

A*starz Puppy Buyer Questionnaire

This questionnaire was developed through our years of dealing with puppy buyers. Do not be offended by the questions, as in the long run, it is better to find out ahead of time rather than when a puppy becomes a problem because you didn't know what you were getting into. Keeshonds are not unique as far as your getting a dog. Many of the questions have to do with responsible dog ownership and not just that of Keeshond ownership.

We will be available and willing to help and answer questions throughout the lifetime of your Kees. We will explain schedules, crate training, proper grooming, suggested reading materials/books, feeding, training and other tips. When you get a puppy from us, you become part of our "dog family". We won't leave you stranded. If you'd rather not have this kind of contact/communication, then let us know. We would not be "the breeder" for you.

1. Why do you want a Keeshond?
2. Have you seen an adult Keeshond?
3. Have you owned a dog? If so, what happened to it?
4. Who are the members of the household. Adults? Do you have children? Ages of children? List occupations of adult household members.
5. Jealousy between sibling humans is a problem for some families. With a dog as part of your family, if you don't have children now and anticipate having them in the future, have you considered how to introduce the child to the dog? What steps do you see as being necessary to make this a smooth transition and for the furry child to accept the human child/ vice versa?
6. Whose decision was it to get a dog?

7. Who will be responsible for taking care of the puppy?
8. Where will the dog be when you are home? _____
 Where will the dog be kept at night? House _____ Outside _____
 If in the house, where? Your Bedroom _____ Child's Room _____
 Laundry Room _____ Basement _____ Other (please list) _____
 At night will the dog be in a crate or loose? _____
- 8a. Are you familiar with crate training a dog? If so, explain past experience & how you crate trained, & if not I can provide info.
9. Is someone home during the day? If not, how many hours per day during the week will your puppy be "locked up" or confined?
10. Keeshonds have a double coat. They will require weekly brushing. Are you prepared to spend about 1 hour a week brushing your Kees?
11. Kees change coats, or shed, many times during their lives. Puppies, from age 12wks to 3yrs, go through many coat changes. Are you willing to learn to use & purchase proper grooming tools and groom your kees yourself? If not, explain how you will care for your dog's coat during its life.
12. Kees puppies will require training. Are you willing to attend a puppy kindergarten class or basic obedience class (usually an 8 week course) at your local kennel club? Have you trained a dog before? If so explain.
13. Puppies require house training. This includes toilet training and teaching them what they can and can't chew. Kees puppies can be stubborn. This involves keeping them on a feeding and toilet schedule. Based upon your persistence, it may take from 2-6 months to accomplish successful house training. Do you have the patience to properly train your puppy to develop house manners?

14. A Kees puppy is like a 2 year old child for the first year or two of it's life. They are not hyper-active but may need to "run off energy" during growth times. Are you willing to provide your puppy exercise and patience to get through this?
15. All dogs require veterinary care from time to time, including routine vaccinations. Dogs will sometimes do things that result in injuries to themselves. Are you willing and do you have the money to spend should such accidents occur?
16. Dogs occasionally get coughs, upset stomachs, viral infections, bacterial infections, and skin ailments. Your veterinarian has antibiotics and other remedies to help your dog/puppy recover. Do you have the money to spend on routine veterinary care? (vaccinations, wormings, etc)
17. What are your views on dog nutrition, dog foods, vaccinations, medications, antibiotics?
- 17a. Are you willing to do some cooking for your puppy/dog? Have you cooked for an animal before? If so, explain.
- 17b. Have you ever fed raw foods to your pets? If so, explain. What are your views on feeding raw foods?
18. The average life span of a Kees is 15 years. Do you intend to keep this Kees for it's lifetime?
19. If you and your family relocate (due to job situation, personal situation or preference) to another town or state, what will happen to this dog?
20. Does anyone in the household smoke?
21. Does anyone in the household have allergies to dogs, cats or other fur creatures?

22. Do you own _____ or rent _____
 If you rent, do you have permission to have a dog? _____ Proof will need to be provided.
 Home _____ Apartment _____ Townhouse _____ Trailer _____
23. Is your yard securely fenced? _____ Type of fence? _____
 How many feet high? _____ Do you padlock your gates? _____
 Do you have a kennel run? _____
24. If you do not have a securely fenced yard, how do you plan on exercising your new dog/puppy?
25. Do you have a pool? _____
 Is it fenced separately from the rest of the yard? _____
26. How would you describe your lifestyle as a family? _____
 What type of recreation do you enjoy as a family? _____
 How do you usually spend your family vacations? _____
 How would the puppy be cared for when you are away? _____
27. Are you aware that all vet schools and the American Animal Hospital Association are recommending a reduced vaccination protocol? _____
 Are you willing to not vaccinate yearly (per the research that is out there), even if your vet isn't aware of the new research? _____

For reference please check this website:

<http://www.jaaha.org/cgi/reprint/42/2/80> - American Animal Hospital Assoc

and for more articles please put dog vaccines in your search engine to pull up many articles that address this.

28. What else do you want us to know about you?
(attach or send a separate note/letter if you like; pictures can be included)

Should you have any questions, feel free to ask us. We want to help in whatever way we can to make this "adoption" successful. We love all our puppies and are going to remain in contact with you. We will want to hear all your problems as well as your stories about your Kees and the cute things he/she does throughout the life of your Kees.

Owning a puppy or a dog is a big responsibility. It's expensive and takes a lot of time, effort and love. It's a big commitment for the whole family. Well-behaved dogs are not born, they are the result of care, attention and training. In return for all these things, your dog will give you a lifetime of devotion, companionship, and loyalty.

Do's AND Don'ts of Responsible Dog Ownership

DO give your dog lots of time, attention and love. Make him a family member.

DO fence in your yard or an area of your yard to keep your dog home and safe.

DO provide your dog with daily exercise.

DO use your leash whenever your dog is off your property.

DO use your pooper-scooper and clean up your yard at least 3 times a week.

DO pick up after your dog if he leaves a mess in your neighbor's yard or in a public place. (baggies work best)

DO teach your dog good manners and attend local obedience training classes.

DO have your dog checked by your veterinarian regularly.

DO spay and neuter.

DO buy your dog a license as required by your local government.

DO look into getting your dog tattooed and/or microchipped. This can save his life, help get him home faster if he gets lost. A tattoo can keep him from becoming a laboratory guinea pig.

DON'T acquire a pet on the spur of the moment - be sure you have the time, money and are willing to provide daily care.

DON'T let your dog run loose.

DON'T forget to brush and bathe your dog and trim it's toenails at least 2 times a month.

DON'T forget to provide ample water, food and shelter for your dog.

DON'T be embarrassed to ask for help with your dog/puppy.

DON'T leave your dog in a parked car on a warm day. The temp can reach 160 degrees in a matter of minutes, even with partially opened windows. This can result in brain damage or death. On hot days (over 70 degrees), your pet is safer at home than in a vehicle.

Owning a pet is a big responsibility, but in return, you get a friend for life!