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Overview

Here are our most frequently asked questions (FAQ). If we miss any of yours in our FAQ, please don't hesitate to call us or email us with your additional question(s). This document is under constant revision. For most recent version go to our [Online FAQ](#) and check the footer date.

I am concerned about my privacy. Can I opt in/out of Sho Mai Sou features?

Email Communications

[I wish to "Opt In" \(Please keep me up to date on future litters at Sho Mai Sou\).](#)

[I wish to "Opt Out" of future emails from Sho Mai Sou.](#)

Update your preference on sharing your information with other reputable Shiba breeders

[You may share my info with other reputable breeders.](#)

[DO NOT share my info with other breeders.](#)

Update your consent to conduct a background check and talk to your references.

(Only needed to move from "Short List" to "Approved Homes" list)

[I consent to a background check.](#)

[I DO NOT consent to a background check.](#)

Update your consent to request info from your veterinarian.

[I consent to release of info from my veterinarian\(s\).](#)

[I DO NOT consent to release of veterinarian information.](#)

How long is your waitlist?, Lists as of 9/24/2020

"Unprocessed Applications": 460 not added to long list (1423)

"Long List" (First list after application received): 963 families (1423)

"Short List" (Vetted homes that meet minimum criterion): 217 families

Short-Short List (Homes pending backgrounds): 17 families

"Approved Homes List" (Vetted homes background checks are complete): 8 families
(additional info on these lists below)

Realistic Expectations - We receive an average of 10 applications a day since COVID-19, which are more applications than we can review and process. Because of that we ask that you only apply if you meet the minimum requirements.

1. House with fenced yard (or apartment/townhouse/condo with fenced yard).
2. Citizen of the United States or Permanent Resident status.
3. 18 yoa or older
4. Are you comfortable with a \$2500 - \$5000 price range?

We prefer active homes that are involved in AKC/UKC conformation, dog sports such as CAT/Fast CAT, Agility, Obedience, Scent Dog etc. We especially like to see our dogs go into homes that have children who plan or are currently participating in 4H and or AKC Juniors with their dog(s).

What kind of Breeder is Sho Mai Sou Shiba Inu?

The term “puppy mill” has been hijacked by some of the more radical animal rights groups and to them, anybody that breeds or sells dogs is a puppy mill; so, I just don’t use their term anymore. I define breeders as:

- **Heritage Breeder** – this is where I classify my breeding program. We are also an [Accountable Breeder](#) and [Preservation Breeder](#) of [Purposefully Bred Purebred Dogs](#) (Shiba Inu). Sho Mai Sou has long term goals including improving the health and preserving the original type, temperament and purpose for which the breed was developed for. Most Heritage Breeders of the Shiba Inu are involved in both the [AKC](#) and [Nippo](#).
- **Professional/Commercial breeder** - these breeders are regulated by USDA and licensed. The puppies are usually sold to pet stores. They have worked diligently over the past 20+ years to elevate the standards of their breeding programs and facilities - with the valued help from AKC and other registries. These breeders provide purebred dogs in the numbers that we, "**Heritage Breeders**", simply cannot attain.
- **Casual Breeder** - these individuals/families may have 1 or 2 litters in their lifetime. Often referred to as "backyard breeders", their reason for having a litter is varied, but probably don't deserve a bad rap, they just need to be educated.
- **Substandard Breeder or Breeding facilities** - this is the phrase that I use in place of puppy mill. It describes breeding facilities that don't meet the basic needs of the dogs; often are the suppliers for retail rescue operations; are unlicensed, unregulated and the bane of animal welfare advocates.

From one of our associated reputable breeders and current member of [NSCA](#) and [HODSF](#).

What Makes A Reputable Breeder? May 25, 2019 by [BoomlayShibas](#).

Thank you for your interest in our dogs. [Here is a summary of our current breeding plans](#).

We utilize multiple websites to get our information.

- Main website :<http://shomaisou.com>
- Legacy website (soon to be replaced): <http://shibas.dog>
- New website in progress: <http://shibasdog.homestead.com>

Our dog FaceBook is <https://www.facebook.com/ShoMaiSou/>
[Our WeMe page](#). We are moving our Facebook page over to [Our MeWe.com Page](#). MeWe seems to better respect our privacy. I don't have a date set yet when I will remove my Facebook business pages.

Please review this [FAQ](#) or <http://faq.shomaisou.com> for questions asked in the past that may be of interest to you. If you have not done so already, follow the link to [my puppy form on my website](#) or <http://app.shomaisou.com> to submit your interest in upcoming litters. This is the preliminary info we use to determine new homes for our puppies. Basic information important to us when placing our puppies? Please include your complete address when filling out the information.

You can keep track of our puppies on the [webcams](#) below and we encourage you to follow the puppies growth progress on the [online spreadsheet](#) .

Webcams: <http://shibas.dog/camera-page.html>

Available Dogs

[Shiba Puppies to approved homes](#)

[Adult Shiba's to approved homes](#)

- [See February 2020 Newsletter](#)

Open Letter

We encourage you to be active with your Shiba. [Coursing, both CAT and Fast CAT](#), because of the high prey drive of a Shiba are a couple of AKC dog sports that require almost no training and they just love it. Coursing ability testing (CAT) is demonstrated below. I like to show this video because neither I nor the dogs had seen CAT before that day. The B/T maybe 2 hours before. It shows how fast they take to it and how much they love it. The Black and Tan is my Guccifer and the Red boy is Star-Lord X Kimi puppy CH Gunner, full but younger brother of Shake. <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0bG6XBubMqkhU>

Just like you must consider that you are making a 15 to 20-year commitment when you get a Shiba puppy, we commit to supporting every puppy for its lifetime. Because of that, it's important to us that where that puppy is placed with a family, we feel we can establish a long-term relationship. It's been our experience that people who are most involved and engaged early on, stay in touch with us best so we have pictures and updates and, in some cases,, participate with us in conformation and dog sports. The personal relationship matters to us. We like you to stay engaged from the beginning of the process. We like you to be watching the cameras, watching the spreadsheets and asking questions. We like you to visit our dogs and visit the puppies before they go home. We like to place our puppies close to home so we can evaluate our breeding program in person on occasion (Since we travel for dog shows, close is a relative term).

We love this breed, so do not feel like you need to get a puppy from us. As a steward to of the breed, we are always happy to answer any questions you may have and help you find the right puppy even if it is not one of ours. Let us know if you have any questions or we can help you with your search for the right Shiba.

Rex Gaylord レックス・ゲイロード

[Sho Mai Sou \(Victory Dancing Kennel\)](#)

(440) 832-7384 Home

(702) 845-3283 Cell

[Yelp](#)

[MeWe \(Sho Mai Sou\)](#)

[Facebook \(Rex\)](#)

[Facebook \(Sho Mai Sou\)](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



We list our puppies on our [AKC Marketplace](#) and [GoodDog](#). We also have an active [FaceBook](#) page but Facebook has a policy against advertising or selling puppies, it is informational only.

[Do you take deposits?](#), We do not take deposits or commit to where they are going until both the homes and puppies have been evaluated.

[How does your waitlist work?](#), We have a list of interest people we have applications from, but we evaluate the puppies at 7-8 weeks. Between 8-12 weeks we decide what we will keep and then match the puppies up to the best homes we have for them. We will give feedback as to where you are on the waitlists and what you may do to get moved up to our Short List or Approved Homes List by phone or email upon request.

[How do you determine who the new homes are?](#) We evaluate every puppy and every prospective home to determine the best match. In the end, no matter how many prospective homes we have, the puppies go to the best home we can determine for that puppy.

[How do you evaluate the homes](#) The first step in this evaluation process is to fill out this form located at <http://app.shomaisou.com>. We keep lists, but we do not take deposits or commit to where they are going until both the homes and puppies have been evaluated. Here is a nonexclusive list of the criteria we use (in addition to the information given in the details of the form).

1. This is a commitment by us and by the prospective home of sometimes 20 years into the future care and wellbeing of the puppy. The new home needs to be somebody that stays in contact well, is stable and that we enjoy supporting.
2. We look for people that are willing to learn, constantly are looking for new information about the care of this breed and is just as willing to share that knowledge with others.
3. We look for people who have life skills that can be used later on in supporting the breed by being involved in organizations in support of the Shiba (Meetup groups, Shiba breed organizations or clubs, genetic or health research etc.)
4. When practical, we go to the prospective home and look for potential issues. It's also an opportunity to get to know the prospective homeowner better. If not practical to see home in person we like to do video calls and have them show us around.
5. We contact other breeders, breed associates and veterinarians for validations.
6. The final step we take is background checks. This assures us a person is who they say they are (we will not sell to a Substandard Breeding facilities, pet shop or commercial breeders), live where they say they live and we don't see something that would cause us to not place a puppy in the home.

If you happen to be traveling to NE Ohio, you should come visit our dogs (by appointment only).

[What is important to you when placing your puppies?](#) Just like you must consider that you are making a 15 to 20-year commitment when you get a Shiba puppy, we commit to supporting every puppy for its lifetime. Because of that, it's important to us that where that puppy is placed is with a family, we feel we can establish a long-term relationship. It's been our experience that people who are most involved and engaged early on for extended time, stay in touch with us best so we have pictures and updates and, in some cases, participate with us in conformation and dog sports.

[The personal relationship matters.](#)

[We like you to stay engaged from the beginning of the process.](#)

[We like you to be watching the cameras, watching the spreadsheets and asking questions.](#)

[We like you to visit our dogs and visit the puppies before they go home.](#)

[We like to place our puppies close to home so we can evaluate our breeding program in person on occasion \(Since we travel for dog shows close is a relative term\).](#)

[What is the AKC Juniors Program and why do you support it?](#)

As former K9 handler, I like my dogs to have a job, feel like a needed member of the family. When I was training working dogs, I was never involved in AKC events. Had I known about the [AKC Juniors Program](#); I know my kids would have loved it. In the conformation ring today, I get to see young people learning and showing their handling skills in the Juniors Ring, but also in the regular confirmation ring and other dog sports events. I love letting them take my dogs in the

ring for me and more importantly I look for families that have young members that can participate with one of my dogs they own in conformation, obedience, agility, rally, CAT, Fast CAT, scent dog, farm dog and more. Sometimes a co-ownership contract works well for these homes as I get to attract young people into dog sports and my dogs get active full lives as members of a family. It also gives me a chance to mentor young people competing in dog sports and sometimes the whelping box. Because of this I have put together some links and files for families that would like more information on Juniors Program. In some areas 4H clubs train for Juniors competitions. If you are on my waiting list, be sure to let me know this is an interest, I give your home higher consideration when making the home decisions.

[AKC Juniors Program](#)

[National Shiba Club of America Juniors Rankings](#)

[Search for a club to train with.](#)

I've added some Juniors related document to my AKC repository, you can get to it here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/h25vv0xe2kfkxmi/AAD3ljZFvImL4QKrPcCjU4T8a?dl=0>

How do we move up on your waitlists?

1. Stay engaged and in contact. We are communicating with daily with homes by phone, text, email, video and in person. It's easy to fall off our radar. The burden is on you to keep yourself relevant.
2. Demonstrate to use why you are the best home for one of our puppies (ask questions, keep us up to date on changes you are making for when the puppy comes home, putting in fences, building their spaces).
3. Schedule a visit to our home and invite us to yours.
4. Watch the cameras and daily growth. Help with names and report unusual or comical observations.

How do I move from the "Long List to the "Short List?"

If you received a notification that you were approved to move forward with our program, you are on the "Long List." We have an automated process where if the home meets a minimum certain criterion, they are automatically moved to the "Short List." If you are not clear where you fall on the lists, ask. If you are not automatically on the "Short List" ask what you need to do. As we notice certain people are engaged, asking questions, scheduling calls and visits, they get manually moved to the "Short List."

How do I move from the "Short List" to your list of vetted and approved homes (Approved Home List) used to select the best homes for your puppies?

1. Stay engaged and in contact. We are communicating with daily with homes by phone, text, email, video and in person. It's easy to fall off our radar. The burden is on you to keep yourself relevant.
2. Demonstrate to use why you are the best home for one of our puppies (ask questions, keep us up to date on changes you are making for when the puppy comes home, putting in fences, building their spaces).

3. Schedule a visit to our home and invite us to yours.
4. Watch the cameras and daily growth. Help with names and report unusual or comical observations.
5. [Keep your privacy options updated.](#)
6. Take steps to correct any concerns we have expressed.

How to complete our background check.

When we move a family to the “Short List” it’s time to start the background check process so we can get the family moved to our list of “Approved Homes.” Contact us anytime if you are ready to start this process but have not received the email requesting it.

1. For the first part of our process we request that you login to one of the credit bureaus and order up your annual free credit report and send us a copy. We are not interested in your creditors or your credit score, we are looking at the name and address histories to make sure they match up. We have no preference which one you choose. Report needs to be completed for each adult who resides in your home. Send us a copy of your credit report.

<https://www.experian.com/consumer-products/free-credit-report.html>

<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/free-credit-reports/>

<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/free-credit-reports/>

2. Order your FBI Background Check. Open attachment called “How to Get an FBI Background Check.pdf” and follow the instructions in that document. Report needs to be ordered for each adult who resides in your home. [Order your FBI records check](#) and send us a copy of the results when received back. Note: we will waive the FBI check for law enforcement officers, holders of security clearances and similar. Send us a copy of the associated ID and we will waive it.
3. Complete the attached form called “ShoMaiSou Background Check Authorization Form.pdf” and send to us. Form needs to be completed for each adult who resides in your home. [Download](#), complete and send us your consent for background investigation.
4. Complete the attached form called “Authorization for Veterinary Medical Records Release.pdf” and send to us. Fill out only 1 form per household, but 1 for each veterinarian you have used in last 5 years. [Download](#), complete and send us your signed consent for us to contact your veterinarian. If no veterinarian used in last 5 years, let us know so we can mark that portion completed.

How to safely and securely send us background information.

To avoid taking chances of identify theft and privacy concerns we recommend that you send 1 of 2 ways.

Save the documents in a common format such as PDF, Word, etc. Zip and encrypt the documents with a password. Send the encrypted documents to rgaylord!shomaisou.com and text the password to 7028453283.

USPS mail or FedEx the documents to Rex Gaylord, 10411 Springhill Dr., Brecksville, OH 44141.

My application was rejected. How do I get it approved?

There are a few things that we will see in an application that immediately gives us pause with placing one of our puppies with a home. If you were rejected, contact us and we will discuss why and what can be done to get approved for the “Long List.”

[Schedule a Call or Appointment](#)

How do you evaluate the puppies? We will not do the evaluation on the puppies until they are 7-8 weeks. We use video and I consult with breeders in California, Oregon and Ohio for their unbiased opinions. We review their markings, head shapes, temperaments, reach and angles, eye and ear shape and angles, and head to neck angles in relation to the shoulder and elbow alignment. It's not an exact science, only a good predictor based on observations at that age as to what they will develop into later. We have to take into account the lines involved and how fast they mature. Everybody gives their opinion and then I decide on the type of placement the puppy should go to (Show/Breeding home, Dog Sports home, Companion home). Then at 10 weeks I take them to my vet for health certificate and to discover any underlying health issue we need to consider when placing them in a new home. They will go to their new homes after 12 weeks old. Occasionally we will keep one or more to grow them up to 6 months or more to evaluate the breeding and/or to reevaluate the puppy.

Can you tell me about your current dam(s) and sire(s)? We feature our sires and dams [here](#).

Do you or will you ship your dogs? No, we do not ship dogs. I must confirm that they are going to a good forever home and not a commercial breeder, broker or pet store. I have delivered them in person for the cost of my round-trip ticket. I fly the puppy in the passenger compartment, not cargo.

Will you provide references? Yes, I am happy to provide references to serious homes for our dogs. I will provide my breeders and mentors; other co-breeders I have shown with or conducted business with and happy companion and dog sports homes. I prefer to ask permission from them each time I plan to use them as a reference, so just ask me for the names.

I am ready for my new dog or puppy now and don't want to wait. Who do you recommend? Contact us, we can help you with names of other reputable breeders.

How many dogs do you have onsite? We have two (4) dogs and no other pets at our home. One (1) adult female, one (2) adult males and a 4-month female we are

grooming for conformation ring. We prefer to be under 6 (not counting puppies) at any one time.

We are slowly learning how to be a better breeder through co-ownership, so some of our boys have been moved out to other homes and we co-own some of our girls. Currently we own or co-own seven (6) breeding age Shiba's. Four (3) males and four (3) females. We own 100% of the breeding rights of both the boys and girls even if they are co-owned. The ones listed below are considered a part of our current or future breeding program.

[Males] *active

CH Gaylord's Aka Baron Ace -(OH)

Gaylord's Guccifer 10.0 Sho Mai Sou CA BCAT (OH)

CH Morningstar Star-Lord Son Of Shishigen Aka Kolo CA (OH)

[Females]

Gaylord's Ayumi Walks This Way (OH)

Gaylord's Michi BB Shomaisou (WV)

GCH CH Morningstar-Gaylord No Kinshu Go Sho Mai Sou (Kimi) OH

What about health checks? Which ones do you do? We breed for health, structure, temperament and strive to preserve and improve the original Japanese breed. As a **Heritage Breeder**, it is very important to us and we only breed if we are sure it will be for the betterment of the breed. We check hips, eyes, patella, elbows and more when they are old enough to get those checks performed and certifications obtained. We also do Embark Breeders complete health DNA testing. There are links to all our dogs that include to the most current status of their health checks posted on the OFA site. Here is an example to our most recent, [Guccifer](#). Our contract will also specify exactly what health checks have been performed. Please note that hips can't be certified until they are at least 2 years of age. If we choose to breed before that age, we check that the parents and grandparents are clear first and will do a preliminary x-ray. At 10 weeks of age, they have their first parvo/distemper booster and will have been examined by a licensed veterinarian. If the puppy goes home at 12 weeks, the rest of the shots are the responsibility of the new home. By Our Contract we require that the new home vaccinate according to the most recent publication of [Dr. Jean Dodds' \(Dodds, Jean Dr.\) Vaccination Protocol for Dogs](#).

Do you have supporting reasons for following a vaccination protocol?

Yes, many but sometimes a video is an easier way to show this. Watch this [video](#) from Planet Paws. The next video comes with a **WARNING!!! This video is disturbing and heartbreaking to watch**. The puppy was administered vaccinations too close together and too many at the same time. This is a recording of the resulting [champing fits](#).

1. [Dr. Karen Becker "Why Do People Over Vaccinate Their Pets?"](#)
2. [Dr. John Robb "The Science Behind 'Protect The Pets'"](#)

3. Dr. Jean Dodds “Vaccination Protocol”

Do you use titers in your vaccination program? Yes, at a minimum I vaccinate all my dogs for parvo, distemper, bordetella and rabies, but after they get their 3 parvo/distemper and rabies vaccinations, then I do titers (around 6-7 years of age) and if they have adequate antibodies, then I do not re-vaccinate for them. On the rabies titer, state laws and local jurisdictions vary in accepting a titer result in lieu of a new rabies vaccination. Research your local laws. In my county, the State of Ohio leaves it up to each county to decide and I happen to live in one that accepts a rabies titer. The following is an excellent article by Dr. Carol Osborne, DVM Chagrin Falls (Ohio) Pet Clinic.

- [Vaccine Titers – The New Wave of Preventative Pet Care](#)

Do you have a contract and if you do, what is in your contract? We have a contract template we follow, but each puppy contract is customized to the mutual needs of the puppy, the buyer and us. Our template is setup to be used for three (3) different types of transactions.

1. The first type is for a puppy going to its forever pet home and/or intends to participate in dog sports ([Companion/Dog Sports Contract/Limited AKC Registration](#)).
2. 2nd type is for somebody that is showing the dog but needs some mentoring or a partnership with conformation ([Co-owned Show Prospect/Full AKC Registration](#)). Basically, we agree to mentor or partnership and pay it forward to the breed and to the future of showing dogs.
3. The 3rd type is for a puppy going to a person who intends to show and/or breed it eventually ([Show Prospect/Full AKC Registration](#)).

We believe that all misunderstandings can be avoided with a solid, and fair contract that is fully understood by all parties involved. We avoid any verbal agreements before or after the fact.

Here is a recent example of our contracts.

- Example – [Companion/Dog Sports Contract](#)
- Example – [Terminology \(Attachment A\)](#)

Under the Companion/Dog Sports Contract/Limited AKC Registration, I noticed that you specify that the dog should be spay or neutered by 2 years. Is it okay to have this done sooner? There is debate concerning the correct age to have this procedure performed. Since my puppy owners may get involved in dog sports and more importantly decide to take their puppy into the show ring and I change the registration over to full registration, so they can show, I allow time for this. If the animal is sold as **Companion/Dog Sports Contract** and the buyer wants to spay or neuter before 2 years, we have no issue with that. The **Companion/Dog Sports Contract** will

allow the new home to delay the spay/neuter or allow for alternative sterilizing that would not inhibit the closing of growth plates and proper muscling that is needed for animals that will be participating in dog sports such as, but not limited to agility. If you have some clear research when an animal should or should not be sterilized, I would be interested in seeing that information for future reference and contracts.

At what age should I spay or neuter or should I spay or neuter?

Alternatives?

[Dr. James Serpell & Dr. Chris Zink Talk C-BARQ & Early/Spay Neuter 5/14/2020](#)
[Early Spay-Neuter Considerations for the Canine Athlete: One Veterinarian's Opinion](#)
[Risks and Benefits to Spaying and Neutering Your Dog](#)
[Why I've Had a Change of Heart About Neutering Pets \(Dr. Becker\)](#)

What do you send home with a new puppy and what should we get before the new puppy arrives home?

When a puppy leaves our home, it has been dewormed, has its first parvo/distemper (Puppy DPV), microchip and a health certificate from our veterinarian. It goes home with enough kibble that it has been on to allow transition to a new one, a very lightweight collar, leash (not for safety, but for light training and exposure to having something on their neck), plush toy with littermates and mothers' scent. They have been well socialized, exposed to crate training and have had access to the outdoors through a doggie door.

Suggested items to have before the puppy arrives include (Links are just examples):

- [3 door wire crate](#) (Approx. 24' long 17-18" wide 18-21" high) that has divider so puppy can be confined to smaller area (12" X 18") when they are smaller. If crate is too big it makes potty training more difficult. This can be secure in a car or used in the house. The 3 doors give you options especially when moving it to a car.
- Play pen area (I like the wire [4' high x-pens](#) so they can be confined to an area where they can't be destructive.
- [Potty training bell](#) and/or doggie door.
- 1 or more baby gates (I buy the cheap ones at Walmart of various sizes so I can control what areas the puppy/dog has access to.
- [Flat slicker brush](#) (I prefer the ones that have metal teeth, but Teflon tipped to prevent scratching. Caution: Do Not Use the FURminator type deshedding brushes. They strip out the guard hairs and destroys a Shiba coat. When a Shiba blows coat (twice a year at least), daily brushings and a very good vacuum are essential. I recommend a blower like what a groomer uses. Take them outside and brush and blow keeps it manageable. [Blower example and the one I own.](#)
- Kibble or the food you have chosen to feed your puppy.
- Secure collar and/or harness with good leash.

- Nail clippers and or grinder (we use both clippers and grinder, so they are used to them before they leave our home).
- Crate pads (We also like to use used hospital pads; they are very inexpensive).
- Food and water bowls that fasten securely to inside of crate. We like stainless steel for ease of use and cleanup. Example: [1 quart Flat Sided Stainless Steel Pail with double hooks](#) and [Snap'y Fit Stainless Steel Food Bowl](#).
- Toys(s) – The Shiba loves to destroy a plush toy and to get the squeaky things out. When they do, throw away the plastic item.

Does spay or neuter change how often or how much a Shiba will

shed? I researched this question and I found very little about it. I don't have spayed females, but I know that my neutered male blows his coat just like everybody else.

Do you microchip your dog's/puppies? Shiba's, because of their independent nature and tendency for unreliable recall off leash, it's imperative that they be properly microchipped. We send our puppies home with an ISO standard microchip free of charge. I do this because I take my responsibility seriously when bringing new puppies into this world. I never want one of my dogs to end up euthanized in a shelter or to end up in rescue; so I require that I be listed as an alternative contact on at least one (1) [Microchip Registrants](#). I like [HomeAgain](#), and personally use [AKC Reunite](#), but there are many to choose from.

How are your puppies socialized? We raise the puppies as regular members of our household inside our home. They have a dedicated puppy area, but as soon as practical are exposed to the adult dogs in our household. The puppy area is within eyesight of our home office where somebody is almost always home to interact with them. If nobody is home, they are constantly monitored on video/audio cameras. The Shiba is a very clean animal and so it's a very easy process to have them trained to relieve themselves outdoors and they are kept very clean. Since we no longer have children at home, we encourage visits to our home by adults with young children as often as practical.

Do you follow the “Puppy Culture” program?

Beginning with litters born in 2020, we started following the “[Puppy Culture](#)”, program. Because of that puppies go to their new homes after 12 weeks instead of 10. We will be sending our puppies home prepared to cope with life and the program helps prepare the new puppy homes. We provide checklists and key points to share with our puppy buyers which will prepare them to follow through with the “Puppy Culture” program after their puppy goes home with them.

How much do your dog's cost and do you take payments? As a breeder, I should caution you that if this is the first question you ask, it is looked upon as a possible red flag that you might not be the best home for the breeder's puppy. We do not take payments. With that said, I know cost of the puppy is factor that must be

considered by you. The price of the puppy is determined by the type of contract they are placed under.

For more information about pricing you should schedule a consultation, but I will email the current prices upon request.

The cost of a puppy runs from \$2,500 \$3,000 on a Companion/Dog Sports Contract (AKC Limited Registration), \$3,500 - \$4,000 on a Co-Ownership Contract (Full AKC Registration), \$4,500 - \$5,000 on a Show/Breeding Prospect Contract (Full AKC Registration).

We try to place our puppies as close to home as possible and evaluate all forever homes (We require by contract that in the event you can't keep the puppy it is returned to our home for re-homing). Just like you should go to a breeder's home, I like to visit the prospective home before agreeing to place a puppy. The first step in this evaluation process was to fill out this form located at <http://app.shomaisou.com>

Is the Shiba Inu the right dog for me? A reputable Shiba breeder will talk more people out of getting a Shiba than they ever talk into one. While we love this breed, the Shiba is not for everyone. The Shiba is very aloof, smart, but sometimes challenging to train. They are an ancient breed with some feral tendencies.

Is the Shiba a good prospect for doing agility?

The Shiba is a very nimble, fast and agile dog. There are some that do very well in agility. . Like all dogs that will be doing dog sports, they need to be evaluated to make sure they are structurally sound if they will be doing a lot of it. There are some Shiba breeders that have a heavy emphasis in their breeding program for producing sound agility prospects. We happen to live in an area with many agility Shiba's and the National Shiba Club of America actually holds a Shiba only agility, obedience and rally competition in Erie, PA. This year it was FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019-(**Shiba Only**) Obedience, Rally, Agility. Saturday & Sunday 21st & 22nd (**All Breed**-Agility) Countryside Agility Training Center - Erie, PA.

Video Highlights From Past Events: <http://sports.shibas.org/video/index.html>

Event Page: <http://www.shibas.org/events-companion.html>

Note: This event is held same location and same weekend each year.

How do you name your puppies? I pick a theme and give our puppies temporary names (The 3 girls in first litter were themed with Taylor Swift songs – Thanks Joni). Since another litter was born on Pearl Harbor Day, it was only natural to use that as a theme. We are open to more ideas including Japanese names of distinguished military leaders. Send us your thoughts and ideas?

What got you interested in the Shiba? I have always had working dogs and my wife fell in love with the breed when a co-worker got one in Las Vegas. Wife wanted one but had no idea what their job was. As I researched the breed, I got more and more

intrigued. I like to tell people that when I saw the dogs 101 video that said, "If you are looking for an easy dog to train, keep on looking," but in reality, the video probably came out after we already our first Shiba.

How long have you been associated with the breed? We got a male Shiba as a pet in 2008. We happened to walk through a dog show in Las Vegas and met a couple that showed Shiba Inu in the conformation ring who told us, "You really should show that dog, he would be a lot of fun." We later figured out that 'he would be a lot of fun' was likely code for, bring your dog to the show so I can get the points.

How long have you been breeding Shiba Inu? We got our first dam to begin our breeding program in 2011. By that time, we had found some mentors in breeding and showing the Shiba that we had been learning from for about 2 years. We did health checks for the hips, elbows, patella's and eyes. Our first litter was whelped about seven (7) years after we first began our study of the breed. I bred and trained German Shepherds in the 80's and 90's.

What is your favorite and least part of having Shiba Inu? They are both the same traits. The fact that they are so independent and aloof is my favorite part of having the Shiba, but extra care has to be taken with them to keep them safe. The fact that I can stop my oldest boy on a dime on command, don't mean he will do it the next time, so off leash always has to be in a safe place just in case they "act like a Shiba." Shedding is a major issue with a Shiba.

What do you feed your dogs and puppies? We have tried a few different things ranging from making our own, cooking for them, raw, dehydrated and we have come back to the same dry type food 3 times. *We used to feed Taste of The Wild, High Prairie Puppy Formula with Bison and Roasted Venison. I liked to feed it dry because it seemed to keep their tarter down.*

I also an Orijen product called [Acana Regionals Meadowland](#) , but at \$80 for 25lbs I can't afford to feed it all the time.

For dogs not in whelp or standing at stud I have fed [4Health Puppy Formula](#). With the [controversy over grain free](#) I am following the advice of [Dr. Karen Becker](#) (Becker, Karen Dr.) by supplementing occasionally with [sardines](#) just in case one of my dogs is not making enough [taurine](#) on their own.

Dr. Becker and Rodney Habib (Habib, Rodney) out of Canada do a lot of video's with other guests on many subjects that concern the heath of your animal. I also subscribe to a closed group on Facebook called [Inside Scoop](#) with Rodney Habib, Dr. Karen Becker and Susan Garrett (Garrett, Susan) to try and stay ahead of the issues.

If I need to use powder supplements, I like to put them in [Primal raw goats' milk](#). I have used [Purina Fortiflora](#), [DogZymes Cran-Tri-C](#), [DogZymes Complete](#) and [DYNE High Calorie Animal Supplements](#). I also keep on hand a couple things if somebody isn't eating well. I keep [Hills Prescription Diet A/D cans](#), [Taste of The Wild cans](#) and some freeze-dried products from [The Honest Kitchen](#) and [4Health cans](#). We feed puppies three times daily and adult dogs two times daily on a regular schedule. Shiba's like regular routines.

[Why we quit feeding Taste of the Wild (TOTW)]

Diamond, the manufacture of TOTW has a history of salmonella contamination and recalls, especially in 2012. In 2017 we had a litter of 6 and a litter of 1 on the ground at the same time. All seven (7) were on TOTW, High Prairie Puppy Formula with Bison and Roasted Venison that we had fed for several years. All of the puppies developed loose stools that we had many tests run on; extensive and very expensive stool studies sent in by my veterinarians. We would ID bacteria and treat and start again. It was a vicious cycle. They started going home with loose stools and most following our recommended food of TOTW. They were otherwise healthy. As the puppies went to their new vets, they also took stool samples. Amazingly, the new vets all came up with the same diagnosis, a bacteria overgrowth of a bacteria that should be in the gut naturally, but there were too many. The odd part, most of the vets were coming up with a different bacteria name. At the time it didn't make any sense, but one of the new puppy owners while doing her research found a post that TOTW had a bacterial contamination in some of their foods. Because of that she took her TOTW back to Tractor Supply where she had purchased it and they promptly refunded her money. Since the Tractor Supply brand 4Health is rated very high she picked up the reasonably priced 4Health puppy formula. Since I still had two (2) of the puppies waiting to go to homes I decided to go to Tractor Supply (I had never shopped there before, was buying my food online) and get 4Health and took them off TOTW. At this point I was willing to give Diamond the benefit of the doubt that they were taking care of the issue; after all they do add probiotics to their products, and I could see how this could happen. As I walked down the aisle and came to the TOTW there it was. TOTW was still on the shelf at ½ price! I don't know about you, but I choose not to do business with a company that puts profits above safety of my pets.]

This information was brought to my attention January 28, 2019 of a pending class action alleging heavy metals contamination (Thank you Erin).

<https://www.chagrinfalls.petclinic.com/2018/03/20/class-action-lawsuit-orijen-acana-dog-foods/>

We recently started feeding some of the Kirkland brand dog foods from Costco. [Costco rebrands products made by Diamond](#). Even though Diamond is the maker of Taste of the Wild, after learning some of the other breeders are feeding it, I decided to try it on my boys, but not the girls yet.

[We like Purina Pro Plan - Focus Adult - Sensitive Skin & Stomach - Salmon & Rice Formula](#). Like Acana, it's expensive, but the girls are doing well on it and Purina is a big supporter of AKC conformation and dog sports. Purina replaced Eukanuba a few years ago as the main sponsor of the AKC National Championships held every December.

More Dog Treats Recalled for Salmonella (published 7/30/19)

Lennox International of Edison, New Jersey, is recalling its Natural Pig Ears dog treats due to potential contamination with **Salmonella** bacteria.

For complete information, please visit the following link:

[Lennox International Recalls Pig Ears Dog Treats.](#)

Just Published Best Dog Foods with Grain

Looking for an [alternative to grain-free](#)? Here are The Dog Food Advisor's **20** most recommended dog foods that **contain grain**.

- Wellness Complete Health Lamb and Barley
- Annamaet Option Salmon Meal and Brown Rice
- Holistic Select Anchovie, Sardine and Salmon Meal
- Eukanuba Small Bites Chicken Formula
- Canidae All Life Stages Multi-Protein Formula

[Click here to view all 20 Best Dog Foods That Contain Grain](#)

Please be sure to **share** the news of this alert with other pet owners.

Mike Sagman, Editor
The Dog Food Advisor
Saving Good Dogs from Bad Dog Food

P.S. Not already on our dog food recall notification list? [Sign up to get critical dog food recall alerts sent to you by email](#). There's no cost for this service.

[Do you rescue Shiba Inu?](#) I have worked with rescue to help place them in Nevada but found it very frustrating. I currently support Shiba rescue in two ways. First, we only breed to try and make something better than we have. Even dogs we don't keep we commit to for the rest of their life. We will not let one of our puppies go into rescue because we require that we be alternate contacts on their microchip. Second, we make financial contributions to rescue and we also use an app on our smart phone from [WoofTrax](#) "Walk For A Dog" that contributes to our rescue of choice ([FAQ](#)). Currently we are contributing to the "[Tri-State Shiba Inu Rescue Inc.](#)"

[Where can I find out more information about Shiba Inu?](#) Here are some groups/forum's that might be of interest. If you know of others, please let us know so I can add them.

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ShibasUSA/info>

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/shiba-inu/info>

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ShibaSports/info>

<http://www.shibainuforum.org>

Who we are...

We are a Shiba Inu [Heritage Breeder](#). We breed for health, structure, temperament and strive to preserve the original Japanese breed.

[LinkedIn](#) - Rex

[LinkedIn](#) - Tanya

[FaceBook](#) - Sho Mai Sou (In process of moving this to WeMe)

[WeMe](#) - Sho Mai Sou

[Our Shiba Pics on Flickr](#)

What we do with our Shiba's...

[Kayaking Shiba's](#)

[Silver State Kennel Club](#) - Member - Legislative Committee

Nevada Dog Law Blog - Owner - Contributor

[National Shiba Club of America](#) - Member

Shiba Inu Fanciers of Nevada - Disbanded 5/2013

[Heart of Dixie Shiba Fanciers](#) - Member

[Las Vegas Kayakers](#) - Member

[Los Angeles/Orange County Shiba Inu Meetup](#) - Member

Nevada Shiba's Meetup Group - Organizer - Closed 5/2013

[Las Vegas Shiba Inu's Meetup](#) - Member - Started 6/2013

[Cleveland Shiba peeps](#)

[OH Shows Dogs](#)

[Shibas at the Shows- USA](#)

If I lived in Hawaii [Shiba Inu Hawaii](#)

[Cleveland All-Breed Training Club \(CABTC\)](#)

[Medina Kennel Club](#)

[Koeki-Shadan-Hojin Nihonken Hozonkai](#) (Nippo) – Member

[AKC Coursing Ability Testing \(CAT\) and Fast CAT \(FCAT\)](#)

Join Us at These Shows (And meet our dogs)

[Barkaritaville - Tallmadge, OH - All Breed Show](#) February 29 and March 1 2020. (Bella, puppy coming out weekend) **Bella** and Ace, maybe Star-Lord or Guccifer. This is a Shiba Supported Entry Show.

(If you plan to meet us at any of these venues, call us to confirm)

Newsletter

We publish a newsletter to help stay engaged with our current and prospective homes of our dogs.

[January 2019](#)

[May 2019](#)

[June 2019](#)

[July 2019](#)

[August 2019](#)

[September 2019](#)

Our Links:

FAQ: <http://faq.shomaisou.com>

Blog: <http://shibas.dog>

Puppy Application: <http://app.shomaisou.com>

Book Appointment: <http://bookings.shomaisou.com>

Puppy Cams: <http://shibas.dog/camera-page.html>

(See [The Original Shiba Inu Puppy Cam](#))

Our Dogs <http://shibas.dog/ourdogs.html>

Daily Puppy Growth Spreadsheet:

Our AKC Marketplace: <http://marketplace.shomaisou.com>

Our Yelp Page: <http://yelp.shomaisou.com>

Our WeMe Page: <http://weme.shomaisou.com>

[Our Research Docs Repository](#)

Interesting Links (For your own reading, we do not necessarily agree with everything here:

[Banning Puppy Mills \(Substandard Breeding facilities\)](#)

[Duping Dog Lovers](#)

[Analyzing Ethics](#)

[Early Adoption](#)

[Picking the Perfect Puppy](#)

[How I became an owner of the Japanese dog Shiba Inu](#)

[Is Shiba Inu Really the Right Breed for You?](#)

[For Dog Lovers, 10 Heartwarming Japanese Movies](#)

[Japanese dogs, the Internet stars!](#)

[A Passion for Primitive Dogs](#)

[Therapeutic Fasting of your Healthy Dog](#)

[How to Spot a Puppy Scam](#)

[What actually goes into the cost of a puppy from a reputable breeder?](#)

[10 reasons I'm using a breeder for my next puppy](#)

[Can Your Dog Be a Blood Donor?](#)

[The eHarmony of Dog Finding](#)

[10 Life Changing Life Hacks for Dog Owners](#)

[How to Spot a Puppy Scam](#)

Additional Resources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nihon_Ken_Hozonkai

[Nippo Website](#)

[National Shiba Club of America](#)

[Shiba Inu Fanciers of Northern California](#)

[Search for an AKC Event Near Me](#)

Meet with Us

Book an [Appointment](#) to visit our dogs in our home.

You may get a follow-up call to verify who you are before your visit. This is an example why: https://www.dispatch.com/news/20190514/puppy-shot-to-death-by-robbers-posing-as-dog-buyers-police-say?fbclid=IwAR2eUyh_gw3JTyl4A8o-t7ZkTcLX19TP93GI5ESyD5isuOEPchU3CjPpsTw

You may also [Schedule](#) a call with any questions.

Good luck with your search and I hope we have something we can offer you. If you have any other questions, as a steward of the breed I would be happy to help answer them. I am usually available to talk on the phone 8am – 11am weekdays and anytime in the day on weekends. Please stay away from Pet Stores and any breeders who sell to or may be “Substandard Breeding facilities.” Feel free to friend me on FaceBook.

Contracts and Terminology

[Terminology](#) is a spreadsheet of the most up to date definitions used in our contracts. The definition is a framework for what a term means when used to in our contracts. The terms may differ in some ways to what that term may mean in another context.

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