Puppy Questionnaire:

Please understand that the purpose of this questionnaire is so I can find the right home for my puppies. Please be honest when filling out the application.

Before you begin, please take a few moments to read this paragraph about the Australian Shepherd, the Mini Aussie, the Toy Aussie and the Miniature American Shepherd:

*These dogs, let’s just call them “Minis,” are obviously beautiful and that’s usually the first thing that attracts people to the breed. But they are full of energy, and they are not lap dogs. They are not “barkers” but they do bark, mostly it’s a warning bark that someone has arrived to your home. They can also bark at strangers. They are typically “reserved” with strangers. What does that mean? It means, that when they meet people that come to your home, or see on the street while out on a walk, that they are not used to, or have never or seldom met, they might do a number of things (if not properly socialized), like avoid them, bark or growl at them, lunge at them, or try to herd them. They do make excellent watch dogs. They are very loyal and protective of their family. They are athletic and extremely smart and easy to train. They also can be sensitive to disapproval and correction. They will follow you everywhere, even the bathroom. Some “think” they are lap dogs, and you’ll often find them sleeping on the top of the sofa like a cat. They require daily exercise of more than just a walk. And yes, they do shed!*

*If you do not want a dog that is reserved with strangers, I highly recommend positive and early socialization. Even with proper socialization and positive experiences, you still may end up with a dog that is naturally reserved with strangers. So if you’re a family that often has company over for dinner parties and expect your dog to walk around greeting everyone…this may not be the breed for you. These dogs also however excel in performance dog sports and make excellent exercise companions. If you want a dog around you ALL THE TIME, and you don’t mind if he doesn’t like your visitors, then this might be the dog for you.*

*Okay…not ALL Minis are reserved with strangers, and some of them are downright annoyingly over the top friendly, but that is not typical of the breed. But…you should be able to have a social enough dog that when people come over, you can ask your dog to go to his crate or his “place” if he is not comfortable around the new guests and not worry about your dog barking at them. This is all possible with proper early positive socialization. I cannot express enough how important socialization is to this breed if you are to have a happy household. It starts from day one and isn’t as simple as taking your dog to family and friends that have dogs, or taking your new dog to a dog park. I recommend your dog meet at least 100 people in 100 days at minimum. All social experiences must be* ***positive*** *especially during the fear periods of 8 to12 weeks old and 7 to 10 months old. Here is a video that shows the importance of socialization and HOW to socialize your puppy. It is particularly important for these breeds.*

<https://youtu.be/qPGd7ElMCJ8>

If after reading this you honestly don’t think you’re up for the task of training and socialization, then please consider another breed. If after reading this you are aware and well prepared to spend lots of time socializing and training your dog to become a social and well-rounded dog in the human world, then please fill out my application and welcome to the exciting world of Minis.

1. What is your name & city?
2. What is your telephone number?
3. What is your email address?
4. Have you ever owned a dog before?
5. Have you ever owned a dog that you did not own until its death?

If yes, Why?

1. Have you ever owned an Australian Shepherd/Mini Aussie or Miniature American Shepherd before?
2. Describe the research you have done on the Breed and why you have chosen this breed.

1. Has every single member in your household agreed on the decision to get a dog? If not, why?
2. How many hours will your dog be alone each day?
3. Do you have children? What are their ages?
4. Do you live on a farm? If so, do you own large animals or livestock?
5. What other animals/pets do you have? List type of animal, male or female, whether they are fixed or not, and age.
6. Will this dog be exposed to second hand smoke inside the home?
7. Does anyone in the household suffer from allergies to dogs?
8. What is your occupation or profession?
9. Please list your current Veterinarian, or Veterinary Clinic that you use, or you plan to use.
10. Are you familiar with Clicker or Marker Training?
11. Are you planning on using crate training to help housebreak your puppy?
12. How do you plan on socializing your puppy?
13. How would you handle potty accidents in your house?
14. How much time do you plan on spending exercising your Dog?
15. Do you have a fenced yard?
16. Do you plan to keep your Dog outside in a kennel? or tied out to a chain/rope?
17. If you are looking for a Pet/Companion puppy, I require that you spay or neuter your pup sometime between 9 months and one year of age. In the case of a female puppy, this might mean going through one heat cycle. Is this acceptable to you? If not, why?
18. Are you interested in pursuing any of the following with your Dog? (Obedience, Agility, Fly-ball, Confirmation Showing, Disc-dog, Herding, Therapy, or Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.)
19. My waiting list is fluid, sometimes it is short and you can get a puppy relatively quickly, but at other times it is long. In the event it is long, puppy buyers willing to become Partner Families are moved up the list. Would you consider a co-own situation where you leave the dog intact so I may use him or her in my breeding program from time to time? This would enable you to receive the “pick of the litter” puppy and would be the best representation of the breed from that litter. This would be a puppy that would not normally be for sale as a pet. (A purchase discount *will* be given and a signed contract is required.) The dog is your pet, but simply comes back to me on occasion for stud service or to raise a litter. Becoming a Partner Family is an important part of my breeding program. Answer YES to receive more information.
20. Are you willing to keep in contact with me with pictures and as to health updates, and the general well being of the dog?
21. What are your expectations of me as a breeder?
22. Is there anything else you would like to tell me about your self and/or are there any questions you would like to ask me?

**Your answers to the following questions may affect your placement on the waiting list:**

1. What type of temperament are you looking for in your dog? What type of activity level?
2. Do you have a preference for a male or female? Why?
3. Do you have a preference for coat color?
4. My pups will likely grow to be Miniature size as listed in our breed standard. But any size can happen, for example your dog may grow oversized or may not reach the minimum size in the breed standard. How do you feel about size?
5. This breed traditionally has their tails docked. I often will leave tails on. What is your preference? Tail, no tail, or no preference?