

## Puppy Selection & Assignments Info

- Why we assign pups to their homes and not just let people pick a pup
  - We spend several hours every day for many days around there therefore we are able to watch them grow and develop both physically and mentally as they are forming their dispositions and personalities, conformation, movement and athleticism. We will do the best we can with what we have to work with during this specific time period.
    - You visiting a half hour here or there is not going to give you a well-rounded idea of any of the puppies fully.
  - It's important that hunters get pups that are using their nose, unafraid of loud noises or birds, are very outgoing. Homes with kids get a pup that likes the chaos of kids and unafraid of them. Homes with alpha females don't get another alpha which will lead to fights in a few years. And many other home type examples.
- How we decide which pup goes to which home
  - Your application information, so the more you provide the better.
  - Updated info that you provide after your application is submitted such as if you lost a dog, got another pet, moved, changed what you plan to do with the dog, etc.
- Why we wait until 7-8 weeks (few days to 1 week before pick-up) to assign pups
  - So, so, so many reasons therefore please do not press us to decide on assignments prior to this as it doesn't do you or anyone else on the list or the pups any good if we do assign too early and then see more changes in pups later and find that the selection was not ideal at the time before going to homes. I will list the top things below.
  - A list of most important reasons:
    - Pups are changing and developing every single day for many months. Therefore, we use as much of the small window of time when they are finally showing signs of the type of dog they may be, 5-8 weeks. Do temperament tests, evaluate conformation, expose them to birds and observe their natural interests in birds and scent and use of nose or lack of, outside small exploration hikes, and watch them a lot in their puppy pack interactions.
    - In the event a pup has a birth defect that doesn't become obvious for several weeks, pup gets sick or injured, in these circumstances its simplest to go off the list in order of last deposit received if we have to remove the pup from assignment and that person will go on to the list for the next litter. Once the pups are assigned the list order does not apply, the pup you are assigned is yours and if anything happens then it's by assignment. This is hard and a good reason why we wait to just days before they go home. Things can and do happen!
  - Pups are always changing and we have such a small glimpse of time and we can only judge a pup for what they are at that point in time. This doesn't mean they won't change because they will. Some that are shy become more confident with maturity such as less reactive to sounds, new things and whatever they may have been apprehensive about before. A less dominant pup could become more so with age. A pup that seems less interested in birds and scent work may become much more interested with maturity, etc. But we have the time period we have to grade and evaluate them and that is what we will do.