**Co-Ownership is it for you?**

If we co-own a dog with you we will be chatting back and forth and making plans for your dog’s future. So, it is very important that we trust each other and know that we each have your dog’s best interests at heart. The reason that we have picked a specific dog for a co-ownership is because we really like the puppy and think that he/she would be as asset to our breeding program. It means that we would have kept that puppy if we could have! We keep our dogs for their whole life. We do not have “brood bitches” that we breed and sell/place in new homes. Because of that we have young dogs, and older dogs. We are very lucky that the majority of our dogs live to about 16 years old. Because of that we can’t keep every puppy that we like or we would have a very large number of dogs! We want to make sure that every dog that we have gets lots of attention and so we can’t keep them all. That is where you come in! You get the fun of owning our pick puppy for its lifetime and we have the opportunity to keep that dog in our breeding program.

**Why would we do this?**

There are some advantages of a co-ownership. We would cover all the health testing for your dog as well as regular veterinary care that is performed at our clinic. You will always have someone in your corner that is as interested in your dog as you are? Once a breeding takes place you may have the opportunity to keep a puppy from your own dog or you will receive some compensation for your troubles. You will have the fun and excitement of having puppies with none of the responsibility or care! You can visit and play with the puppies before they go to their new homes. You can keep in contact with the new owners through our Facebook page and you will make lots of great new friends.

**Are there disadvantages to this?**

Yes. If your dog is a female, since she will not be spayed, she will have heat cycles, usually every 6 to 8 months. During this time, she will have a discharge for about 5 to 10 days. After that she will have a receptive period of time lasting 2 to 10 days. During this time, she could be bred and become pregnant so it is important to make sure that she does not come into contact with any male dogs. Dogs cannot compete while in heat (except in herding) so heat cycles can interfere with trialing plans. Also for the last 30 days of her pregnancy her activities may need to be somewhat curtailed if she is training or trialing particularly intensively. She will be living with us for a period of time (usually 5 to 6 weeks) while she gives birth and nurses the puppies. It can be hard to part with your dog for this length of time. There is also some risk to the dog involved with breeding, pregnancy and giving birth. She could have complications or require a caesarian section.

If your dog is a male there are very few disadvantages, other than he must be kept intact. Some intact male dogs may not get along with other intact male dogs or may be more prone to urine marking. For male dogs we usually only need them for a few days when we are breeding a female or sometimes we can just bring the females over for a friendly visit!

**Who can be a co-owner?**

The most important thing is that you are a responsible person that will notice when your dog is in heat and that you will keep in contact with us. We will need lots of updates and photos of your dog as he/she grows and matures and they will have their own page on the website. It is very important that you trust and have full confidence in us and we trust and have full confidence in you. We will be working together to schedule health tests, breeding, visits etc. so we will both have to be a bit flexible and willing to compromise when needed. We will do our best to adjust to your plans and schedules and you will do your best to make your dog available when we need her/him.

**How often would our dog be bred?**

This is variable. First your dog has to pass all of his/her health testing. They have to be two years old before they can complete all their health testing. The testing consists of hip and elbow certifications (radiographs certified by OFA), eye tests by an ophthalmologist, heart clearance by a veterinarian and DNA testing by Embark. All of these tests will be performed/paid for by HiQ Border collies. If after the testing we decide not to use your dog for breeding then he/she will be spayed/neutered and you will be given full ownership. If we decide that your dog should be bred we will pick a suitable mate for her/him and will assess the puppies. If we really like the type of puppies that are produced we will likely wish to breed her/him again. How many litters will depend on our agreement and our plans. We do not breed every heat. Our intent is to produce great dogs not just lots of dogs! Once we decide that the dog should be retired from breeding we will spay/neuter your dog at our expense and you will retain full ownership of the dog.