**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 working dogs, companion dogs, and show and performance champions that have consistently proven themselves in competition, in the field and as loyal family pets. When you purchase a Makonde puppy, you also receive our enthusiastic support to ensure that you and your puppy have the best possible life together. 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. We sincerely appreciate your taking the time in this application to tell us about yourself and your plans for living your best life with a Ridgie. Please insert your own name(s) before the file name of this document when you return it, and submit by email to Holly Simon, makonderr@gmail.com. Take as much time and space needed to fully answer all questions.

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, working, show/breeding and/or performance competition?

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

**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?

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 also 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 puppy placement, and occasional meetups or visits after you take the puppy home?

(12) Please list two close references who can speak to your experience as a pet owner.

Please provide names, email addresses, phone numbers and relationship to you. By providing these references you agree that we may reach out to these folks to discuss your abilities as a pet parent.

a)

b)

**Please provide information about your family:**

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

 Are they educated about the proper treatment of animals?

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

**Training and living with your Ridgeback:**

(15) How will you puppy-proof your home?

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

(17) How would you describe the Rhodesian Ridgeback temperament? How do you intend to exercise your dog's instincts?

(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, and is especially important for development of young dogs. Are you and your family able to commit to the time and effort required for the early and continued socialization of a puppy/young adult? Can you share a list of places and activities available to you for safely socializing your new puppy?

(19) A great way to socialize your Ridgeback is to enroll in early puppy training classes, and follow-up classes at 1 year of age. Obtaining an AKC “Canine Good Citizen” (CGC) title with your pup will show that they are reliably well-behaved. Would you be interested in participating in these activities with your pup?

(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. For example, puppies or dogs younger than ~18 months dogs should not be running long distances (or engaging in regular jumping) on hard surfaces, because doing so before their growth plates have closed could lead to permanent lameness. Free play is perfectly fine and encouraged, and 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.

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

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

(21b) Would you consider a ridgeless pup? These puppies are Ridgebacks in every way except they are missing the stripe down their back. Their bravery, loyalty and cuddliness are exactly the same as their ridged counterparts.

(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

 I. Show quality 1 2 3 4 5

 J. Working­­ drive 1 2 3 4 5

K. Performance drive 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) Would you be willing to sign 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 him or her 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 us photos and provide information regarding your puppy throughout his/her lifetime?

Would you keep in contact through Facebook?

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

(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. Thank you for filling out this questionnaire - your insight and information as potential puppy owner(s) is very much appreciated!