

## *BUFF CAP AUSSIES*

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**A New Parent's Guide To Acquiring A Buff Cap Aussie**

### ***Frequently Asked Questions***

I welcome your questions at any stage of the process as well as after you take your puppy home. These FAQs are intended to give you some information but not to discourage any questions you may have.

#### **Are your dog's eyes checked?**

The puppies eyes are always checked at around 7 weeks of age by a certified dog ophthalmologist. My adult dog's eyes are checked annually by a certified dog ophthalmologist.

#### **Do you de-worm and what do you recommend?**

All of my dogs are routinely dewormed with Safeguard suspension. Safeguard de-worms for hook, tapes, round and whip worms. All of my puppies are dewormed with Strongid and/or Safeguard prior to leaving. You should still have the stool checked by your Veterinarian to make certain the de-worming was successful. You should have a dog's stool checked at least once a year and should discuss the results with your veterinarian.

#### **What do you recommend for Heartworm preventative?**

My adult dogs are tested annually for heartworm. They are treated every 45 days (many Vets are recommending this time frame even though the directions indicate every 30 days) from approximately June through October with Interceptor. The heartworm cycle is around 6 months. A new puppy should not have to be tested but can be put on a heartworm program and tested the following year. I do not use Heartguard as it contains Ivermectin.

#### **Can you explain more about Ivermectin and other drug sensitivities?**

Many herding dogs may have a sensitivity to Ivermectin and certain other drugs such as Loperamide which is the main ingredient of Imodium. This is very common in Aussies. Dogs with this sensitivity have a MDR 1 mutated gene. Dogs with the mutation can experience severe reactions which may lead to seizures and death if they are administered one of these drugs. You can find a list of the drugs that cause MDR1 reactions at <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-vcpl/#drugs> and [busteralert.org](http://busteralert.org). A test is available from Washington State University to screen your dog. If your dog has even one copy of the mutated version of the gene, there are alternative medications that can be given to your dog. Talk to your Vet regarding this information.

#### **Do you recommend a crate?**

I recommend crate training for puppies as this not only assists with the house training process and gives the dog a "den" of its own, but prevents the puppy from remodeling your home and chewing your favorite possessions. I own Midwest, General Cage, Veri-Kennels and Precision. Buying a Medium to Large crate will allow the puppy to continue using it into adulthood. You can always put something inside the crate to make the area smaller when the puppy is small to avoid the puppy using one end for sleeping and the other end for eliminating. Putting towels, newspapers or beds in the crate for your puppy can provide your puppy with many hours of destructive chewing fun and generally encourage elimination. They are not recommended until your puppy has stopped chewing and is house broken.

#### **What do you recommend for food?**

I am currently feeding my adult dogs (dogs over a year of age) Wellness Core Dry Dog food. Core is rated as a "6" on [dogfoodanalysis.com](http://dogfoodanalysis.com). Core is a grain free, low carbohydrate, high protein food based on the concept of feeding raw. Nutritionists and certain Vets agree that a grain free diet helps to prevent cancer and helps dogs who have already been diagnosed with cancer. There are other good brands ranked between 4 and 6 and there is also the option to feed your dog a raw diet. It is advised to feed dogs under a year of age a diet with lesser calcium



(under 1.5) than the grain free foods. Dogs under a year may do well on foods such as California Natural, Innova or Wellness Puppy or Super5Mix Chicken. The Internet has much information regarding dog diets for your research. Visit [dogfoodanalysis.com](http://dogfoodanalysis.com), [dogaware.com](http://dogaware.com) and [dogfoodproject.com](http://dogfoodproject.com). In researching these sites I found the following information of notable interest. Research at Purdue University has identified a fat (e.g. Chicken fat) in the top 4 ingredients of a dry food as a factor that increases the risk of bloat in large breed dogs. Some information considered any breed that matures over 26 pounds to be a large breed. Natura provides a very good chart of ingredients to seek and ingredients to avoid. Dogaware.com provides an excellent article "Diet And The Older Dog." Recent research indicates that senior dogs need more protein than previously thought as their systems are less efficient at metabolizing protein. This site also provides excellent information under Commercial Dog Foods "How to select the best commercial foods". Dogfoodproject.com has a list called "Ingredients to Avoid". Beet Pulp is a controversial ingredient but much information indicated it has been associated with allergies and ear infections. If Citric Acid is used as a preservative, the food should not be premoistened prior to feeding as this is a bloat risk factor for large breed dogs. I previously fed Canidae All Life Stages but do not recommend this food any longer. Canidae was sold to Diamond and in May of 2008, the formula was changed to add many grains, fillers and grain fractions as well as other numerous changes. Many dogs have had adverse effects from the new formula and a class action law suit was initiated in January of 2009 against Diamond and Canidae.

The puppies typically eat about a cup to a cup and a half per day split into two or three feedings. I can be more precise when you pick up your puppy as some require more or less depending on their development. During a puppy's growth period, the food will need to be adjusted up and down to fit the puppies individual requirements.

I mix the dry food with a little warm water and a tablespoon or two of quality canned dog food. Some of the favorites are: Wellness 95% Meat, Merrick, Wysong, Neura, Abady Chicken or Beef Muscle Meat or Tripe.) You should look for canned foods that do not have many ingredients such as additional vitamins and supplements that will interfere with the balance of the kibble. If supplementing with the same brand of canned food as kibble, they are specially formulated to work with the kibble.

I feed natural cookies to my dogs as treats and rewards. Old Mother Hubbard and Wysong cookies are a favorite but there are many other good brands. You should look for cookies that do not have many ingredients. You do not need to feed cookies that have additional vitamins and supplements that will interfere with the balance of the kibble.

If you cannot find the food you decide to purchase, you may find it and order it from 1-800-WGN-TAIL or [www.waggintails.com](http://www.waggintails.com)

### **What kind of collar should I get?**

I recommend getting an adjustable collar of about 12 to 20 inches to provide the puppy room to grow into it as an adult.

### **What kind of leash should I get?**

I prefer a nylon leash that is at least 6 feet long. I also have "bungee" leashes for those dogs that need to learn not to pull.

### **What kind of toys do you recommend?**



You will need many play and chew things to help relieve boredom. My dogs prefer fleece toys and rubber toys. If your Aussie is particularly destructive with toys, the ones with the least appendages work best. Tennis balls are a necessity for many Aussies. While your puppy is teething, empty plastic water/soda bottles make inexpensive toys.

Your puppy will need chew toys also. I do not recommend rawhide unless it is pressed. There are completely edible, digestible nylabones made for puppies. Once my puppies are around 6 months of age, I also let them have smoked calf knees to chew. They come in a bag of 5 and can be found at PETCO. Smoked hooves are also a favorite of my dogs.

### **How do you teach the puppy not to play bite or jump on people?**

I use verbal commands and may resort to a little more attention getting methods if necessary, such as a swat with my hand or paper. I never hurt my dogs but some need a little more control than just verbal. I may also use dominance tactics such as grabbing them by the sides of the neck hair and mildly shaking and/or semi-dangling while scolding, much as the mother dog would do to her young pups.

### **Do you check your puppies or dogs for hip dysplasia?**

A dog has to be at least 2 years of age before they can receive their OFA evaluation. Any dogs that I breed have a normal OFA rating. I think there is a good foundation for having normal hips since my dogs go back many generations having normal hips; however, my contract has my guarantee regarding hip dysplasia in the event I sold a puppy who developed dysplasia. It also indicates things you need to do in order to help avert hip dysplasia which can also be environmental as opposed to genetic.

### **What can you tell me about other illnesses?**

There is a wealth of information regarding Aussie genetics and illnesses at <http://www.ashgi.org>. Cancer and epilepsy are becoming more common in Aussies. Epilepsy is well worth researching and further discussion.

### **What vaccinations do you recommend?**

There is not one topic as controversial as the topic of vaccines. I recommend that all pet owners become educated about vaccines and make an informed decision of their own. The Internet has a wealth of information regarding vaccines. I do not vaccinate my puppies prior to them leaving for their new home. Based on my research, I will give distemper and parvo vaccines to my puppies, but I wait until they are at least 10 weeks of age. I am using a vaccine protocol recommended by W. Jean Dodds, DVM, HEMOPET. The 27 Vet schools in the US do not recommend annual vaccinations and are moving away from repetitive puppy shots and also vaccinations at an early age. They also do not recommend Leptospirosis or Lyme vaccines. Research also indicates that many vaccines may have a lifetime immunity and at least a minimum of 5 - 7 years while others have a limited immunity and may prevent the disease for minimal strains. Bordatella (kennel cough) vaccine lasts approximately 6 months and Leptospirosis vaccine lasts approximately 3 - 4 months and both may only prevent the disease caused by minimal strains. It is also indicated that geriatric dogs (age 7+) should not be vaccinated and no puppy or dog should be vaccinated during any period of stress (e.g. during illness, the first few weeks of arrival at a new home or any other new situation, at the same time of an operation, etc.) It is not recommended to combine shots at the same time. Much information recommends that a rabies shot should never be given at the same time as any other shot. Vaccinating is another topic well worth research. (See my recommended books)



**Do you test for Lyme disease?**

I generally test annually for Lyme disease. I may or may not treat a dog that tests positive. It depends on the degree of positive as well as whether the dog is showing any symptoms or not. Most Vets will use Doxycycline to treat your dog for Lyme. Many may consider the Lyme vaccination as part of the treatment. You should research what the Vet schools have to say about Lyme vaccinations before you make a decision to administer this vaccine or not.

**What kind of pedigree and registration papers do you provide?**

I provide a 5 generation pedigree on my pups to the owners. I guarantee in my contract that all puppies are able to be registered with ASCA and AKC, that I will provide the pedigree, and you will get the necessary papers to register the pup.

**Are your puppies show or pet quality?**

Unless I have a good show home available, my pups are sold as pets even if I think there is a pup with show potential. My contract requires any pup sold as a pet must be spayed or neutered and the registration papers will indicate that the animal must not be used for breeding.

**When can I see the puppy and when will it be ready to come home?**

Once the puppies are around 4 - 5 weeks old, you can visit. They will have their eyes open and be running around by then. Aussie puppies take 63 days to whelp (from gestation to birth) and then another 8 weeks until they are ready to leave. My puppies generally leave around 8 weeks to go home with their new families.

**Can I reserve a puppy from a future litter?**

I accept deposits on future litters; however, I require you to visit and meet me and the dogs. We would need to determine whether an Aussie would be a good match for you and your family. I will accept a deposit if after screening, I believe an Aussie is the right choice for you. Deposits are at the top of my list after I pick any that I may want for show purposes. My goal is to help you pick a puppy that suits your life style and family, rather than picking a specific color or sex. A deposit is \$200 which is non-refundable if you change your mind but is refundable if I cannot get you a puppy. The clause is in my contract for you to read (see attached). I require completion of the contract with the deposit. I will accept a check for the deposit. The balance is payable at the time you pick up your puppy and must be either cash or a bank check. I do not accept personal checks for the balance.

**What are Aussies like?**

I always tell people they need to research the breeds they are interested in because an Aussie is not for everyone. There is good information on the United States Australian Shepherd site and the Australian Shepherd Club of America site (See below).

Aussies are loyal and have a need to be with you. It has also been stated "All dogs need exercise, mental stimulation and clear expectations, and an Aussie needs a double-dose of all three." Some Aussies would require much more exercise and mental stimulation than a working city dweller can provide while others would be content with less. An Aussie deprived of the necessary exercise will have a tendency to get "wound tight" making it hard for them to settle into the calm dog routine or one that listens well and may also cause an Aussie to become destructive. Unless you have a need for a working dog, you may want to steer away from the more intense working style of Aussie. Show Breeders can usually determine the more laid back puppies in their litters but it may still be more than some people expect.



I generally have anywhere from 1 - 4 Aussies with me in my office. They lay around under my desk and by my chair. They only move if I get up to leave the room.

Sometimes when it is raining for days on end, I have dogs that have not been outside for more than a few minutes at intervals to relieve themselves and they still manage to be well behaved in the house. My dogs have toys in the house and do entertain themselves for brief spells but they are generally very well behaved in the house. They do like to show off when company first arrives.

Aussies are very smart and I believe their energy levels can be managed by proper training but it may depend on the amount of dog savvy of the owner. Aussies can be very manipulative so they need explicit rules and they need to know who is dominant. Aussies that are trained and that you have bonded with are very easy to take off leash. I have many that go with me off leash and do not leave me even when I have 4 or 5 of them at a show or park. You have to be the most interesting and important thing to your Aussie.

Most Aussies have good temperaments but there are bloodlines that tend to have dogs that are more protective. This is a herding breed and there are natural tendencies to protect. This is another area where it is important to provide some rules. Your Aussie should never be allowed to greet company with any type of aggressive behavior, such as barking, charging the door, hackles up, etc.

### **Do Aussies “herd children” and “chase cars”?**

Herding children and chasing cars may be an Aussie’s way of getting some herding in but I also believe that it is a result of poor training. An Aussie that has rules and listens to its owner should not have these issues. Aussies also need a fenced yard and should not be allowed to be unsupervised in a situation where they can chase cars or herd children.

### **How are Aussies with children?**

Any breed of dog including Aussies may be leery of children if they are not exposed to them. Aussies need socialization, so they need to be exposed to what you want them to be good around and they need a firm set of rules. I have sold the majority of my Aussies to families with young children. Young dogs and young children should never be unsupervised. A young pup allowed to run freely after the kids running and screaming in the back yard most likely will be incited to herd and/or nip and to develop bad habits.

### **Can you provide information regarding spaying or neutering?**

Based on recent information, spaying or neutering is not recommended before 14 months of age. <http://www.caninesports.com/excerpts>

### **Can you provide tips regarding housebreaking?**

Puppies have very weak bladders until they are around 6 months of age. Crates are great aids to housebreaking as the majority of Aussies will not soil their crate unless left for long hours. Puppies need to go upon waking, after periods of play and shortly after eating. The conscientious owner who stays on top of their puppy and praises good results outside will have their Aussie trained quickly. Allowing the young children to housebreak or watch a puppy does not generally work well since they are easily distracted from the task at hand.

### **Do Aussies bark a lot?**



Generally speaking, I do not find the breed to be nuisance barkers. They will probably alert you when someone comes on the property or to the door. How much barking and protection they are permitted is a reflection on your training.

### **What do I need for grooming?**

I suggest a good pin brush, a McClellan Stripper, undercoat rake, straight and thinning shears, and a good shampoo. All of these supplies can be obtained from Cherrybrook at [Cherrybrook.com](http://Cherrybrook.com).

### **Links**

Australian Shepherd Club of America -- <http://www.asca.org/>

Australian Shepherd Club of New England -- <http://www.ascne.org/>

U.S. Australian Shepherd Association -- <http://www.australianshepherds.org/>

American Kennel Club -- [http://www.akc.org/breeds/australian\\_shepherd/](http://www.akc.org/breeds/australian_shepherd/)

### **Books**

The Australian Shepherd, Champion of Versatility, Liz Palika

All About Aussies, Joy Jeanne Hartnagle

What Vets Don't Tell You About Vaccines, Catherine O'Driscoll

Natural Immunity, Pat McKay

Homeopathic Care For Cats And Dogs, Don Hamilton , DVM



## PURCHASE CONTRACT

This agreement is made and entered into on \_\_\_\_\_ by and between \_\_\_\_\_ (hereafter "Seller") and \_\_\_\_\_ (hereafter "Buyer"). This agreement sets forth the terms and conditions of the purchase of a purebred Australian Shepherd from the litter whelped on \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_ and by \_\_\_\_\_.

The Seller agrees to sell and Buyer agrees to buy one \_\_\_\_\_ male \_\_\_\_\_ female Australian Shepherd from the litter described above, subject to the following:

1. Seller warrants that the dog described above is a purebred Australian Shepherd registrable or registered with ASCA and AKC. Registration papers will be provided to the Buyer upon receipt of the full purchase amount. Seller will provide pedigree information to the Buyer.
2. Seller warrants that this dog is progeny of animals x-rayed and certified clear of hip dysplasia. Buyer agrees if the dog develops hip dysplasia within 12 months from the date of birth, the dog must be spayed or neutered. The Seller will refund 1/2 of the purchase price to the Buyer upon receipt of Veterinarian certification of hip dysplasia. Buyer agrees to maintain preventative care in regards to hip dysplasia in order to recover said refund. This will include such care as proper nutrition, avoidance of excessive nutrition, proper exercise, and prevention of stress injuries (not allowing said animal to jump from heights taller than itself at the shoulder, no forced exercising, or running until at least 18 months of age).
3. The Buyer agrees to pay the purchase price of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the dog described above. In order to reserve a puppy, a **non-refundable** deposit of \$200.00 will be required. Seller will refund said deposit to the Buyer only if a puppy is not available for purchase from a current litter or may at the option of the Buyer, transfer the deposit to the next available litter.
4. Buyer agrees that the dog may be examined within 5 business days following the date of sale by a Veterinarian of the Buyer's choice. The costs of such examination will be the responsibility of the Buyer. If the Veterinarian finds that the dog is ill or believed to be affected by a health condition, the dog will be returned to the Seller immediately. The first available dog of comparable quality will be exchanged for the ill or affected dog. If the Buyer chooses to keep the ill or affected dog, Buyer agrees that any prior or future medical expenses will remain the sole responsibility of the Buyer.
5. Buyer agrees to register the dog or transfer the dog to their name with ASCA and AKC. Buyer agrees if the dog is not registered, the dog will be registered with the Buff Cap kennel name and the name designated by the Seller on the ASCA and AKC papers.
6. Buyer agrees to spay or neuter a dog that is sold as a pet and agrees that the dog will be registered as "Limited" or "Not for breeding" if not already registered.
7. Buyer agrees that if it becomes necessary to sell or otherwise dispose of this dog, Buyer



will notify the Seller before taking such action. Seller will be given first right to purchase said dog. Buyer agrees that this dog will not be sold to any agent, pet store or guard dog business.

8. Buyer agrees that the dog will reside at the home of the Buyer, have access to a fenced yard, not be chained or tethered, and will be provided with proper housing, diet, exercise and veterinary care. It is recommended as proper socialization that basic obedience and puppy kindergarten training courses be completed.

9. Seller warrants if the dog is being sold as a show prospect that no guarantee is made of the "show prospects" of the dog. Buyer agrees that a dog sold as a show prospect will be co-owned with the Seller. Buyer agrees to make a reasonable effort to show a dog sold as a show prospect to a Championship title(s). Buyer agrees that this animal will not be used for breeding purposes unless agreed to by Seller. Buyer agrees that this dog cannot be used for breeding purposes until it is at least 24 months of age. Buyer agrees that the dog must have its eyes certified as normal annually and must have a hip certification of at least good or better. Buyer agrees that the dog must be of sound temperament, in good health and free of communicable diseases, hereditary faults, and show disqualifying faults as expressed by the official ASCA Standard for the Australian Shepherd. Buyer agrees that any progeny from this dog will not be sold to any agent, pet store or guard dog business. Buyer agrees that if it is determined that the dog is of "pet quality" and not suitable for breeding, such dog must be spayed or neutered.

10. Additional terms and conditions

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Seller: \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Contact Information**

Nancy Gagnon  
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860-684-6934 [buff\\_cap@msn.com](mailto:buff_cap@msn.com) [www.buffcap.com](http://www.buffcap.com)

## **Directions**

**Take 84 East** to exit 70. Take a left at the end of the exit (RT 32). Go approximately 4 miles to the rotary in town. Take the first right after the rotary on Rt 190. Go about a mile up a hill. Take a left on Stafford Street (it is the second left, the first is RT 19.) Go 2 miles, the driveway is on the right, black gates with gold horseshoes.

**Take 84 West** to exit 73. Take a right at the end of the exit (RT 190). Go approximately 6 miles and take a right on Stafford Street. Go 2 miles, the driveway is on the right, black gates with gold horseshoes.

**Take RT 91** to the RT 190 Hazardville/Stafford Springs exit. Follow RT 190 to Stafford Springs, take a left on RT 319 at Chelle's (the blue and pink restaurant). Follow to RT 19. Take a left on RT 19 and immediately take a right on Patton Rd. Follow Patten which turns to the left and comes to a stop sign at Stafford Street. Take a left on Stafford Street. Follow past RFD Rd. on the right. There will be 4 houses and my driveway is on the right, black gates with gold horseshoes.

