals are for the puppy and we'll help you choose a puppy that fits in with your family.

3. Will my puppy need to be seen by a vet after we pick him/her up?

The puppies will have been seen by Blue Springs Animal Hospital at least three times before they are ready to go home but they will still need at least 2-3 more visits for vaccinations. We encourage you to visit a veterinarian of your choosing within a few days of taking your puppy home for a wellness visit. This helps your puppy and vet have a positive first experience and gives you a road map for upcoming veterinarian visits. Please let us know if any issues arise during that initial visit.

4. What will my puppy come home with?

All Farmstead 51 puppies leave us with a tote bag full of goodies including: a sample of Life's Abundance dog food, a blanket that smells like mom and littermates, a plush toy, a chew toy, vaccination and vet paperwork, microchipping paperwork, a gift certificate to F51Mercantile online store, a gift certificate for 1 in-home training session with The Mindful Canine and a lifetime of support from us.

5. When should I buy things for my puppy?

We encourage you to have an area set-up for your puppy before he/she comes home so that everyone in your family can get used to the location of food/water bowls, kennel, leash, and a toy box. We can help you with many items for your puppy with our customized puppy starter kits (see separate document) and other items through our F51 Mercantile online store. Or use the puppy starter kit list for your own shopping adventures!

6. What training will my puppy have when they come home?

Your 8 week old puppy is an infant. He/she should sleep 20+ hours a day but will need lots of interaction the rest of the time. All of our puppies are started on potty training at 4 weeks of age and they will quickly understand where to do their business if you provide consistency. They will respond to "puppy, puppy, puppy" and you can insert your puppy's new name easily. They will have been exposed to a kennel and will understand that they sleep and settle in this space. Other training and commands should be introduced between 8-12 weeks of age. Our Angus Academy training program is a great way to get your puppy on the right track (see separate document.) These spots fill quickly so reserve your spot now!

7. What happens if there isn't a puppy for me?

We accept 8 deposits per litter and that is typically accurate for the size of the litters our moms produce BUT we have no way of knowing how many puppies, what genders or colors the puppies will be. We will honor our deposit holders first before we make any puppies available to others. So be flexible and maybe accept a puppy not of the gender or the color you were originally planning for OR take a puppy sooner than you were planning for OR later than you were planning for. If you want to move your deposit to another litter, you're more than welcome to do so. Remember, our deposits are transferrable but non-refundable.

8. When can I visit Farmstead 51 or my puppy?

We welcome visitors by appointment as long as we don't have puppies under 6 weeks of age. You can visit your litter during assigned puppy play days when they are 5.5-7 weeks of age. Unfortunately, we can't accommodate other puppy visits but we can do video/chat/facetime to help you determine which puppy will be yours if you're unable to attend puppy play day.

9. What is F51 Mercantile?

We are very picky about what we give our Farmstead 51 Herd and we've spent hundred of hours and \$\$\$ finding the best products on the market. We try to use made in the USA, made local in the Midwest or Kansas City region but quality is the most important thing. There are cute but unsafe products being sold all over the internet and in big-box stores. We also offer custom orders for items we don't carry in stock. AND Farmstead 51 families get a 10% discount on all items all the time. Check out our Facebook page and website for more information about our upcoming live sales, pop-up shops and other exciting things.

Don't hesitate to ask additional questions. We are always available to help you!

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