



Guardian Families

At Manny Park, guardian families are the backbone of our program. Since the program began around seven years ago, we have welcomed many wonderful families into the Manny Park community and continue to stay in touch with past guardian families and their beloved dogs.

Carefully chosen puppies are placed with guardian families free of charge, where they are raised and loved as part of the family. If, after reading the frequently asked questions below, you feel this could be the right fit for you, please complete an application and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please note: Guardian families must live within approximately one hour of the Sunshine Coast.

1. Breeding and Seasons

How many litters does a guardian dog have?

Our girls will have a maximum of two litters. Where all health and timing considerations are suitable, we would usually breed on the second and third season. This approach is preferred by our veterinarian and ensures our girls are desexed and retired before they turn four years old.

How often do the girls come into season?

Generally, girls come into season every six to eight months from around 10 months of age.

How do I care for a dog in season?

Most dogs in season will bleed for seven to ten days. During this time, we use baby nappies with a hole cut for the tail; the Aldi brand is inexpensive and works well. Please choose a size that fits comfortably. Dogs in season must not be taken to public areas until the season has finished. Beaches and dog parks should only be considered if you are certain there are no other dogs present.

How will I know when our guardian needs to return for breeding?

Dogs usually begin ovulating around 10 days into their cycle. Please notify Manny Park as soon as you notice bleeding. If it is a season when your girl is due to be mated, we will coordinate the timing for her return to Manny Park.

2. Time Away from Home

How long will our guardian dog be away from us?

If a planned litter is scheduled for your girl, she will return to Manny Park for mating for approximately three days, then come home until about one week before the puppies are due. She will then return to Manny Park and stay until the puppies are six weeks old. During this time, guardian families are welcome to visit mum and puppies throughout their journey.

3. Costs and Responsibilities

Who pays veterinary expenses?

Manny Park pays all breeding-related veterinary expenses. We also provide a goodwill payment of \$100 per puppy, per litter, to our guardian families. In addition, a \$250 food allowance is paid to help cover extra food while Mumma is pregnant.

Who pays for grooming and dietary needs?

The guardian family is responsible for the day-to-day feeding and grooming of their guardian dog. Because these dogs are either low-shedding or non-shedding, regular grooming is essential. A good slicker brush and steel comb are necessary for at-home coat maintenance.

Our dogs are fed a raw diet supplemented with Black Hawk high-quality grain-free dry food and Lyka premium pre-packaged fresh food.

Manny Park guardians receive an ongoing Lyka discount using this link:

<https://lyka.com.au/join/LYKAGUARDIAN25>

Manny Park can also purchase Black Hawk dry food for you at a discounted rate.

4. Ownership and Long-Term Commitment

When will the guardian dog officially be ours?

Once your guardian dog has completed her two litters, Manny Park will pay for desexing and ownership will be transferred into the guardian family's name. Until then, the guardian dog remains owned by Manny Park and cannot be taken away from the Sunshine Coast.

Important: A guardian home is intended to be for the life of the dog, unless unforeseen circumstances prevent this from happening.

If you need to leave your guardian dog in someone else's care while you are away, for any length of time, please contact us with the temporary carer's details.