

Evening Song English Shepherds

Woodstock IL

eveningsongenglishshepherds@gmail.com

Please read and save this sheet!

Thank-you for your interest in Evening Song English Shepherds at Dykstra's Farm.

Our breeding program is focused on conservation and preservation of this amazing breed, their working traits as well as their well-rounded family and companion dog qualities.

About our Dogs:

Our English Shepherds are registered with both UKC and English Shepherd Club Registry, and pups will be litter-registered with both registries.

Our "matriarch" is Dykstra's Blacksheep Taffy, aka Taffy. She is clear sable, about 50 pounds. She is a wonderful combination of "grit" (for those previous farm jobs like rounding up the steer who didn't want to come in), and also people-lover, for the shy visitors or visitors in general. PennHip score is excellent at 0.32/0.31, she is MDR1 negative (this is for ivermectin sensitivity), DM normal/non-carrier, PRA/PRCD normal (non-carrier). Taffy is now retired from breeding, and will be 12 years old in June 2026.

Dykstra's Cimarron Rembrandt (Remy) is our male, a saddleback tricolor, with a gentle disposition and a very strong bond with me. When he is the only dog outside with me, he is always next to me, trotting along to the next job, ready to softly move the pregnant sows but also alert to hawks, things out of place, and coyotes. Remy weighs 55 pounds. PennHip score is excellent, 0.39/0.38, he is MDR1 negative, DM normal, PRA/PRCD normal. Remy's Embark DNA results came back clear/normal for all diseases that they test for. Remy will be 10 years old in June 2026. He has sired 3 litters outside of our Evening Song litters, with some remarkable puppies placed across the country.

Evening Song Starry Night (Star) is Taffy's daughter by Red Bank Whisper of Smoke. Star is a little more intense than her mother, very tuned in to each of our family members, and hesitant to warm up to visitors until someone has become established as a friend or loved one. Once she knows that you are part of the inner circle, she is loyal, in tune, and accepting of friends and family, especially our grand kids and children. Star is seal and white, between 45 and 50 pounds, and quite often is the one to outsmart Remy and sometimes even her own mother. Star's hip score is also in the top 10% of English Shepherds tested, at 0.30/0.39. Star is also clear/normal for MDR1, DM, and PRA/PRCD. Star's Embark DNA results came back clear/normal for all diseases that they test for. Star will be 9 in July 2026.

Trixie (Evening Song Queen Beatrix), is an adult now, our keeper pup from Remy and Star's 2022 litter. Trixie was spayed at 3 years of age, and will remain here as Jeff's personal English Shepherd. She received an all-clear on Embark, but her poor hip score on both PennHip and OFA is proof that even from excellent scores in previous generations, there can be exceptions to that "rule". She is exactly what we hoped for in a Star and Remy daughter, keenly aware of everything on the farm, in tune with all new life (piglets, lambs, goat kids, chicks), and very good at stalking the squirrels quietly, and being successful in her hunting and tracking skills. Trixie is tall and elegant, but does not weigh much more than her mother, at 45-50 pounds.

Steady (Covenant of Reveille) is from Reveille Stock Farm, bred by Caleb Cunningham. Steady was born May 2024, and is excelling in obedience and “Tricks” classes, with agility or other dog sports possibly in his future. He is black and tan with minimal white, and was 47 pounds at 18 months. Breeding goals may include a litter with females outside of our Evening Song group, and eventually with Sunni or a future Sunni daughter. For now, we are watching to see where he excels, and encouraging him in those areas.

Sunni is our keeper pup from Star’s 2025 litter sired by “Sweetgrass Sassafras Rundle”, aka Trip. She is very much like her mother Star, but also has wonderful working traits from her father Trip. Our hope for her is that she could be the mother of Remy’s retirement litter in late 2026 or early 2027, and also the mother of a litter with Steady in the future. Sunni will be in Puppy Obedience classes, Canine Good Citizen classes, and quite likely agility classes, as well as learning her role on our small farm. She will be 1 year old in June 2026.

Evening Song’s puppy policies:

Pricing and deposits:

Applications: Our price for a pet/companion puppy is \$1150 in 2026. I use the submitted applications as proof that we have either enough interest for a litter, or not enough interest at that time, and may be in contact to double-check that your interest is still in a pup from us. \$100 discount may be applied if the puppy application is received before the litter is born (predicted date May/June 2026). This helps us to know that puppies have homes waiting, and that we are not contributing to a population of unwanted pups.

The application does not need to be sent in with a deposit, but serves as an indication of interest in a pup at this point.

Deposit: We do not take deposits until pups are born. I will be in contact soon after the litter’s birth, to give the good news. A check or Paypal payment of the deposit serves to reserve a spot in the litter after the litter is born. This does not reserve a specific pup.

At this point, we will take deposits for roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the litter, with a waiting list for the others. (If there is a litter of 10 pups, I’ll likely take deposits for 6 or 7 of them, and keep a waiting list for the remaining spots).

Working together to choose your puppy:

From before birth, I will post updates and photos on our private Facebook group “Dykstra’s Evening Song English Shepherds”. As pups grow, I welcome e-mail conversations, Facebook messages, or phone calls about what you’re observing, and what I am noting in the pups which might fit your request.

At about 6 weeks of age, I start working through the list of families who have sent deposits, to compare notes with the personalities that are emerging in the young pups. Usually after phone calls and extensive conversations, several pups will stand out as possibilities for your request, by week 7. Together, the decision is made for which pup is your “pick”.

I will wait to cash your deposit check until we both agree that one of the pups in the litter is the best fit for what you’re looking for, usually between 6 and 7 weeks old.

***I need to emphasize this part, as it seems to be a sticking point in past litters. Pups will not be reserved on markings or looks alone. The separate question section gives me the guidelines needed to evaluate pups and make suggestions for which pup or pups may be the best fit for what you describe. Please complete that form and mail or e-mail to us, at the address given.

We are looking for the forever placement for each of the puppies that are in the litter. We do reserve the right to suggest which pup or pups seems best suited to any given situation, and will refund the deposit if we don't have a puppy that seems like a great match for your farm and family.

Preference for pups with the most "take charge" personality or activity level may be given for farm placements, depending on the working abilities and history of the parent English Shepherds.

If you choose to leave your deposit with us until a future litter is born, you'll be at the top of the list for an upcoming litter (with the same procedure for matching pups to families and farms).

***Your deposit is the reservation for one puppy from the litter, that best suits what you describe in the questions on the application, and in our conversations by phone or during visits. While it happens very rarely, sometimes the check/deposit is returned when it is mutually agreed upon that the hoped-for match is not in this particular litter.

Please note, only one or two pups from any given litter *may* be chosen to place in potential breeding homes.

Puppy Care in the First 2 months at Evening Song:

This year, we hope to be able to host puppy visits like we've done in the past. Wherever possible, we want you to be able to meet the litter and sit with all the puppies, if you can make the trip.

Puppies will be well-socialized, starting around 3 weeks of age. We have a steady stream of friends and puppy customers coming, on an almost-daily basis. (For visits, we will evaluate whether the parent dogs feel comfortable or are stressed with the steady stream of visitors, and visits may be with just the puppies. Star is a parent dog who typically does not do well with the constant flow of visitors.)

Puppy food:

We feed mom and puppies Fromm puppy food mixed with Fromm adult dog food, and will send your pup home with a Ziploc bag of their familiar diet for an easier transition to what you decide to feed. We may be able to introduce some raw food as the puppies grow, if some of them will go home to a raw fed diet. Please let us know if you'd like us to introduce a bit more raw foods/organs than the occasional ground beef that we give.

Vet care and deworming:

Pups will be dewormed with Pyrantel, starting at 4 weeks of age, and every 2 weeks after that.

All of the puppies will see our vet Dr. Shannon at Hartland Veterinary, for their first shots, and a wellness check, at about 7 ½ weeks of age. They will have a health folder that lists the types of vaccinations given, and also the deworming schedule and product, for your own vet's reference.

I'm not able to make unvaccinated puppies available, as the whole litter is on the same schedule and health check, before they leave.

Pups should be scheduled for an appointment with your home vet within 2 weeks of arriving in their new home.

Facebook photos and videos, probably daily: There will be plenty of photos and descriptions posted on our public Facebook page "Evening Song English Shepherds" and more on our private Facebook group "Dykstra's Evening Song English Shepherds". The private group requires a request to join. Please let me know if there is any difficulty in joining the private group!

The Evening Song website will also be updated as I can manage it.

Communication:

Group communication is frequently shared on the Dykstra's Evening Song group, with important posts "pinned" to the top in the "featured" section, for ease in finding.

As much as possible, I am available for questions and phone calls, e-mails, texts and Messenger messages, even after your puppy goes home with you.

Visits are also an excellent way to sit and chat over puppy snuggles, too. (I'll need to reserve the right to not discuss other visitors or placements for pups in the litter, as it pertains to the pup(s) that seem right for what you've described).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. (224) 848 0270, dykstrazoo@sbcglobal.net, or message me through the Evening Song English Shepherds facebook page.

Registration: Paperwork and registration will be available for all pups, at a mutually agreed upon time, for each puppy and owner. All will be litter-registered with both UKC and the English Shepherd Club Registry.

It's our hope that this is the beginning of a wonderful time of anticipation as you prepare for your new puppy.

Please fill out and return the questionnaire portion, to the address listed above or by e-mail, and keep this sheet for your records.

Thanks so much for considering a puppy from Dykstra's Farm, and Evening Song English Shepherds.

Jeff and Laura