



Crème of the Crop Dachshunds' Puppy Preparation Before Gotcha Day!

Our English Cream Miniature Dachshunds are hand-raised with a relentless focus on temperament and health. We raise our puppies according to a time-intensive enrichment program which results in emotionally resilient, balanced puppies who have every advantage necessary to become once in a lifetime family members. We don't take lightly the responsibility of raising your next family member and are honored to have been chosen by those who have adopted our Dream Crème babies into their families forever.

Before you purchase or place a deposit for an English Cream Miniature Dachshund puppy from us, we would like to get to know you. We breed a few select litters of English Cream Miniature Dachshund puppies each year and are very careful about the homes to which our puppies go. There are many English Cream Miniature Dachshund breeders with a "Pay Pal" feature to their website if they even have a website who will sell a puppy without any knowledge as to where it is going. That is not us. We pour our hearts into these puppies for nine weeks preparing them to be healthy, happy, and loving members of your family, and we would be remiss to simply sell a puppy to just anyone. Our childhoods are filled with wonderful memories of Miniature Dachshunds, and we are humbled by the opportunity to bring that same kind of joy into other families. It is the driving force behind our breeding program: blessing families with their forever dog.

Our English Cream Miniature Dachshunds' "Dream Crème" puppies have their own distinct personality and energy level, so it's vital to the happiness of your family that we get to know a little before placing a puppy with your family. The information below helps determine how we achieve all of this. Following these requests helps us to get to know you more, walks you through the steps from gaining approval for placing a deposit for one of our puppies through the two week transition period after your puppy is in your home and doing well, and preparing our families for their puppies BEFORE the special day that you bring your forever family member home. Preparation is the key to success for you, your family, and your new baby.

Lastly, please contact me directly by phone for available puppies. All of the puppies on our current litter are spoken for. Our wait lists are usually full 6 months in advance, so we are not the breeder to contact if you are looking for a puppy RIGHT NOW. (But we certainly understand the urgency of wanting the patter of paws in the home!)

Occasionally, a family on our wait list will have a change of circumstances, resulting in a puppy becoming available unexpectedly. Otherwise, our Crème of the Crop Dachshunds families are a patient pack!

Due to access to our live streaming puppy cameras available to watch all our puppies from birth until they leave for their forever families so those watching get to see how our puppies are raised and these key elements: socialization, enrichment, appropriate health care, a clean sanitized environment, quality food, and our pedigrees, we keep an average 6 month wait list. Educate yourself on the above key elements, and you will have everything you need to make the right choice for your family. Following the requirements below as well as the suggested continued education will help educate you as well as help us get to know you better as we place our babies in the perfect homes. If you get stuck, feel free to give me a call or text with your questions, and I will help you decipher the information we provide for our new puppy owners on our website. At the end of the day, we want our families to get healthy, emotionally balanced puppies and are happy to help you in that process.

Along with our puppies being born in our home, we are there the entire time to support the mama. Puppies are well socialized with the sounds of everyday living, including active and boisterous sounds! They spend their days with our family in our large centrally located 700 square foot puppy nursery along with field trips to other areas of the home from the kitchen floor to the great room. They are constantly exposed to a variety of textures, smells, and of course touch (lots and lots of cuddling!). Throughout their day, they are safely introduced to a variety of experiences, playing and exploring, and most importantly, learning to trust those who gently handle them.

We cannot overemphasize how critical enrichment is for the long term development of an English Cream Miniature Dachshund, and we focus on imprinting our puppies. While they are in a “quarantined” area (in order to prevent any possibility of parvo and other illnesses), they can see and smell all of the activity on our farm.

A puppy’s greatest learning window is very short – from birth to 16 weeks – and we recognize the responsibility of exposing our puppies to the world so that they grow confident, trusting, intelligent, and relaxed dogs. Our puppy rearing protocol is driven by intentionality: each week, we manipulate their environment and activities to correspond

with their development at that time. Puppies develop at warp speed. At birth, they cannot see, hear, or walk. And yet, studies reveal that the use of Early Neurological Stimulation (ENS) at this time helps produce puppies who grow into dogs with increased emotional resiliency and balance.

The window for ENS is short – between days 3-16 of life. Once the puppies are 3 weeks old, their startle response emerges. Exercises during this time, which capitalize on this small window, will help puppies become dogs that quickly recover from a startle.

Like ENS, the startle/recovery exercises are only effective for an extremely short window in a puppy's life. The same is true of the developmental changes that puppies go through in each subsequent week. These are critical windows that profoundly affect who a puppy becomes as an adult. We calendar each of these windows, insuring that every puppy has the stimulation and enrichment to which they are receptive in that particular developmental phase.

It all takes TIME. Lots of time. And it requires true “hand rearing”; that is, puppies are raised in our home with me home every day. Not only does this allow the puppies to consider the sights and sounds of a family normal, but it enables us to have constant evaluation of the puppies. We are ALWAYS looking for ways to get better and improve the emotional health of our puppies!

In short, we are passionate about maximizing the potential of a puppy. There is so much more to raising puppies than just holding them and cleaning up after them. The more we study and research, the more we discover about the profound impact of these 9 weeks with us. It is our commitment to you, and them, to do everything possible to help them become the greatest possible version of themselves.

I have had many families tell me that they have prepared more extensively for the arrival of their puppy than the arrival of their first child! It can be a bit overwhelming, but it is also essential that you are prepared for your puppy with all of the necessities. This is the purpose of this document as well as the others, and I hope you all will now understand why we request the information below as well as setting up your Crème of the Crop Dachshunds' Training Binder reading with a **highlighter** and making notes in the margins as well as following up with me with any questions. To make sure our parents have also done their due diligence in preparing for their new puppies, we will be asking for information, videos, and pictures below as well as a guideline of when it's time to work on certain steps in the adoption process. This will ensure that you can continue to

provide the proper enrichment, socialization, and care that your new family member will need to for the rest of their lives.

1. After getting approval over the phone after our phone interview process and application, please mail your deposit and completed contract with only the yellow highlighted information completed as soon as possible. Please text me a receipt for the priority mail with the tracking number and the estimated delivery date with no signature required.
2. Connect with us on our business Instagram and Facebook pages as well as my personal Facebook page (Leslie Perkins Urso) by following us on both and sending a friend request to my personal page. Please text me your Instagram name as well as your Facebook name along with sending a screenshot of you following our Crème of the Crop Dachshunds' Facebook (to make sure you are following the right Crème of the Crop Dachshunds' business page because there are other Facebook pages with this name as well as Instagram pages) page by text to my cell number 979-814-0642. I prefer text or phone calls to emails after you have been approved for a puppy. That's the fastest way to reach me and most efficient. This is one of the ways that we get to know a little more about our new puppy owners and vice versa. This needs to be done immediately after our phone interview/application to complete the application process.
3. Take several short videos of your home, porches and patios, and fenced in back yard and describe where you are planning to put your puppy nursery/nurseries. Including family members and other pets in the videos and pictures are welcome and appreciated as we get to know you. These are private and not used for any purpose except for us to meet the family and see our puppy's forever home and play yards for physical exercise and potty areas. This is another way we get to know you and make sure we are placing our puppies in appropriate homes. This needs to be done within the first 3 days after our phone interview/application to complete the application process and get a position on our wait list.
4. Then, please go to our website and print all of the documents under our New Puppy Owners' page before your puppy is born within a week after placing your deposit. Place each one with dividers into a binder. READ. READ. And READ again. Highlight as you read and take notes to the side, circle words or phrases, research more about something you want to know more about, or use a dictionary to look up words that you are not familiar with in the documents. I call this Mind Notes, and it's a wonderful way to learn new information. I will ask for a video of your Crème of the Crop Dachshunds' Training binder with the notes and highlighted parts by the time your puppy is 3 weeks

old. You should have plenty of time to carefully read and study the information and start getting prepared for your puppy before it's born. There are also two online puppy training classes that we recommend. If you decide to purchase those, please use our breeder's code for a discount. We also have some books on our Amazon list that I highly recommend for very puppy owner to read. This takes time, so it's best to do these trainings and reading before your puppy is born and refresh after your puppy is born as well as preparing, planning, and ordering the necessary items from the different checklists and handouts on our website. We also have several important links that have a lot of helpful information that you can keep referring back to or add the links on your computer for easy access when you revisit them. Please text or call me if you have any questions about anything. I'm always happy to help in any way I can.

5. Please start ordering the necessary items, toys, food, beds, pens, etc. that are on our checklists and other items we recommend on the different handouts to have plenty of time to have a completed puppy nursery, stocked food pantry, and all necessary items washed and at home by the time your new puppy is six weeks of age. This is such an exciting and fun time as you prepare for your new family member! Enjoy it, and with early preparation it will be an exciting fun experience! When your puppy is 6 weeks old, your puppy nursery videos and pictures are due by text to us as well as pictures and videos of your stocked pantry for treats and food needed before your puppy arrives home. Enjoy learning, preparing, and stocking your pantries for the big Gotcha Day!

You want a variety of everything and plan to replace items and toys daily so your puppy is not bored. I wait a week before rotating the toys back into the puppy nursery unless your puppy has a favorite toy which I will leave in the nursery. I wash the toys daily and inspect for any type of damage to prevent obstruction surgeries from swallowing dangerous materials or pieces of toys. I have toys and chews that do not require supervision and those that require 100% supervision.

6. Once I notify you that your baby is born, we will pick puppies within the first week depending on each litter. If I don't hear back from you within 24 hours of a text and phone message, I will go to the next person on our wait list, so please reply promptly. I appreciate everyone's consideration because we have several new families anxiously waiting for our call to say their new baby has arrived!

7. After your baby is born, please order your NuVet Plus Immune Wafers 90 count to double your health guarantee for you puppy! They are wonderful, and we give them to all of our dogs and your puppy daily when they start eating gruel. Three bottles of 90 wafers will last your puppy for a year. If you have other dogs, please give one a day to

them as well for the health benefits. Dogs love them, and it's an excellent supplement for many reasons listed on our website. Please see how to order on our New Puppy Owners' page on our website. We use these for the life of our dogs. They also have a wonderful hip and joint supplement that I highly recommend for dachshund owners considering the breed. Be sure to use our breeder's code **21577** when ordering, so I will receive an email to keep for your puppy's extended health guarantee.

8. All of our new puppy families send care packages for their puppies that start arriving the first few weeks after their puppy is born. Some families buy a present for all of the siblings in the litter to go home with them to their forever homes. Everyone needs to send a heartbeat calming anxiety puppy or similar heartbeat toy, a blanket (or a few blankets), chew toys, teething toys, bully sticks, tracheas, and any other toys that you feel your puppy will enjoy. Here are some other popular items to have shipped directly here: crinkle toys, squeaky toys, stuffed animal toys, puppy Kongs, treats, and airline approved carriers if flying, These items will go home with your baby with all the littermates' scents on each to give comfort to your puppy during the transition period and for life. Our customers order from Amazon or my Amazon puppy necessities list (If you're not an Amazon Prime Member, I highly suggest you become one. I have orders for all necessities set up to come monthly.) and have the items shipped directly to our home with a gift card with your puppy's name on it. Also, please text me a screenshot of your Amazon orders when you make the order, so I'll be expecting it. This also helps me keep everything organized and helps me identify what items go home with your baby. We have a huge variety on our Amazon list and many other links for specialty items that aren't offered on Amazon for your convenience. Please request to leave all packages on my front porch **without** a signature required. Also, please mail to:

Leslie Urso

3319 Old Hickory Grove Road

Franklin, Texas 77856

9. When your puppy is two weeks old, I'll send out the half payment information. Half payments are mailed to us and due by the time your puppy is 3 weeks old to continue to hold your puppy. Also, please have your puppy's name picked out by this time. Their ears have unsealed, and they now can see and hear at 3 weeks of age! I will start teaching your puppy its name at this age.

10. After I receive your puppy's half payment, we will pick a day for puppy pick-ups, and I will start working on the schedules and pick-up times. There is a handout that explains how this process works in your Crème of the Crop Dachshunds' Training Binder. If you are flying here to pick up your puppy, please refer to the Flying handout on our website for links to the hotel here and hotels in nearby towns as well as restaurant recommendations. Remember, we are looking for a direct flight home with your puppy in the morning or lunch times depending on flight schedules and the different airlines. Don't forget to buy your puppy's return ticket for going home!

11. Once your pick-up date has been approved and scheduled, you want to immediately schedule your well check and fecal appointment with your veterinarian within 72 hours after puppy pick-up. I recommend resting the day after pick-up and taking them in the next day unless the puppy is having health issues. Remember, this is not an immunization appointment. They are **NOT** due for shots for this appointment. You will schedule a second appointment for their second time sensitive immunizations. This is an exam to make sure your puppy is healthy so you don't void your health guarantee. If you have a trusted vet, I would have another highly recommended vet as a backup in case your vet is on vacation and unavailable. If your vet does not work after hours, weekends, and holidays, please carefully research and find a wonderful 24-hour emergency clinic and have the number and address ready in case of after-hours emergencies. If you do not currently have a vet, I recommend searching for one like you're looking for a pediatrician for your baby. It's very important to have the best medical care and vets for your new family member. It could save your baby's life in the future. We never know when sickness or emergencies will arise, so being prepared is so important for your puppy's health.

12. After your puppy receives its first round of immunizations, I will text you and send you the date for your second vet appointment which is when they will receive their second set of shots. I recommend scheduling this appointment in the **morning**, so you have time to watch for reactions and seek help from your vet while their office is open. These are time-sensitive vaccinations, so please schedule them the day that I text you with the date for their next set of shots. Vet appointments are booking up and if you don't plan ahead, you may not be able to get your puppy in to see the vet on the date their vaccinations are due. They are due every 3 weeks, so if you call at this time, you should be able to schedule an appointment. Some past customers have had a problem because their vets are not going to be in the office when their puppy's vaccinations are due. This is why I always have two great vets and clinics so I always have a vet that can see my puppy when needed.

13. I'll be texting payment reminders, packing your puppy travel bag reminders, vet appointment reminders, and keeping in contact with all the families as they travel here for their forever new family members.

14. We're so exciting and looking forward to finally meeting our new Crème of the Crop Dachshund families on Gotcha Day! It's always such a magical day and such a blessing for all! Remember for the first 3 days to keep your puppy in its puppy nursery only to allow your puppy to decompress during its transition. We have another handout explaining more about this in much greater detail and why it's so important. It will be in your Crème of the Crop Dachshunds' Training Binder! I'll be staying in constant contact with you day and night for these first 3 days and look forward to all the updates, pictures, and videos to come!

Below is an example from a part of our Puppy Application that must be checked off as received before placement of any Crème of the Crop Dachshunds' puppy:

_____ Approval to Purchase a Dream Crème Puppy

_____ Received text of receipt for priority mail of deposit and completed contract

_____ Received a CORRECTLY COMPLETED puppy contract

_____ Received a check for the puppy deposit that has cleared the bank

_____ Connected on Crème of the Crop Dachshunds' Instagram page

_____ Connected on Crème of the Crop Dachshunds' Facebook page and received screenshot by text.

_____ Received a friend request to my personal Facebook page which has been accepted:
Leslie Perkins Urso

_____ Received several short videos and pictures of the interior of the puppy's new forever home, other pets, and new family

_____ Received several short videos and pictures of the outside patio, porches, and fenced in back yard where your new baby will be playing

_____ Received a video of our Crème of the Crop Dachshunds' Training Binder highlighted with lots of notes and questions on each page prior to picking out a new puppy. We want to make sure our new families have taken the time to prepare carefully

for their new baby. We will pass to the next person on the wait list if this has not been completed. We work hard to prepare our puppies for success, and it's important that their new parents are educated and prepared for a perfect transition from our home to yours.

_____ Received several videos and pictures of the COMPLETED Puppy Nursery and stocked pantry with all enrichment toys and chews as well as snuffle mats, wobble boards, slide, beds, food and water bowls, variety of toys, a potty area, treats, raw bones, wet food, high reward treats, dyne, dry kibble, chicken thighs with skin and other food items from the checklist by the time the puppy is 6 weeks old

_____ NuVet Plus is ordered for a year's supply (3 bottle of 90 wafers) to double your health guarantee

_____ Puppy Care Package has arrived with requested items by the time your puppy is 4 weeks of age.

_____ Half payment received by the time your puppy is 3 weeks of age and cleared the bank

_____ Screenshot of booked flight with airline and flight times if flying your puppy home

_____ Received pictures and video of packed Puppy Travel bag with all items listed on our handout