

UDC Chapter 11 – SAR PUPPY PROGRAM

OBJECTIVE

Recognizing the value of using Dobermans as SAR dogs, this program has been initiated by UDC breeders and SAR handlers to place puppies, free of charge, into working homes to be trained for search and rescue.

I. Expectations for participating breeders

- A. AKC or CKC registered, limited registration optional.
- B. Puppies will be micro chipped.
- C. Cropping and docking of puppies will be the decision of the breeder.
- D. Puppies will be spayed/neutered by 24 months of age.
- E. Semi-annual written (email) reports will be provided to the breeder, as well as to the Puppy Program Committee.
- F. Program is open to any UDC breeder who wishes to participate.

II. Prospective Handlers

- A. UDC membership required for at least one year prior to application for a puppy.
- B. Handlers will maintain membership in UDC for three years, and are encouraged to maintain membership for 5 years following receipt of a donated puppy, and attend the UDC National at least every other year.
- C. Experienced SAR Doberman handlers will be given priority.
- D. All puppy recipients will have trained at least one operational level SAR dog to be eligible for this program.
- E. Prospective handlers will submit an application detailing their experience and provide references.
- F. If selected to receive a puppy, the handler will help defray the travel expenses of the evaluator(s).

III. Puppy Evaluation

A standardized evaluation will be used to test those litters designated for this project. The evaluation instrument contains general tests for temperament as well as the specialized tests required by the discipline specified by the handler: for example, trailing, air scent, disaster or human remains detection.

The evaluators will be selected by the Puppy Program Committee.

When a litter is ready to be evaluated, at approximately 7 weeks of age, the prospective handler and at least one evaluator will test all the puppies in the litter for suitability. The evaluation information will be made available to the breeder as well as the prospective handler.

IV. Dogs which do not work out

The handler will have the option of keeping the dog as a pet and will continue to submit semi-quarterly reports to the breeder and the committee.

Should the handler need to surrender the dog, the handler will work with the breeder to find it a suitable working home, or will return the dog to the breeder.

V. Web site and FOCUS

In order to publicize its commitment to the Total Doberman as an excellent search and rescue partner, a page will be added to the UDC web site profiling the Dobermans chosen for this project. The page will also acknowledge the donor breeders for their dedication to producing dogs with a strong work ethic and solid temperaments.

To further illustrate the high suitability of the Doberman for this service, other UDC SAR Dobermans will be included, showing the wealth of experience represented in the different SAR specialties over the years.

The FOCUS will also be provided with an annual article for publication which highlights the activities of all the puppies in SAR placement through the program.

VI. Funding

The SAR group is committed to raising funds to assist in the travel expenses of the puppy evaluators who donate their time. However, the support of the UDC would be helpful in order to make this program a great success.

VII. Handler Application Process

1. Submit application to committee coordinators.
2. Phone or face-to-face interview conducted by coordinators.
3. References will be contacted by coordinators.

VIII. Coordinators

This project will be coordinated by the Puppy Program Committee.

Recognizing that adjustments to the procedures will be needed based on actual experience, the committee will re-evaluate the procedures for this project every few years and make the changes necessary.