

**Austerlitz German Shepherds**

**New Client Questionnaire.**

Thank you for taking the time to fill out our New Client Questionnaire. Please take your time and answer each question, incomplete questionnaires will be discarded. We appreciate your effort.

Please note! These questions are not intended to be judgmental, our only goal is to learn as much about your needs in a GSD as possible in order to help you find the best puppy for your individual situation. Completion does not guarantee approval for a puppy.

**Section 1: Yourself**

Name:

Occupation:

Do you: Own\_\_\_\_or Rent\_\_\_\_ Can we contact your landlord/property manager to verify your lease/rental agreement permits large breed dogs? If so please provide contact information:

City: State: Zip:

Phone:

**Section 2: Family.**

1. Please list all members of your household followed by their age. Please list all permanent residents as well those who might visit on a regular basis.
2. Please state how each member feels about adding a dog? Do any of these household members NOT want to add a dog or have reservations?
3. Are any members of this household afraid of, or allergic to, dogs?
4. Do any members of this household have any special needs, either physical or developmental, that might affect how they relates, handles, or lives with a large dog?
5. If you have children, or are planning children, how would you ensure your children and dog had a good relationship? Are you expecting your child(ren) to be your dog’s primary caregiver?
6. Are there other pets living in your household? If so please list each one along with species, age, and how you envision them getting along with a GSD.
7. Who is going to be your dog’s primary caregiver? Does this person work full time?
8. Please tell us about your lifestyle. Please include average work week for adults in residence, after school activities children attend, how you enjoy spending your spare time and how much spare time you actually have.
9. Does your work require travel? Who will care for your dog when you are away?

Section 3:

German Shepherd Dogs.

1. What has drawn you to the German Shepherd breed?
2. What has interested you in our breeding program?
3. What traits are you looking for in a GSD?
4. Are you aware that GSDs have a double coat and shed copiously?
5. How much free time do you have available each day to devote to your dogs exercise and training and how likely are you to spend free time with your dog?
6. Have you ever owned a GSD before? If so what happened to that dog?
7. Do you own a GSD now? If so it is intact? Does it have any behavioral or health problems?

**Section 4:**

**Your Puppy Plan.**

1. Do you have a gender preference? If so why? If that gender is not available will you accept a puppy of the opposite sex?
2. Please rank your color preference, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_\_Solid Black

\_\_\_\_\_\_Sable: Red

\_\_\_\_\_\_Sable: Black

\_\_\_\_\_\_Black and Tan: Saddle

\_\_\_\_\_\_Black and Tan: Blanket

\_\_\_\_\_\_Black and Tan: Bi Color

\_\_\_\_\_\_I have no color preference

\_\_\_\_\_\_I will accept ONLY the color(s) marked

1. Please rank your coat preference, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_\_Stock Coat (most likely in any litter)

\_\_\_\_\_\_Long Stock Coat (Rare in our program)

\_\_\_\_\_\_I have no coat preference

\_\_\_\_\_\_I will accept ONLY the coat type I have checked.

1. Under what circumstances can you envision needing to rehome or return a dog?
2. Annual care of an adult GSD can exceed, easily, $2000 per year, more for seniors and puppies. How likely (from 1, meaning unlikely to 10 meaning highly likely) are you to spend your discretionary money on training classes, health care, dog food, dog toys, and other ongoing dog needs **AND** do you feel confident you can afford to care for a GSD?
3. Please tell us specifically where your puppy will be during: 1. The night time, 2. When no person is home, and 3. during times when people are home.
4. How do you feel about crate training and how do you plan to house train your puppy?
5. Please rate your interest in training your puppy/dog from 1 (I have zero time/ zero interest) to 10 (I am a professional or hobby trainer and plan to spend several hours per week working with and training my dog).
6. Have you taken any dogs through training classes? If so please tell us about your experiences (including the name of the company) and if your dog completed the class.
7. Do you plan on taking training classes with your dog? If No, how do you plan on teaching your puppy what it needs to learn? If Yes, please list the company you have chosen, if the class is in person, or online, what classes they offer that most interest you, and finally, what attracted you to this service provider?
8. Do you plan on pursuing any dog sports such as: Agility, Obedience, Treibball, Herding, Tracking, Rally Obedience, Schutzhund? If yes, please give us the name of coach or club you are planning on training with (this is **Required** for all sport prospects). How long have you been training with this club/coach?
9. How would you feel about your dog if they were not suited to your dog sport desires?
10. Do you plan on pursuing personal protection training? If YES, please provide us with contact information and website for your trainer. This is **Required** for all PP prospects.
11. Any breed of dog can require emergency or urgent medical care. German Shepherds are a high risk breed for Gastic Dilation Volvulus (Bloat) this is a life threatening emergency. Bloat may be prevented by a surgical procedure called a Gastropexi (securing the stomach to a rib) this may cost between $300 and $800 (depending on location and vet) how likely are you to discuss this condition with your vet and consider this preventive procedure if your veterinarian recommends it? \_\_\_\_Very, \_\_\_\_Somewhat, \_\_\_\_\_Not at all. **Further!**  Emergency Surgery is the only way to save a bloating dog, do you have access to an animal emergency center? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_No, if No, do you have access to any after hours Veterinary care? Yes\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_\_.
12. Please tell us a little bit about how you enjoy relating to your dogs. For example, which best describes how you view your relationship to your dog. a. My dogs are like my friends, we enjoy doing things together. b. My dogs are my followers, they know I am in charge. c. My dogs are like my children.
13. Do you believe a dog needs to receive physical corrections or punishment in order to be a well trained companion or sport dog?
14. Do you plan on utilizing training tools such as a pinch/prong collar, choke/training collar, or shock/e collar, penny cans, spray bottles, to train your dog?
15. Have you used such tools in the past to train or manage your dog? Have you received training in the proper use of these tools?
16. Please list books, blogs, podcasts, DVDs, articles and any other resources on training and behavior that you have read and enjoyed. How would you rate your interest in reading, listening, or viewing training and behavior type information? (Hint: if you don’t have anything to list here, please consider the number you have chosen for number 8 above)
17. Under what circumstance can you envision using training tools such as pinch/prong collars, “choke chain” type collars, Electric or “shock” collars, stim or “stimulation” collars, bark collars, hidden fence systems, on your dog? Perhaps if the dog exhibited undesired behavior, or if your trainer recommended them and taught you how to use them?
18. Are you planning for your dog to be a house dog or an outside dog?
19. Who will be primarily responsible for training and exercising the dog? How much free time per day does this individual have?
20. Are you familiar with reality TV stars Ceasar Milan(The Dog Whisperer) Matt Beisner (Dog Impossible), Jas Leverette (Canine Intervention)?
21. Do you plan on using any of these methods to train your dog? If so, which ones, and what do you like about these techniques?
22. Do you believe that dogs will attempt to dominate people? If so how do you plan on preventing this?

**Section 5**

**Logistics.**

* 1. Does your home have a securely fenced yard? If so what type of fencing?
  2. If your yard is not fenced do you plan on utilizing a tie out or Hidden Fence system?
  3. Do you rent?
  4. If you needed to move, can you envision needing to return or rehome your dog? Under what circumstances do you think you would need to rehome or return your dog?
  5. Do you have a vet? If so please provide us with contact information if we may contact him/her.

6. Have you ever had to re-home (or get rid of) any pet? If so please explain the circumstances that lead to this decision.

7. Have you ever relinquished any pet to a rescue or animal shelter, if yes please explain the circumstances that led to this decision.

8. Have you ever euthanized (put to sleep) any dog for a non-medical reason? If yes, please explain.

9. Have you had either a male (who sired) or female (who birthed) a litter of puppies? If so please expound.

10. Do you have any plans to breed the dog you wish to obtain from us and if not, are you willing to sign a sterilization or non-breeding contract if requested?

**Finally!!!! Is there anything else you would like us to know about your family?**