

Visitation Policy Vom Hundhaus Shepherds

~The health and safety of our dogs and puppies is very important to us, so we take every precaution to protect them, after much trial and error we have implemented the following visitation policy that has been very successful~

We get approximately 15-20 calls and email inquiries a day regarding our German Shepherds. Approximately 30% of those, if not more, want to visit and spend a few hours with us, playing with the puppies, but many are saying “we might want a puppy years in the future and are interviewing breeders now”, or “we think we might want a German Shepherd or Berger Blanc Suisse but have never actually met one”, or "we are trying to see which breed is right for us" so they want to come visit our dogs to decide if they really like German Shepherds or Berger Blanc Suisse. We can understand why someone would want to do this and it is very wise before deciding on a breed or breeder.

However, we simply can't accommodate the high volume of requests and must streamline. This is our home and not a store front or kennel facility so please be understanding. The best place to figure out the answers to these types of questions is by meeting many dogs and breeders at a dog show. We can also direct you to upcoming dog shows, events and clubs if you're still in the research phase and undecided about the breed. We will also be happy to help you learn all about the breed and answer any questions via email and phone.

Many don't realize there are countless things to consider as a breeder of home raised puppies. The dangers of exposing young puppies to communicable disease is very serious and can be detrimental to a breeding program and the welfare of our dogs. Visitors can (of course unknowingly) bring diseases onto the property on their feet, hands etc. The mothers are also being protective of their 'den' (impending litter/pups) during this sensitive time. This is not a good time to assess the mother's temperament and will cause her stress and unease with a number of visitors coming and going while she is preparing for delivery or has a litter of pups.

Young and newborn puppies don't have fully developed immune systems and are susceptible to life threatening illnesses, including Parvovirus, Canine Influenza, Pneumonia, Canine Herpes Virus, Kennel Cough, etc. They will have maternal antibodies built up as they grow and get stronger, but are never totally immune. Therefore, precautions must be taken to ensure their safety. They are not old enough to vaccinate as it interferes with their maternal antibodies building and their own immune system coming on board and hurts more than it helps when administered too young. When diseases like Parvo strike, they can kill a whole litter in a matter of hours and can stay in the carpet and soil for years which would be devastating to our breeding program and property for many years to come. Disease can be carried on people's clothing, hands,

shoes, etc. and can live for years in the soil, pet stores, carpet, dog parks, training facilities, kennels, vet offices, rest stops, etc (anywhere dogs go) and unknowingly be tracked in. Litters of purebred puppies are also a high target for theft, dog flipping, and animal rights extremists. Therefore, we strictly limit access to who comes onto our property and visits our dogs and litters.

In the meantime, we ask that you 'visit' us online on our website, via email and [Facebook page](#) rather than in person until the appropriate time, so that you may see our dogs and watch our puppies grow. We photograph our puppies regularly, post the photos and videos on our Facebook page weekly. You will have plenty of opportunity to see how and where the litter is raised, socialized, growing, milestones, personalities and development. You can also view our past litter photos (on our website www.vomhundhaus.net or www.bergerblancsuisseshepherd.com) as a testament to how our puppies are reared.

Also we do not allow any other dogs or animals on the premises. PLEASE leave your other animals at home, as they will not be allowed onto our property for a visit. Healthy and recently vaccinated dogs can still track in, shed and transmit disease to young puppies and the puppy's mother will be very upset and protective with strange dogs visiting while she has a litter.