

# AKBASH Pup Questionnaire

## Before You Complete This...

Prior to completing this form you need to have spoken with Diane Spisak by phone at 785.883.4811 and read: *Livestock Protection Dogs* (OTR publishing) and *Livestock Guardians* (Storey publishing) to ensure you wants and need are in alignment with what the Akbash Dog offers as a breed.

Once complete, please print out this document in its entirety and mail with your deposit check and the Buyer Seller Agreement to: Diane Spisak, PO Box 146, Wellsville, KS 66092.

Date I Spoke with Diane (MM/DD/YY) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type(s) of animals this dog will protect

Dog(s)     Cat(s)     Poultry     Swine     Cattle     Sheep  
 Goats     Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Will the dog also be a companion?     Yes     No

Will the dog *strictly* be a companion?     Yes     No

Other companion animals at home (dogs/cats):

Age ____	Sex ____	Breed _____	Dog/Cat ( <i>circle one</i> )
Age ____	Sex ____	Breed _____	Dog/Cat ( <i>circle one</i> )
Age ____	Sex ____	Breed _____	Dog/Cat ( <i>circle one</i> )
Age ____	Sex ____	Breed _____	Dog/Cat ( <i>circle one</i> )

*(list any additional companion animals on back)*

# of Children in the home and their ages: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults in the home: \_\_\_\_\_ # of elderly Adults in the home: \_\_\_\_\_

Fencing type and height : \_\_\_\_\_

Pasture size(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Will the dog be in with livestock or in an alley? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe where you live:  Country  Semi-rural (*less than 5 acres*)  Town

How close is your nearest neighbor? \_\_\_\_\_

Will the dog live...  Outside only  Inside and Outside

Have you ever owned a large working breed?  Yes  No

If "Yes", what breed? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever owned a Livestock Guardian Dog?  Yes  No

If "Yes" what breed? \_\_\_\_\_

Is anyone in your household afraid of dogs?  Yes  No

Is anyone in your household allergic to dogs?  Yes  No

Have you ever obedience trained a dog?  Yes  No

Will you have time to supervise and train an Akbash Dog puppy for the **2 years** necessary to produce a well-trained guardian dog and take it to a puppy socialization *and* obedience class?

Yes  No

Does dog hair shedding bother you?  Yes  No

Are there any traits you consider important for your dog to have? (*please describe*)

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Does barking outside bother you?  Yes  No

Where will the puppy sleep?  Yes  No

Where will the puppy stay during the day? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you read any dog training book? If "Yes", which?

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Have you read *Livestock Protection Dogs* by Sims & Dawydiak, Alpine Publications and *On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals*, by Turid Rugass (recommended)?  Yes  No

In order to select a puppy that is right for your family, describe your activities and temperament: quiet, noisy, loud, outside people, inside activities, etc.

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Why do you prefer an Akbash Dog over another breed?

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Are you prepared to strictly supervise a young Akbash Dog with your livestock until it matures at 1-2 years of age?  Yes  No

What type of temperament do you prefer? (*select one*)

Quiet, Submissive       Steady, Even       Lively, Energetic  
 Assertive, Protective       Fierce, Aggressive

Why an Akbash Dog over other breeds as a companion? \_\_\_\_\_

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What behavior(s) would you consider unacceptable according to your lifestyle? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have an Obedience class in mind?  Yes  No

Tell me exactly what kind of correction you would do and how, when your puppy inappropriately growls at you or anyone for any reason?

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Do you plan to breed your dog if it qualifies for breeding at age 2?  Yes  No

## About Neutered Dogs

Neutered dogs of either sex make the healthiest and most reliable guardians and companions. Bitches in heat need to be isolated indoors or in escape-proof quarters for 3 weeks every 6-10 months. During this period, both she and the male dog may be irritable and aggressive with both livestock and people and inattentive, leaving livestock vulnerable to predation. Dog breeding is very time consuming with little profit. Breeders need to be dedicated and committed to the preservation and welfare of the breed and willing to study pedigrees and genetics.

A responsible breeder will learn all they can about the correct conformation, temperament, and proper aptitude the livestock guardian dog, be willing to carefully place your puppies, give guidance to your buyers, stand behind your guarantees, and take back or help place dogs that need to be re-homed. This breed is not for everyone and very careful and responsible placement of the pups is critical to the dogs' success. Breeders should be able to test their dogs with livestock in order to verify that those traits important in livestock protection are maintained. Dedicated and responsible breeders are welcome.

The demand for Akbash Dog puppies is currently low, and good puppy placements are difficult to make. Breeders must be able to have the time and space to start puppies properly with stock and keep them sometimes for as long as 12 months before finding suitable placements.

**Are you willing to take back and help place failed puppies should you breed and sell?**

**Yes**       **No**

If "Yes", how comfortable are you in evaluating conformation and aptitude? (*select one*)

Not at all comfortable. I don't know much about it.

I intend to learn what I need to know to make good assessments.

I am very confident in my ability to evaluate both conformation and ability.

Do you live where there are lots of burs and foxtail grass?  Yes       No

Akbash coats come in a variety of lengths from relatively smooth to long. Medium-long coated dogs have smooth to rough body coats with longer hair on the tail, ruff, and leg feathering. Neither coat mats. *Indicate preference for coat length if possible...*

Short       Medium/Long       Long

Preferred Sex:  Male       Female       Either

May we contact your veterinarian for a reference?  Yes       No

If "Yes" please provide veterinarian's full, name, address and phone number

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For air shipping, what is the closest large airport? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you prepared to care for this dog for its entire life?  Yes       No

... even if you no longer have livestock?  Yes       No

Do you have any other comments that might help me select a puppy for you? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Suggested Reading

I recommend potential owners read the following books: *On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals*, by Turid Rugaas and *Livestock Protection Dogs, Care Selection and Training*, by Sims and Dawydiak, Alpine Publishing.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please print out the document to send to me with your deposit check and Buyer Seller Agreement.