

## Trillium Woods' Gracie/Lincoln Deposit Letter ~ Summer 2021

To those who have expressed interest in our Gracie/Lincoln litter, we welcome you to Trillium Woods Standard Poodles. This deposit letter is written to more fully explain our program, goals, and practices as a breeder of AKC Standard Poodles. Please and thank you in advance for taking the time to read, sign and return this document before committing to one of our puppies.

Deposits are non-refundable, and go towards the limited AKC registration price of \$2,200.00. Deposits are \$500 and can be made via Venmo, Zelle, or by mailing a check. We recommend Venmo and Zelle as methods of payment since your place on our waiting list is only secured once we receive your deposit.

Before a deposit is accepted, we would like to have you read, sign and return this letter. Most of this content is also found on our website. Please feel free to reach out to me, Bridget, by phone @ 231-360-3791, or email @ [TrilliumWoodsSP@gmail.com](mailto:TrilliumWoodsSP@gmail.com) with any questions.

Summer's Graceful Moonlight at Trillium Woods (PR22031802) and Northern Creek's Dark Lincoln Knight (PR21212607) were bred on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup>. Gracie's estimated whelp date is May 24<sup>th</sup>. An ultrasound estimated that she would be having 8 puppies. We will be accepting 6 deposits for this litter at this time. If more than 6 puppies are whelped, then we will begin accepting deposits for the remaining puppies once they are 3 days old.

Gracie was born here at Trillium Woods out of our own Versailles and Oban. Versailles had a COI 10 of 0.7%, a very low coefficient of inbreeding. Oban's pedigree is totally different than Versailles, giving theoretical genetic diversity to their offspring. Both Oban and Versailles were genetically tested clear for von Willebrands (vW1), Degenerative Myelopathy (DM), Progressive retinal Atrophy/Progressive Rod Cone Disease (PRA/prcd) and Neonatal Encephalopathy with Seizures (NEWS).

Gracie is an abstract café au lait who is slightly smaller than our typical female, weighing in about 47 pounds. Her guardian home maintains her in a Teddy Bear Clip. Gracie is joined at home by a German Shorthair Pointer, but Gracie's world is centered on her mom, Cindy. Gracie has proven to be highly intelligent, sweet and quite an entertaining character. Gracie has two siblings excelling in service dog training. We see the same aptitude in Gracie. In pairing Gracie with Lincoln, we are anticipating a few service and therapy potential puppies. Note: Gracie does not have her OFA testing,

as Lincoln does. Please consider this if you are looking for a service dog for counterbalance or stability work. Gracie's size would very much limit her usefulness for these tasks.

Northern Creek's Dark Lincoln Knight is a handsome boy who comes with impressive health testing and training backgrounds. Lincoln has passed his ADA public access test, which testifies to his stability and temperament. Lincoln's health testing can be found on the OFA database. Lincoln has OFA "Good" hips, and OFA "Normal" patellas, elbows, cardiac, eyes and thyroid. Lincoln is also genetically clear for vW1, DM, PRA/prcd and NEWS. If that weren't enough he greeted me with a hug around the waist and a kiss on the face the very first time I saw him. You can't beat this dog!

Important procedures and policies:

1. We only sell our puppies on spay/neuter contracts requiring spay/neuter by 8 months of age.
2. We reserve the first two picks of the litter for service potential puppies.
3. Picks of the litter will take place around 7 ½ weeks of age, after Volhardt Evaluations are completed. (Covid may limit our ability to perform Volhardt Evaluations for this litter.)
4. Puppies receive their first DAPPv immunization at 8 weeks. Our puppies go home at 9 weeks of age.
5. Within 2 calendar days of pick-up we strongly recommend that your puppy be examined by your vet. Our initial health guarantee is valid only with a vet exam within 2 calendar days of pick-up. If your vet finds a life threatening illness or severe congenital defect, we will refund your purchase price upon return of the puppy. The puppy must be returned within 3 days of the vet visit. Copies of your vet's diagnosis and all Trillium Woods' paperwork must also be returned to Trillium Woods. We reserve the right for our vet to confirm the diagnosis before the decision to issue a refund is made.
6. Please make this vet appointment well in advance, as many vets are booking weeks and even months out for new appointments. Your inability to have your puppy seen by a vet within two days will void any initial health guarantee that we offer. If you can't get in to see your favorite vet in time, I recommend you find a licensed vet who will do an initial puppy exam within the required timeframe.
7. Each puppy will be registered with limited AKC registration by the breeder on the day of pick-up. Each puppy will also be microchipped. Registering microchips will be the buyer's responsibility.

Some aspects of our puppy rearing:

1. Puppy Culture is a valuable developmental program for puppies. Each week neuro stimulating exercises are done that improve a puppy's resilience and emotional stability. You can find out more about this program on their website: [www.shoppuppyculture.com](http://www.shoppuppyculture.com).
2. Volhardt Evaluations are done by an independent, professional trainer at 7 weeks. I'll gladly share video of these evaluations with our families. Covid is making it more difficult to find trainers who are willing to do home visits, but we will do our best to keep this aspect of our program.
3. Each puppy is examined at VCA Howell by Dr. Charles Warren at 6 weeks. I administer Merck Puppy DAPPv at 8 weeks of age.
4. We post pictures and videos of puppies as well as utilize Facetime calls with clients. Facetime allows you to see the puppies live and get a good feel for the litter. I'm available by phone or e-mail for questions at any point along the way.
5. Of course, we raise our puppies in our home from day 1 until they go home at 9 weeks! Not many breeders offer this, and I know why! This kind of intense puppy care is why you may pay a bit more for a Standard Poodle puppy from us, but we believe it's worth the hard work.
6. We start taking puppies outside around 5 weeks of age. This means going outside in the AM upon waking, after eating, before and after naps...our puppies have a good start with housebreaking when they go home at 9 weeks.
7. We also fully groom our puppies starting at week 5. This includes a bath, blowing out their coat with a high velocity dryer, and clipping face, feet and sanitary, as well as trimming nails. This is time consuming and a true labor of love. Just ask any groomer who ends up with the daunting task of giving a 9-12 week old Poodle their very first full grooming!!
8. We leave dewclaws intact and tails natural. Dewclaws are functional and reduce arthritic changes in the forearm. Tails that are docked can develop phantom pain. Just watch some videos on tail docking and you'll realize why we don't dock our puppies' tails. It's actually illegal in some European countries to dock tails.

### Who was bred and when are puppies due?

Summer's Graceful Moonlight at Trillium Woods (PR22031802), was bred to Northern Creek's Dark Lincoln Knight (PR21212607) with an anticipated whelp date of May 24-26, 2021. Puppies will be ready to go home approximately July 28, 2021.

## What health testing has been done?

Gracie is clear through the genetic testing of both of her parents (Oban and Versailles), for DM, vW1, PRA/prcd and NEWS. Lincoln has CHIC Certification. All of his health testing can be found on OFA's website by searching by his registered name or registration number. Lincoln has OFA "Good" hips, OFA normal patellas, elbows, eyes, cardiac and thyroid. Lincoln has also been genetically tested and is clear of DM, vW1, PRA/prcd and NEWS.

## Do you offer a health guarantee?

Our health guarantee is that you receive a healthy puppy free from major illness or major congenital defect at the time of purchase, with requirements and restrictions. **When you schedule your puppy pick-up, you will also want to schedule a new puppy visit with your vet to occur within 2 calendar days of pick-up.**

If your vet finds the puppy to have a major illness or major anomaly within 2 days of pick up from our home, then I will ask that my vet be able to immediately examine the puppy. If my vet concurs, then I will refund the purchase price of your puppy upon prompt return of the puppy to Trillium Woods. In this scenario, the buyer is solely responsible for their vet bills, including lab testing, treatment costs and costs associated with returning the puppy to Trillium Woods. Trillium Woods will pay for the examination by our vet, if required.

In order to produce healthy puppies now and in the future, we practice low protocol immunizations, abstain from the use of monthly preventatives, select for low coefficient of inbreeding, and feed quality foods (Fromm, Dr. Gary's Best Breed and an often changing secondary food). We are not aware of any cancer, bloat, or auto immune issues in our lines. However, we do find that most of our Standard Poodles develop ear infections if they eat chicken. We avoid all foods containing chicken, or chicken fat, for this reason.

For immunizations we refer to Dr. Dodd's Immunization Protocol which can be found at <http://animalhealthfoudation.net>. We then work with our vet to minimize immunizations, as appropriate for our breeding program. Puppies will be getting a single initial dose of DAPPV at 8 weeks of age. Puppies should not be given another DAPPv immunization until 3 weeks after this initial dose. DO NOT allow your vet to administer another DAPPv dose immediately after pick-up. DAPPv shots need to be spaced 3 weeks apart!

Please DO NOT co-administer rabies vaccination with DAPPv. Allow three weeks between these two vaccinations.

## How do you raise your puppies?

Trillium Woods is a small home-based operation. Puppies are whelped in our guest bedroom/nursery where we set up a quiet corner for the whelping pen and an infrared fireplace heater to keep it toasty warm. Puppies are weighed daily on an electronic food scale for daily weigh-ins, later graduating to weekly weigh ins on an electronic baby scale. I sleep and live in this room for the first week or more.

At about 4 weeks old, it's time to move downstairs to the dining room. They will now have a 9'X10' area of their own with plenty of extra space for play. Our home has an open floorplan, so puppies are exposed to our other Poodles and everyday household life. By five weeks of age, puppies are going outside many times a day and discovering real life! Full grooming begins at 5 weeks with a bath, high velocity drying, followed by clipping of face, feet and sanitary as well as nail trimming. This is repeated every 7-10 days until the puppies go home.

'Puppy Culture' is an amazing program that teaches puppies to endure temporary discomfort and change in sensory input. Puppies raised on Puppy Culture are more resilient and neurologically mature. With each litter I'm learning and utilizing this program more and more.

## Are your puppies vet checked?

Yes, the puppies see Dr. Warren at VCA Countryside of Howell at 6 weeks of age. He gives each puppy a thorough exam, checking heart, lungs, palate, bite, eyes, ears, hips, temperatures and stool samples. He does not give them immunizations, since we wait until 8 weeks of age. I order Merck's Puppy DAPPv from Revival for our litters. Puppy vet notes are always available to our buyers.

## What's included with my puppy?

- AKC Limited Registration
- Microchip
- Litter Scented blanket
- Chew toy
- Sample of puppy food
- Puppy Health Record
- Breeder support for the lifetime of your Standard Poodle

## Volhardt Evaluations and Service Potential

At 7 weeks of age we hire a professional trainer to do Volhardt Evaluations on our puppies. This is an important piece of the selection process for any puppies being considered for service dog training. Trainers go into this blind and unbiased; their independent, professional evaluation of each puppy is highly valued.

It is worth noting that Volhardt Evaluations are only a snap shot of a puppy at a given point in time. I do my best to make sure that puppies are not tired, hungry, or overfed when evaluations are done. As a breeder, I put more stock in my 9 weeks of observation, than I do in this 5-8 minute piece. Yet this professional take on the puppies has been of great value, and is an integral part of the selection process.

At Trillium Woods, we strive to provide one or two service potential puppies out of each litter. There are no guarantees that this will happen, but we reserve the top two picks of the litter for this purpose.

The past two litters have seen a total of five puppies go into service training. Four are having early success, with three pups garnering rave reviews. Trillium Woods will continue to strive for this purpose so that those with disabilities can benefit from this delightful, non-shedding, and intelligent breed.

This means that the FIRST deposit received for a pet Standard Poodle will likely actually get THIRD pick of the litter, after the two service potential puppies are selected. There IS always the possibility that we will NOT get any clients requesting a service potential puppy, or puppies that we feel are good candidates. In that case, the FIRST PET deposit would be moved to FIRST PICK and so forth in the order deposits were received, with no puppies being reserved for service training.

Redundant here, but puppy selections will begin as soon as we receive the Volhardt Evaluations. We want to watch these puppies' personalities develop before we begin placing them in homes. Choosing a puppy solely by sex, color or size is not wise! We will gladly share with you the video of the evaluations, but remember that this is only about 5 minutes of time in the puppies' life. We have been watching these puppies for 7 weeks, carefully observing and taking notes.

### what do you require for your spay/neuter contract?

All Trillium Woods puppies are sold on a spay/neuter contract. The \$2,200.00 purchase is for limited AKC only. Your \$500 deposit will go towards the purchase price, leaving a balance of \$1,700.00 due at the time of pick-up.

I'm still researching the best age to spay/neuter. There are a lot of views on this topic, but I am asking that all of my puppies be spayed/neutered by 8 months of age.

Boys tend to develop more behavioral issues with sexual hormones than the girls. These behavioral changes can cause disruptions to the relationship between owner and dog that aren't always remedied when the dog is neutered. My goal is to allow as much time as possible to elapse for developmental purposes without running into behavioral or health issues.

If a male becomes more territorially protective at 10 months and starts marking in the house by 12 months, these habits don't just go away after being neutered. Even the best owner's patience and resolve can be tried with these behaviors. My goal is for you to love and enjoy your healthy Standard Poodle for its lifetime without male sex driven behavioral issues.

With girls, breast cancer risk increases with each heat. We are requiring girls to be spayed by 8 months of age, which should be before their first heat. First heat will increase her risk of breast cancer by 3% (not that big). But her second heat increases that same risk by 8%, now were talking significant numbers!

I don't believe that waiting longer for the "growth plates to close", or for the dog to "fill out", should be equally weighed against the value placed on having a healthy, well behaved dog with a happy owner. Many factors go into the development of hip dysplasia, one of the most serious orthopedic issues in large breed dogs. We now know that nutrition, improper exercise, as well as the overuse of confinement factor largely into the development of hip dysplasia. Late spay/neuter only plays a small role in reducing the risk of hip dysplasia, but can largely lead to unwanted behaviors.

### A last note regarding this brave new world we live in.

In light of recent health, economic and political uncertainties which have arisen out of the Covid-19 crisis, I, Bridget A. Green, DBA Trillium Woods Standard Poodles, ask for force majeure protection in the event that we find ourselves in such a severe recession or economic depression that I am unable to fulfill my obligations to my clients. This would include government actions, war, economic depression, or similar forces beyond my control which would make breeding extremely impractical or impossible.

### Covid-19 possible precautions while doing business.

We have modified how we do visits and puppy pick-ups to reduce the risk of spreading Covid. We utilize Facetime calls where you can see the puppies live while we talk. Precautions are always taken with masks, hand sanitizer and hand washing during visits which I only allow for puppy picks and final pick-up.

## Please and Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to read or at least skim over this document. We place people as a high priority and want clear communication and transparency. Your interest in our Standard Poodles means a great deal to us!

Please do reach out to us with any questions or concerns. You will not offend me with your questions and you will find that I am not dogmatic on many things, as I believe we are all still learning.

References are provided upon request.

We look forward to sharing this journey with you and sincerely hope you will join us. Take care and I hope to hear from you soon!

Bridget Green

Trillium Woods Standard Poodles

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Please electronically sign and date that you have read and agree with the content of this document and return to Trillium Woods via e-mail. Please and thank you!

Bridget A. Green    Trillium Woods Standard Poodles    4/15/2021

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Name

Date