**Makonde Rhodesian Ridgebacks**

 **Dr. Holly Simon**

 **Portland, OR 97219**

Thank you for your interest in a Makonde Rhodesian Ridgeback puppy. Our dogs are carefully chosen for their stable temperaments, overall soundness and excellent health. Makonde pedigrees contain show and performance champions that have consistently proven themselves in competition, in the field and as loyal companions. When you purchase a Makonde puppy, you also receive a tremendous amount of support to ensure that this unique history will persevere. It is with these criteria in mind that we request that interested parties first fill out the following questionnaire. With proper care, Rhodesian Ridgebacks often live for 10-15 years, and filling out this questionnaire is an important first step toward establishing a valued relationship with Makonde and welcoming your Ridgeback puppy as a cherished family member. It is also a good way to communicate your expectations in obtaining a Ridgeback. While the goal with this questionnaire is to determine the possible best match of puppy to family, its submission does not in itself guarantee that you will be offered a Makonde puppy. Hopefully that will, in fact, be the outcome! Please insert your name into the file name of this document and the information will, of course, be kept confidential.

This form must be filled out completely by the individual(s) who will be the actual owner(s) of any puppy subsequently provided by Makonde Rhodesian Ridgebacks. Please submit by email to Holly Simon, makonderr@gmail.com. Please take as much time and space needed to fully answer all questions, and thank you for providing this important information.

ABOUT YOU:

Name(s):

Address:

City, State and Zip Code:

Home Phone: Cell Phone:

E-mail:

Occupation(s):

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please explain your reason(s) for wanting to add a Rhodesian Ridgeback to your household:**

(1) Are you inquiring about a Ridgeback for companionship, show/breeding or performance competition?

(2) Would this be your first dog? \_\_\_\_\_\_ If ‘no’, what other dog(s) have you owned. Please include breed(s), where purchased, and if still living - how old (gender/spayed/neutered)?

When did you last raise a puppy? What was its breed?

**Please provide information about your home environment:**

(3) Do you have other pets than those described above that currently share your home? If ‘yes’, what kind(s)?

(4) If applicable, tell us how you feel your current pet(s) would accept a new puppy.

(5) What sort of environment would the puppy share: Urban\_\_\_\_\_ Suburban\_\_\_\_\_ Rural\_\_\_\_\_ Apartment\_\_\_Single Family Home\_\_\_\_\_\_ If you are renting, does your lease allow for large pets on the premises?

(6) What is the approximate size of your yard and is it fenced? If you have a fence, what is its height and construction type? (Photos would be appreciated.)

(7) Will the puppy/dog be primarily inside or outside?

(8) Where will your Ridgeback be when you are not at home?

(9) Are you familiar with crate training? If so, are you planning to crate train your new puppy?

While crates are extremely useful for containing and training purposes, puppies 8 to 10 weeks of age should be crated for no more than 30 to 60 minutes per day. Generally speaking, puppies can control their bladders for 1 hour for every month of age. So, for example, a 3-month old puppy can hold her pee for approximately 3 hours. How will you manage the puppy's needs during your workday or when you need to be away from home for longer periods of time (keep in mind that puppies need stimulation and will have to get out and move around several times a day)?

(10) What do you plan to feed your Ridgeback?

(11) Will you agree to a home visit prior to adoption and during the life of the puppy? Please list any concerns you might have.

(12) Please list three (3) close references who can serve as character witnesses and/or speak to your abilities as a pet owner.

Please provide names, addresses (email and postal), phone numbers and relationships. By providing these references you agree that we may contact these persons and discuss your responsible dog ownership.

a)

b)

c)

**Please provide information about your family:**

(13) If you have children, what are their genders/ages?

 Are they educated about the proper treatment of animals?

(14) Describe your family activities and lifestyle, including hobbies. How do you envision a puppy fitting into your home life?

**Training and living with your Ridgeback**

(15) All puppies can potentially cause damage to clothing, landscaping, and furniture if not properly supervised, and certain materials, such as non-food items that can be ingested or electrical cords that can be chewed are particularly dangerous to puppies? How will you puppy-proof your home?

(16) What do you believe is the best method for training a Rhodesian Ridgeback? What makes this method so effective? Do you have personal experience using this method?

(17) How does a Rhodesian Ridgeback's temperament differ from that of other dog breeds? How do you intend to exercise your dog's instincts? How often, and in what sort of environment?

(18) Ridgebacks have a natural tendency to guard and protect their family, and a great deal of socialization is necessary for them to understand that those behaviors are not appropriate in all contexts. Early and extensive socialization is key in the development of a well-balanced Ridgeback. During the first couple of years you should aim to introduce your pup to new people, new dogs/other animals and new places every week. This should continue on some level when the pup becomes an adult, but is especially important for development of the young dog. Are you and your family willing to commit to the time and effort required for the early and continued socialization of a puppy/young adult? How will this generally take place?

(19) Are you willing to take your Ridgeback to early puppy training classes, and follow-up classes at 1 year of age? Will you obtain an AKC “Canine Good Citizen” (CGC) title with your pup to show that they are reliably well-behaved?

(20) Rhodesian Ridgebacks are a large, athletic, active breed requiring plenty of exercise (however there are restrictions on certain types of exercise until the pup's growth plates have closed at approximately 18 months of age; guidelines for age-appropriate exercise are included with each placement of a Makonde pup).

Please explain your general exercise plan for your Ridgeback, as a puppy and as an adult. Would you be willing to generally follow the exercise guidelines to protect the pup's growing bones?

**What qualities are you looking for in your Ridgeback?**

(21) Do you prefer the puppy to be: Male \_\_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_\_ No preference\_\_\_\_\_\_? Why?

(22) For your purpose, what kind of temperament do you prefer in a dog and why?

(23) Following is a list of criteria. Rank each item from 1 to 5 by circling the number that best applies…1 = least important, 5 = most important.

A. Sex of Puppy 1 2 3 4 5

B. Size of Puppy 1 2 3 4 5

C. Temperament 1 2 3 4 5

D. Markings 1 2 3 4 5

E. Protection/Watch dog 1 2 3 4 5

F. Companionship 1 2 3 4 5

G. Playmate for Children 1 2 3 4 5

H. Travel Companion 1 2 3 4 5

(24) Please elaborate on any physical or character attributes you are particularly looking for in a puppy (keeping in mind that certain characteristics, such as adult size, can be difficult to predict at the puppy stage and desirable personality traits must also be nurtured by the pup's guardians).

(25) Are you interested in or willing to participate in any of the following?

\_\_\_ Conformation Shows\_\_\_\_\_ Coursing\_\_\_\_\_ Racing\_\_\_ Agility \_\_\_ Tracking\_\_\_\_\_\_ Search & Rescue\_\_\_ Nosework \_\_\_ Truffle Hunting \_\_\_ Obedience Trials \_\_\_ Rally Obedience \_\_\_ Herding \_\_\_ Hiking/Jogging \_\_\_\_\_\_ Therapy Work \_\_\_\_\_\_Other (please explain)

**Your relationship with Makonde:**

(26) What are your expectations for your puppy’s breeder?

(27) Do you belong to any dog clubs? If so, please list below:

(28) Are you interested in breeding your Ridgeback? If so, why?

(29) Are you interested in signing a co-ownership agreement if you purchase a show quality puppy? Do you plan on showing the pup yourself, hiring a handler or would you prefer the breeder show it for you?

(30) Are you willing to sign a spay/neuter agreement if you purchase a pet quality puppy?

(31) Would you be willing to send photos to this breeder and provide information regarding your puppy throughout his/her lifetime?

Would you keep in contact through Facebook?

(32) Were you referred by someone to Makonde Kennel? If ‘yes,’ by whom? If 'no,' how did you learn of Makonde?

(33) Please add anything else that helps explain why you feel you would be able to provide a great forever home for a Makonde Rhodesian Ridgeback. Please add any other comments or questions you may have. Thank you for filling out this questionnaire - your insight and information as potential puppy owner(s) is very much appreciated!