***Always Faithful Dobermans***

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**The Doberman Breed**

**Buyer Contract**

Bringing a new puppy addition into the family is the beginning of a journey that can enrich the life of everyone involved if taking the proper equipment along the journey. Knowledge, wisdom, love, patience, training, consistency, are some of the tools that will benefit your journey together and help make it a smoother and more pleasant one. Here are some very important tools of knowledge and wisdom to get you started.

* A domesticated dog has been ***bred for the human*** and their companionship-Especially the **DOBERMAN**. They need to be around you as much as possible and need to know they are part of the family (pack). They were NOT bred to stay locked up somewhere away from the family unit or pack. Even wolves don’t separate from one another but stay together. The closer you let your Dobe in, the better (more faithful, trustworthy, and close) of a family pet you will have.
* A Doberman is a PERSONAL WORKING dog. He is solid, powerful, fast, agile, and has a lot of endurance. She is sensitive, and highly intelligent. He comes from a genetic makeup that enjoys a job of some sort involving his partner(s). Therefore, he tends to be Velcro, has a constantly thinking brain, and tries to figure everything out. He also has a high alert (guard). He will be keen, clever, and appear very nosy. She enjoys at least an hour of *real exercise* per day like running, and needs personal interaction with a human. Dobes need to know and feel they are part of something, and especially someone.
* The Doberman canNOT handle cold temperatures for long periods and needs a heated place in the winter. An outdoor doghouse is NOT suitable enough! They love playing outside in cold weather but need breaks like a human does and a warm jacket would be much appreciated.
* Because a Doberman enjoys running and needs a secure place to run, when that is not available, he will need to be on a proper lead (leash, harness) for everyone’s sense of safety i.e., dangerous traffic, someone calling animal control, fighting another dog, chasing cats.
* Although you both may be comfortable with one another, it doesn’t mean that it will be the same with strangers. Always have a proper and friendly **meet and greet**when company is coming over, starting as a pup. Bring your growing puppy and adult dog out in public somewhere on a regular basis. At the same time, respect other people’s space and make sure they respect you and your dog’s space unless they have been trained to meet and greet strangers. **Socialization** is important to a smoother experience with your Dobe.
* The Doberman is a verbally expressive dog with a high communication level towards humans, and will try to tell you a lot of things through barking at you or making other dog sounds. They are also physically expressive, i.e., pawing at you or something, popping you with their nose to receive a pet. Do not let this alarm you and this is not a sign of aggression.
* The Doberman is a sensitive dog (perceptively and emotionally), and any disconnect, misunderstanding or tension with their family member can cause them stress (and you in return). Developing a relationship of mutual understanding and support is needed for the optimal functioning dog as your family pet. Note: If you are frustrated with the dog, he will quickly pick up on it and can act out in frustration also. A pup can manifest various acting out behaviors like running from you, chewing excessively, defiance and out-right fighting your will against theirs if you are trying to train out of frustration and any negative feelings. \*This does NOT mean to be soft and easy on your Dobe because he will take that as a passive owner (pack leader) and could try to dominate and/or try to get their way over yours. A firm hand is important during the puppy phase. Being a loving but firm handler, who shows consistency and patience with praise will reap great rewards with the results.
* Connecting with your Doberman will cause things to run much smoother (as with any relationship). Talk to him a lot; she loves to hear your voice and will pick words out and learn them! Pet her often and keep good eye contact. Dobes are all about eye contact.
* Handling and touching your Dobe is important. The more your pup gets use to various touches, the more it will help her trust more and be more relaxed in different environments and situations like going to the vet clinic. Touch pup a lot- his paws, ears, mouth, chest, back, face, even nub of a tail and getting him use to close interaction with humans altogether. Get her comfortable with humans touching the food bowl and food, even when he is eating.

**Doberman Puppies**

* A puppy is a baby dog that develops in stages like a human but much quicker. A baby, a toddler, a juvenile, a young adult, a mature adult and then a senior. This is important to be aware of as his ***behavior and needs*** will change with each stage. You will most likely receive your new furry family member as a toddler. She will come with a lot of energy and want to explore and learn. He will also be teething and want to chew on many things. He will not be fully potty-trained yet. She will also be used to playing rough with her littermates and will possibly treat you and your family as one. Yanking on pant legs, biting things, growling while playing, is all normal healthy puppy behavior. It is channeling that into the proper places (when and where certain play is allowed and what is prohibited) that you must work on. This is where ***consistent training and patience*** on your part is highly important to the type of dog you want him developing into. Also investing in an ***obedience trainer***  is a great idea and will be well worth it in the long run.
* A juvenile or very young adult Dobe can still act like a pup and still appear very friendly and non- aggressive. Once they reach 1 ½ -2 years of age, they can easily display alpha signs towards other dogs of the same sex. Many will quickly fight another one that seems like competition. This is where ***neutering or spaying*** will help greatly by greatly lowering that instinct to compete as alpha. This will also prevent male and female Dobes from over-sniffing and marking territory every other step, which can be quite frustrating.
* It is best to read as much as possible about raising a healthy Doberman, both physically and environmentally. Reading as much about the Doberman breed, raising puppies, obedience training, developing great relationships, nutrition, exercise, proper behavior, (not destroying things, properly greeting strangers); these are all very important to ensure you receive the full capabilities out of this remarkable breed.
* A Doberman is NOT bred to be a Fighting dog or to be used for Pit Bull baiting!!!!! None of the puppies or dogs you purchase from me will be used for such EVILS! Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law!!!!!
* NOTE: If you cannot keep your dog because of an unexpected situation that you cannot get around, **please contact me first**. I will take her back and find a replacement home that suits him the best possible. DO NOT just give him to someone you assume will agree to the above and DO NOT hand her over to a rescue or animal shelter!!!
* Dobermans were NOT made to live outdoors. Dobermans do not have undercoats & have very short slick fur, therefore are more susceptible to skin sensitives & environmental contaminants, i.e., staph, ringworm & canNOT be left living outdoors or they can have serious skin issues & if prolonged it will breakdown their immune system & could cause Demodectic Mange or other health issues.

If you understand all the above important and helpful information, and agree to do your best for the dog as an extended furry family member, please sign and return the contract. Thank you.

Buyer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_