



Puppy Handbook

About Us

I have been passionate about purebred dogs for my entire life. As a young girl, I would watch every AKC event on TV and spend hours reading books and researching about the breeds and their histories. Watching Westminster might as well have been the Super Bowl in my world. Showing dogs was always something I dreamed about, but was never financially feasible for my family. Still, I went to every dog show that I could and at one point even took a part-time job at the fairgrounds where our local shows were held so that I could be close to the world that I aspired to be a part of.

My husband and I both grew up in agriculture and showed registered beef cattle in high school. We were active in FFA and wanted to continue our family tradition of raising and showing livestock once we started our own family. In 2014, we branched off from the family farm to start our unique operation raising registered Tunis sheep as well as Hereford and Red Angus beef cattle. In 2015, we brought home our first AKC Pembroke Welsh Corgi as a herding dog, family companion, and future stud dog from working ranch lines in Texas. Given my passion for the preservation of purebred dogs, I dove into research on the health and genetics of the breed. After a lot of research and consideration, I bred my first litter in 2019.

With a young family and a focus on showing livestock, it has not always been possible to compete with our dogs, but we have bred true to the breed standard and the purpose of our breed. We have past puppies who are herding on farms and working as therapy dogs. We are excited to start entering the sport of showing dogs and participating in AKC events as we look to grow our involvement with the AKC and the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, which is the parent club for our breed.

As much as I love raising dogs, it is definitely a hobby and not a business. There is no profit in raising dogs if it is done the right way! Vetting and caring for our adult dogs and puppies as well as all of the time that goes into whelping and raising a litter is a very costly endeavor. I believe that a good breeder of any species should always put the animals first, and that is what we strive for in every aspect of our operation.

Therefore, my husband and I both work full-time off of the farm. He is a high school agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at the high school where I graduated from! While my background is not in education, my desire to focus more on family, the dogs, and our farm led me to leave corporate agriculture and I am currently teaching high school Chemistry nearby. We have two daughters, Neely and Adaleigh, who are an integral part of what we do and who are the main reason why we invest time and energy into our dogs and stock. Our hope is that as they grow up, they will love animals and competing with them as much as we do. This is all most definitely a family affair and we are thankful to all of our family and clients who have supported us in making our dreams a reality!

Puppy Information

Name _____ Whelped _____

Breed _____ Sex _____

Color _____ Markings _____

AKC Registration No. _____ Microchip ID _____

Dam _____ Dam AKC No. _____

Sire _____ Sire AKC No. _____

Owner Information

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Breeder Notes

Puppy Health Record

Date Completed

1-2 Weeks After Birth

Tail & Dewclaw Removal

1st Deworming (Nemex-2)

3-4 Weeks After Birth

Solid Food Introduction

2nd Deworming (Nemex-2)

5-6 Weeks After Birth

Nail Trim

Weaning

3rd Deworming (Nemex-2)

7-8 Weeks After Birth

1st Round Puppy Shots

(Distemper, Parvovirus, Bordetella)

Nail Trim & Bath

4th Deworming (Nemex-2)

10-12 Weeks After Birth

2nd Round Puppy Shots

(DHPP, Bordetella, Lepto)

Begin Heartworm Preventative

16-18 Weeks After Birth

3rd Round Puppy Shots

(DHPP, Rabies*)

12-18 Months After Birth

Annual Boosters & Wellness Visit

Spay/Neuter

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi is one of the oldest herding breeds dating back to the 10th Century. Often called pems or pemmies, they are a distinctly separate breed from the Cardigan Welsh Corgi. The Pembroke is a beloved family companion and valuable farm dog with a short, stocky build that places them beneath the kick of the cattle they were bred to work.

They were beloved in Welsh folklore and are often associated with the legends of being the draft animals of choice for fairies according to legend. The breed has been associated with royalty as the PWC has been the chosen companion for the U.K.'s Queen Elizabeth II throughout her lifetime. Since their recognition by the AKC in 1934, the Pembroke Welsh Corgi has risen in popularity and was #11 on the AKC's most popular dog breeds in 2020.

With this increase in popularity has come an increase in concerns among PWC breeders and enthusiasts. Dogs with faults such as blues and fluffies are intentionally being produced and crossbreeding with Cardigans to produce merles (which are not full Pembroke) has become more frequent in the last decade. These processes dilute the integrity of the breed.

Pembroke Welsh Corgis are a generally healthy breed with proper care and nutrition. They are food motivated and can easily become obese without regular exercise and adequate diet. They are intelligent, inquisitive, and compassionate dogs who are easy to train if they trust their owners. They are well-suited for a variety of events including herding, agility, obedience and rally. They form strong bonds with their family members and can be very protective.

While PWC's are very versatile, they do require regular grooming, exercise, and mental stimulation in order to be successful. They are a true herding breed that will exhibit herding behaviors such as nipping and barking. Families who consider adding a Pembroke to their household should always consider their needs prior to bringing a puppy home.

AKC Breed Standard

Official Standard for the Pembroke Welsh Corgi

General Appearance - Low-set, strong, sturdily built and active, giving an impression of substance and stamina in a small space. Should not be so low and heavy-boned as to appear coarse or overdone, nor so light-boned as to appear racy. Outlook bold, but kindly. Expression intelligent and interested. Never shy nor vicious. Correct type, including general balance and outline, attractiveness of headpiece, intelligent outlook and correct temperament is of primary importance. Movement is especially important, particularly as viewed from the side. A dog with smooth and free gait has to be reasonably sound and must be highly regarded. A minor fault must never take precedence over the above desired qualities.

A dog must be very seriously penalized for the following faults, regardless of whatever desirable qualities the dog may present: oversized or undersized; button, rose or drop ears; overshot or undershot bite; fluffies, whielies, mismarks or bluiies.

Size, Proportion, Substance - Height (from ground to highest point on withers) should be 10 to 12 inches. Weight is in proportion to size, not exceeding 30 pounds for dogs and 28 pounds for bitches. In show condition, the prep chest, well let down between the forelegs. Exaggerated lowness interferes with the desired freedom of movement and should be penalized. Viewed from above, the body should taper slightly to end of loin. Loin short. Round or flat rib cage, lack of brisket, extreme length or cobbiness, are undesirable. Tail-Docked as short as possible without being indented. Occasionally a puppy is born with a natural dock, which if sufficiently short, is acceptable. A tail up to two inches in length is allowed, but if carried high tends to spoil the contour of the topline.

Forequarters - Legs-Short, forearms turned slightly inward, with the distance between wrists less than between the shoulder joints so that the front does not appear absolutely straight. Ample bone carried right down into the feet. Pasterns firm and nearly straight when viewed from the side. Weak pasterns and knuckling over are serious faults. Shoulder blades long and well laid back along the rib cage. Upper arms nearly equal in length to shoulder blades. Elbows parallel to the body, not prominent, and well set back to allow a line perpendicular to the ground to be drawn from tip of the shoulder blade through to elbow.

Feet-Oval, with the two center toes slightly in advance of the two outer ones. Turning neither in nor out. Pads strong and feet arched. Nails short. Dewclaws on both forelegs and hindlegs usually removed. Too round, long and narrow, or splayed feet are faulty.

Hindquarters - Ample bone, strong and flexible, moderately angulated at stifle and hock. Exaggerated angulation is as faulty as too little. Thighs should be well muscled. Hocks short, parallel, and when viewed from the side are perpendicular to the ground. Barrel hocks or cowhocks are most objectionable. Slipped or double-jointed hocks are very faulty. Feet-as in front.

Coat - Medium length; short, thick, weather-resistant undercoat with a coarser, longer outer coat. Over-all length varies, with slightly thicker and longer ruff around the neck, chest and on the shoulders. The body coat lies flat. Hair is slightly longer on back of forelegs and underparts and somewhat fuller and longer on rear of hindquarters. The coat is preferably straight, but some waviness is permitted. This breed has a shedding coat, and seasonal lack of undercoat should not be too severely penalized, providing the hair is glossy, healthy and well groomed. A wiry, tightly marcelled coat is very faulty, as is an overly short, smooth and thin coat.

AKC Breed Standard

Very Serious Fault - Fluffies - a coat of extreme length with exaggerated feathering on ears, chest, legs and feet, underparts and hindquarters. Trimming such a coat does not make it any more acceptable. The Corgi should be shown in its natural condition, with no trimming permitted except to tidy the feet, and, if desired, remove the whiskers.

Color - The outer coat is to be of self colors in red, sable, fawn, black and tan with or without white markings. White is acceptable on legs, chest, neck (either in part or as a collar), muzzle, underparts and as a narrow blaze on head. Very Serious Faults: Whitelies - Body color white, with red or dark markings. Blues - Colored portions of the coat have a distinct bluish or smoky cast. This coloring is associated with extremely light or blue eyes, liver or gray eye rims, nose and lip pigment. Mismarks - Self colors with any area of white on the back between withers and tail, on sides between elbows and back of hindquarters, or on ears. Black with white markings and no tan present.

Gait - Free and smooth. Forelegs should reach well forward without too much lift, in unison with the driving action of the hind legs. The correct shoulder assembly and well-fitted elbows allow a long, free stride in front. Viewed from the front, legs do not move in exact parallel planes, but incline slightly inward to compensate for shortness of leg and width of chest. Hind legs should drive well under the body and move on a line with the forelegs, with hocks turning neither in nor out. Feet must travel parallel to the line of motion with no tendency to swing out, cross over or interfere with each other. Short, choppy movement, rolling or high-stepping gait, close or overly wide coming or going, are incorrect. This is a herding dog, which must have the agility, freedom of movement, and endurance to do the work for which he was developed.

Temperament - Outlook bold, but kindly. Never shy or vicious. The judge shall dismiss from the ring any Pembroke Welsh Corgi that is excessively shy.

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Reformatted January 28, 1993

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At Tri-Star Pembrokes, we hold the breed standard to high importance. We strive to only produce puppies who conform to the breed standard. This includes color and coat length. **Red, Sable, and Black and Tan with white markings are the only acceptable colors for Pembroke Welsh Corgis.** Puppies who do not meet the breed standard will always be sold on Limited AKC Registration with a spay/neuter contract.

Caring for Your Corgi

While we support our dogs working and living in a farm environment, we expect that all of our puppies spend most of their time indoors as part of your family. Your puppy should not be left outside unattended when you are not home and should NEVER be tied out on a lead. This is extremely dangerous.

Feeding

We recommend Purina Pro Plan (PPP) as the dog food brand of choice for your Pembroke Welsh Corgi. Your puppy is eating PPP Focus Puppy Chicken & Rice and should continue to eat this formula until he/she is at least 12 months of age. Our adult dogs eat the Purina Pro Plan Sport Performance 30/20 ration which can be purchased at most major pet supply stores, Chewy.com, and Tractor Supply. We trust Purina Pro Plan as it is one of the few dog foods which has been analyzed by animal nutritionists. Most people are unaware that dog food does not have FDA requirements and many brands that are advertised as "natural, wholistic, grain-free, etc" are full of fillers and unhealthy ingredients which can harm your puppy. If you are unable to feed Purina Pro Plan, there are other dog food formulas which may be suitable. Always follow the feeding instructions as stated on the bag for your dog's weight and age. Pembrokes are very food-motivated and are prone to overeating. You should never allow your Pembroke to "graze" or offer free-choice food throughout the day. This is a quick way to get your Pembroke overweight and in poor health. We utilize timed feedings. Puppies are fed twice a day (morning and evening). After 12 months, we feed once per day in the evening. When it comes to feeding your dog, you need to get them on a schedule that works for you!

Crate Training & Housebreaking

Crate training is an essential part of acclimating your puppy to your home and daily routine. Your puppy should have a space that belongs to him/her and should be able to be safely left alone while you are at work or away from the home. Your puppy will often initially argue about being left in the crate, but consistency is key in learning that this is "their space." However, you cannot expect a new puppy to stay in a crate for 8+ hours on end. If you have to leave your puppy during the day - use a bathroom, kitchen, utility room, or sectioned off area to keep him/her in with the crate door open and a bed and toy inside. Spread puppy pads or newspaper close to the crate so that he/she has an area to relieve while you are away. When you return home, immediately take your puppy out on a lead for potty time and pick up the puppy pads/newspaper. You should have two goals: 1) Never let the puppy potty where they sleep & 2) Minimize the number of times the puppy potties in the house as much as possible. A good rule of thumb for crate time is that the age of the puppy in months is how long you can expect your puppy to be able to go without an accident. An 8 week old puppy will not be able to "hold it" at first and at most needs to be given an opportunity to "go out" every 2 hours. This includes night time! It will require a lot of work at first, but it will be worth it in the long run. Remember that accidents will happen! Correction is important, but as Pembrokes are very intelligent and sensitive it is crucial not to scold them too harshly or their confidence will be damaged. We recommend positive training methods and proactive behavior on your part as the owner. Remember that you are the leader of your pack!

Spaying/Neutering

A dog should never be spayed or neutered before 6 months of age. If at all possible, we recommend waiting until your puppy is 12-18 months old before you have him/her altered. Corgis are late maturing and need the sex hormones to ensure they grow and develop properly. Always consult with your vet.

Caring for Your Corgi

Exercise & Socialization

Because the Pembroke Welsh Corgi is a herding breed, you can expect that your dog will need regular exercise to stay healthy and happy. If you live in an apartment or urban setting, take your puppy out for routine walks on a lead with a collar. Harnesses are not a good choice because they actually encourage pulling! Teach your dog how to walk on a leash with a collar. In addition, we do not promote dog parks or "meetups" as they are more often a way to spread diseases and run the risk of your dog being injured or bitten. Supervised socialization with dogs of trusted family and friends are acceptable - just make sure that all of the dogs have been vaccinated and are comfortable with one another! You should be your dog's best friend and you should dedicate time every day to play and interact with your puppy. Your puppy will quickly look to replace the bond that he/she has lost from being separated from littermates. You need to develop a relationship with your puppy quickly after bringing him/her home so that they are able to bond with you and your family.

Training

Herding instincts such as barking and nipping should be expected, but may also need correction. Pembrokes can become very "mouthy" which is often one of the main reasons that they are rehomed. It is good practice to take your puppy to an obedience class if you have not trained a puppy before to learn basic commands and so that you can gain confidence in working on positive behaviors. If you do not have a local AKC training club in your area, many Petco stores offer training services which include AKC S.T.A.R. certification and the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program. For training recommendations, feel free to contact us. In addition, it is good practice to regularly handle your dog's paws as Pembrokes are often sensitive in having their feet touched - which can create a lot of problems for you when trying to trim nails or dry muddy paws! The more you interact with your dog, the better he/she will behave!

Grooming

Pembrokes are considered a "high maintenance" breed due to their long double coat and frequent shedding. They should be brushed regularly, but do not need to be bathed more than once every 6-8 weeks to prevent their skin from drying out. They should see a professional groomer at least twice per year for a sanitary clip and trimming of the fur around their pads. Nail trims should be done with every bath and more frequently if the dog is not wearing his/her nails down by spending time outside. You can mix up a spray bottle with a small amount of dog conditioner, vinegar, and water to spritz and freshen their coat between baths. We recommend the Isle of Dogs and Furminator lines of grooming products. Your corgi will "blow coat" at least twice a year... this is where the thick fluffy undercoat sheds out completely to make way for new healthy fur. This usually happens in the spring and fall. Prepare yourself.

Veterinary Care

For the first year of your puppy's life, you should follow the guidelines provided in the puppy health record on page 2 of your handbook. Your dog should visit the vet for regular wellness checks and routine vaccinations each year. If you suspect that your dog is ill, take him/her to your vet immediately. It is better to have gone and paid an office visit for "nothing" rather than to wait and let a problem worsen. In addition, you should keep your dog on a preventative for fleas, ticks, and heartworms. We use Simparica Trio which is a monthly chewable that covers these as well as gestational parasites.

Our Promise

As a responsible breeder, we stand behind our dogs and their families for life.

The life expectancy of a Pembroke Welsh Corgi is 13-15 years. We support our Tri-Star families and want what is best for every dog that we bring into the world. This is why that if at any time for any reason you determine that you cannot keep or care for your Pembroke, it is stated in your puppy contract that you will return him/her to us. **We will always take one of our puppies with no questions asked.** This includes temporary care due to a change in circumstance such as a divorce, illness, or military deployment. It is our priority that the puppies we raise are never placed in a shelter or rescue for any reason. Since we are listed as the breeder of record with AKC Reunite, we may be contacted if your dog's microchip is scanned by a shelter or rescue. If this happens, we will arrange for transportation to bring the dog back to us if the owner is unable to be reached or is determined to be in neglect of their responsibilities.

All of our puppies are AKC registered and meet the expectations of the breed standard. Dogs with faults will never be sold with breeding rights. Puppies will always be sold on a spay/neuter contract (limited AKC registration) unless designated as a conformation prospect to a show home. Limited AKC does not exclude a dog from participation in all other AKC events outside of conformation showing. Even if you do not plan to compete with your dog, you should still complete your registration paperwork with the AKC. If you do not register your dog, the breeder retains ownership according to the AKC.

We utilize genetic testing for breeding decisions and do not produce puppies who are determined to be genetically "at-risk" for DM, EIC, or vWd-1. However, we understand that these genetic markers are not conclusive and do not necessarily rule out the dog developing health problems, especially with old age. There are many diseases which display similar clinical signs to DM, but are not the same thing. Unfortunately, the only true way to diagnose DM at this time is by necropsy after the dog has passed away. Therefore, the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America encourages veterinarians to use caution when describing symptoms as DM as it is not conclusive. For more information about DM in the Pembroke Welsh Corgi, there is an excellent article which can be found online at <http://pwcca.org/about-pembrokes/canine-degenerative-myelopathy-and-genetic-testing-in-pwcs/>.

With the addition of a Tri-Star Pembroke into your home, we promise to support you in any way that we can. This is why we have our Tri-Star Pembrokes Facebook group. Here you will be able to connect with other puppy families, ask questions, see updates about our dogs, and access my product recommendations. This group is a great way for me to connect with our families all at once, but I am always accessible by phone or email as well! If you have a question about your dog, never hesitate to reach out! Even if I don't know the answer, I can likely connect you with someone who can help.

I have done all that I can to keep your puppy healthy and give him/her the best possible start to their life. The next steps are up to you! However, I never want my puppy parents to feel like they are alone! I am here to support you and your dog in every step of this journey. Raising purebred dogs is my passion and I thank you for trusting me with the task of bringing these beautiful lives into the world. Welcome to the Tri-Star family!

Puppy Contract

Each family is provided with a signed copy of the puppy contract upon picking up their puppy.

The contract details the agreement between Tri-Star Stock Farm/Tri-Star Pembrokes "seller" and the puppy's new owner "buyer."

Upon signing, both parties agree to uphold all aspects of the contract as specified. Any questions or concerns regarding the terms of the contract must be brought up prior to signature.

A full copy of the puppy contract can be viewed on our website: www.tristarstockfarm.com

Contact Information

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We are proud to be part of the following

