**XANADU BREEDING GOALS**

This document is an expanded explanation of XANADU'S Breeding Goals. **Our Primary Objective is the development of a new breed, the XANADU, the World’s Best Family Dog.** Toward that end, the goals for which we breed are enumerated below. XANADU ideals may or may not be your "Best Dog" ideals.

Lineages displaying most (sometimes ALL) of the enumerated characteristics that follow are woven together year after year toward our "World's Best Family Dog" objective. **This document contains the information necessary for you to decide if a XANADU puppy is for you. Some paragraphs below are in blue. These represent expanded details that I'll call TMI (Too Much Information). You may want to skip these paragraphs.**

**If you determine that the XANADU Dog is not the dog for you, you can move along to breeders who breed for different characteristics. The XANADU document, "How to Select a Puppy" will be helpful to you in choosing a breeder.**

**A. FIRST and foremost, XANADU breeds for TEMPERAMENT -** Our pups and dogs are friendly with family members and are likely to be friendly to strangers, also; they are safe for children to play with. For example, the F1 Goberian and Bordoodle puppies do not chew on people/children (much) when they are little pups; other breeds--even other XANADU hybrids and multigenerationals, like the GoldenDoodles and F1b Goberians--seem to have this issue until they mature or are taught "No Teeth on Skin!"

While F1 Goberian pups and Bordoodle puppies noted here were selected for inclusion in the XANADU breeding program for many other reasons besides not chewing on humans, these tendencies have been a surprising, happy discovery--and good news for new pup owners. Puppy-training and the natural tendencies of our hybrids and multigenerational lineages are a work-in-progress, of course. Some lineages are naturally less chewy; others need more instruction about appropriate behavior. If you are a puppy, oh! there is so much to learn! All puppies will need to be taught not to jump up on people. Children and many adults are vulnerable to being knocked down by pups or adult dogs that have not been well trained and that are larger as adults. XANADU pups do **not** have anger issues or short fuses. They are patient with children and their family members. They are all about rough-and-tumble puppy play, however. They are alert as mature dogs and may tell you of a stranger’s approach, but the XANADU Dogs are NOT great guard dogs. With more-or-less success, they are bred for reduced barking. Your neighbors will appreciate this characteristic for which XANADU deliberately breeds.

**B. CONFIRMATION -** (or sometimes I say, "grace" or how XANADU Dogs move) and **GENETIC SOUNDNESS--**

Parent dogs are the best examples of their breeds that can be found (genetic test results, [often] Championship parentage / ancestry, etc.). Future parent dogs that I have purchased as pups for XANADU'S Guardian Home program are expensive. I SEARCHED FOR A LONG TIME to find these individuals—sometimes for years. XANADU puppies’ parents have had / are currently undergoing / or they will undergo (expensive) breed-specific genetic testing for breed-specific disorders—dysplasia, blindness, deafness, heart problems, skin and coat problems, canine collapse disorder, etc., etc. All outside network breeders' stud dogs are “clear” of such genetically-transferable issues.

**Females that will have one litter for XANADU are “cleared” of genetically-transferable problems by lineage genetic tests, by information from breeders and / or by parental / ancestral genetic testing (info. stored in registries). Females who will have more litters for XANADU will be tested for all breed-specific problem-possibilities for which they are possible carriers. This season, XANADU breeding dogs with carrier issues will be retired from the program. "Carrier" issues do not affect the health of the puppies, but knowing about these matters in parent dogs helps breeders make wise decisions about which mates to select, so that any dog with a "carrier" issue is NOT bred to another dog with this carrier issue.**

**One of the most common tests for parent and ancestry dogs determines hip soundness/health: XANADU breeding dogs have hips that are classified by OFA as either “good” or “excellent,” by PennHip testing in percentages. A few rare dog breeds are recognized to have very long-lineage excellence, e.g., the Saluki breed, which is purported to be the oldest dog breed and to have the best hips in dog-dom. XANADU'S foundation female is an imported Saluki from the Middle East.**

**XANADU will not breed a dog with “Fair” (or worse) hip scores. We prefer PennHip testing to OFA. PennHip ratings are shown as percentages, like XANADU'S founding male International Champion moyen Poodle who has a 100% PennHip Rating or American Golden Retriever, Bluegrass Dancer—sire of Eve and Zoe’—who has a 90% PennHip rating. Bluegrass Dancer also has OFA “excellent” hips, as do: Blue Sky, Lulwah, Myrrh, Rumi Wyldfyr, Uno, and other representatives of XANADU lineages. These dogs have between 90 and 100% hips--and I do wish my hips were this perfect!**

**C. EXPECTED LIFE SPAN -** XANADU litters have also been bred for longevity—and for long lives with good health. If your puppy does NOT carry “extra” longevity qualities, we will let you know, so you can expect your dog to have the normal, healthy life span you would expect. While these details are noted in descriptions of the breeds of XANADU parent and lineage dogs, if you have in-depth questions about the expected lifespan of your XANADU, please call me, and I’ll make an educated guess. **It is our hope that the puppy you purchase for your little children will live healthy lives throughout your kids' entire childhoods**, perhaps until they leave home to begin independent lives at a new job or continued education at a university, etc. As the owner of a XANADU pup, it would be helpful if you let us know, in the many years to come, when your elder dog dies and the cause of death. Knowing such sad news will help us improve our breeding program.

**D. INTELLIGENCE, TRAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY --** Increasingly, XANADU works toward standard and advanced obedience performance and service / therapy-dog temperament and characteristics, so your dog will be an even better best friend and a good neighbor. We breed dogs for companionability and cooperation and for wanting to know what you want him / her to do--and then doing it. Most purchasers write that their pup is the "world's smartest dog." One lady wrote, "No dog has a right to be this smart!" (See our Testimonials.) While traditional service dog breeds, like Retrievers or Poodles, are highly intelligent, you can expect MORE from your XANADU dog. Your XANADU dog may be noticeably more alert, more aware, more savvy about his/her environment, more conscious, more curious, more responsible for you or your family, etc.; most XANADU owners describe their dogs as the “smartest dog I’ve ever seen!” They are also excellent service dog candidates. I am always so proud when one of our pups goes into service training.

        There is another odd quality that we find in some XANADU dogs, and especially the Goberians: These unusual dogs seem to be able to read minds; I suppose they are just that attentive, bonded, and loving. Still, this is a frequent characteristic of the XANADU dog--and one we try to capture in successive litters of hyper-attentive/sensitive, *psychic* pups.

**E. COAT --** Doodles are beautiful; we prefer waves and curls, soft coats, medium coats, parti-colors of gold-and-white and red-and-white, silver-blue phantoms, tri-colors, coat-pattern symmetry, low-shed and no bad doggie odor. Sometimes a XANADU pup will resemble a parent or grandparent that **does shed**—Golden Retriever look-alikes in Goldendoodle F1 litters are one example. If no-to-low shed is important to you (especially for allergy reasons), please note the description of the litter or the puppy you want. If you or your family member(s) have allergies, please talk with your doctor before selecting any puppy—even a purebred hypoallergenic Poodle pup.

Please note also that often the no-shed feature of a Doodle is over-rated for the following reasons:

 1. You cannot easily see the myriad of facial expressions on a low-to-no-shed Doodle's face.

 2. Some XANADU hybrids and multigenerational dogs are seasonal shedders. Trips to the groomer with the instruction, "Strip that shedding undercoat, please," is necessary during the springtime, but the rest of the year, coats are pretty carefree.

 3. Low-to-no-shed dogs must be groomed often, and if they are not, their coats will matt or form dreadlocks, and make the ultimate grooming a bit harder.

 4. Trips to a groomer every couple of months--or every few weeks--or longer periods of time--can be as expensive as a new "do" for you, although your BFF will look so cute afterwards--and there are so many coat-clip styles to choose from.

 **E.** **SIZE** — We have smaller and larger lines of XANADU dogs (Goberians & Doodles), but we will increasingly aim at producing pups that will be between 35 and 50 pounds at maturity. Standard-sized Golden Retrievers, Goldendoodles, some Goberians, some Pomskies, and others are a *current* exception, as are Maltese crosses)—We prefer dogs that are not so small that they are at great risk of accident (rough-housing / child play, for example, or in jumping off a couch or bed) or dogs that could be a target for predators. We also prefer a size that is not so large that they are difficult to keep as house dogs--or impossible for most pet owners to carry, if necessary. Ultimately, a 35-50 pound adult dog is our world’s-best-family-dog goal.

**F. DESIGNER OR VANITY CHARACTERISTICS**—blue eyes, green eyes, as well as warm brown and gold eyes, “eyeliner” markings, symmetry in markings, black noses and footpads, a soft Egyptian-cotton coat quality, non-barkiness, gracefulness, homing ability, what we have noticed as a "party tail" that looks like a big pom-pom, etc. (Chase, Ashoka, Chinook, Rio Vida and Can-Can have great "party tails") are all characteristics for which XANADU breeds.

Some lineages have a **strong homing ability.** We never know until we have a lost-dog crisis, but these XANADU dog owners have exciting and wonderful stories to tell—and these owners are also embarrassed to tell these scary lost-dog stories. Who would want to tell me their dogs have had a frightening lost-dog experience and that their dog traveled miles over unknown territory to come home?

     XANADU works with fertility clinics, international canine semen banks, seventy (and counting) veterinary clinics worldwide, veterinary teaching hospitals, canine fertility specialists, geneticists, genetic testing services, holistic veterinary practitioners, natural health care specialists **(and I recommend the magazine, *Dogs Naturally),*** and with our own breeder network of quality dogs. These professionals offer support, assistance, encouragement, advice, and their enthusiasm for XANADU of the Rockies and our Breeding Goals.

Your XANADU pup will be wormed and examined by a veterinarian (usually twice) before s/he goes home. XANADU puppies are guaranteed for temperament, genetic soundness, and total health. You are guaranteed to love your puppy and your pup is guaranteed to love you in return. (Please note on-line XANADU guarantee.)

XANADU of the Rockies supports several organizations that help children, families in crisis, dogs, wildlife and our environment worldwide.