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## PUPPY ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Biting**. Puppies have sharp, razor-like teeth. And they use their teeth in play. Those teeth can be expected to break the skin of small children or people with some medical conditions or who have frail, easily torn skin. If this is a concern, an adult dog, instead, should be considered. Having two puppies sometimes helps in this area as Siberians are pack animals.
2. **Stress**. Also, if there are small babies in the home, the folks in the home already have their hands full. Raising a puppy and baby at the same time causes problems in many households. Unless there is lots of help, folks with children under age 3 should consider getting a Siberian husky 6 months and older while they have human babies.
3. **Time**. Just like human babies, puppies 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) and can be left alone longer hours but is 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 unrestricted. 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. (For Siberians older than puppy age, we recommend 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. Many older Siberians do, however. Apartment dwellers should look at dogs around age 3 and up.

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Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.  
Our mission is to save lives of and provide education about Siberian huskies.*

7. **Training**. All dogs need training. An untrained puppy becomes 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. There are plenty of homeless Siberians of all ages who desperately seek homes and families. 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/puppy pads inside the house.
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. All of our puppies will be fixed and appropriately vaccinated for their age when they leave Pet Harbor. The cost of a puppy does not stop there. One must also 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, many Siberian huskies age 4 months and up are not cat-friendly. Therefore, Pet Harbor does not place purebred Siberian husky puppies under 4 months of age in homes with cats. To those homes, Pet Harbor places Siberian huskies 4 months of age and older who have been introduced to cats and have shown a positive reaction.

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