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PUPPY ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Biting.** Puppies have sharp, razor-like teeth. And they use their teeth in play. An applicant with small children can expect those teeth to break skin. If the children are babies, instead, an adult dog should be considered. The same thing applies if there are people in the home with medical conditions who have frail, easily torn skin. A better choice for that household is an adult dog, not an untrained baby with razor teeth. Having two puppies may help. Siberians are pack animals.
2. **Stress.** Also, if there are small babies in the home, those folks already have their hands full. Raising a puppy and baby at the same time causes problems in most households. Unless there is lots of help, they should consider getting an adult dog, not a puppy, while they have human babies.
3. **Time.** Because puppies are babies, just like human babies, they need warmth, love, & nurturing. A good rule of thumb as well as our requirement is not to leave puppies alone without humans more **total** hours per day than the puppy is months old. Perhaps there is a dog-friendly office, grandma will babysit, or schedules overlap. There are also puppy daycare centers. When pup gets older (6-10 months) but still a pup, consider having a midday walker.
4. **Size.** If size is important, a mixed-breed puppy should not be adopted. Instead, it should be an adult dog or a purebred puppy. We can only make educated guesses about how big or small mixes will be. Purebred Siberians can be expected to weigh approximately 45-60 pounds for males and 35-50 for females.
5. **Confinement.**

INDOORS: Just as human babies wouldn't be left alone, canine babies cannot be left alone. They must be confined so they don't get hurt when alone. It also might save a couch, a doorframe, a remote control, socks, curtains, wires, just to mention a few of the things puppies famously demolish. A must for puppy's safety is to have and use a crate when puppy is unsupervised. (We recommend IATA-compliant hard plastic or steel heavy-duty crates, not wire crates, for in-home use.)

OUTDOORS: NEVER tie a puppy or leave a pup outside unattended. In fact, puppies cannot be on the ground until about 4 months of age. See #11 below.

6. **Noise.** Just like human babies, pups are quite loud and disruptive and can get into trouble. Because of this and destructiveness, pups and young Siberians do not make good apartment pets. Older Siberians do, however. Apartment dwellers should look at dogs around age 3 and up.

7. **Training.** All dogs need training. An untrained puppy is an unhappy dog & makes for an unhappy family. Get the puppy into training, whether a formal training program or a do-it-yourself one, as soon as possible.
8. **Housebreaking.** Puppies do not automatically know where they are expected to potty. They have to be taught. Siberian huskies are generally fairly easy to train in this area. Crates & treats are useful tools in this endeavor. It takes patience and time. Remember, puppy bladders aren't as big as adult dog bladders. They can't hold it as long as grown dogs can. Is this commitment doable for your household?
9. **Family.** As noted above, understand puppies will chew on children or those with frail skin in the home. In addition to the razor-sharp teeth, puppies knock down tiny people and can hurt them that way. Puppies play as rough as children do, which means children can get hurt. Also, their hair can get pulled because they are at puppy level. Families adopting puppies should be sure their families consist of the right age groups of humans prepared for all that puppies entail.
10. **Commitment.** If in 5-10 years, one expects to be traveling or moving somewhere they cannot have pets or will be retired and don't want to be tied down, they should not get a puppy. They should, instead, get an older dog. A Siberian husky puppy under a year old can be expected to live 13-15 more years. Older, calmer dogs make wonderful pets. There is nothing worse than a dog having a home for a few years and then becoming unwanted. BE SURE the commitment is for the life of the pet.
11. **Supervision.** Besides the fact that a puppy has to be watched all of the time, just like a human baby, a puppy cannot be put on the ground in areas other than his or her own fenced yard until the puppy has reached 4 months of age & has had adequate vaccine protection. Anywhere the puppy can pick up germs or diseases on public ground is off limits. Puppies don't have enough shots & haven't built up enough immunity for that yet. Of course, consult with your veterinarian on this. When outside his or her fenced area, the puppy will need to be carried. If there is no fence, the puppy will need to use paper inside the house. Therefore, we prefer puppy homes with existing fences.
12. **Cost.** First, applicants have to be approved to adopt. It all starts with an application. If approved, one part of the contractual process is the requirement to make a donation to the organization. That donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law & must be a minimum of \$500 for a puppy under 6 months of age. The adopters will be given the pup's medical file. The cost of a puppy does not stop there. Also, one must consider the cost of caring for a pet for many years. That includes not only food but grooming, medical expenses, & boarding when traveling, toys, & training, etc.
13. **Cats.** While all Siberian husky puppies we've met are cat-friendly, Siberian huskies commonly are not cat-friendly as they age. Pet Harbor does not place purebred Siberian huskies puppies in homes with cats. To those homes, Pet Harbor places adult Siberian huskies who have been introduced to cats and shown a positive reaction.