

NAVD FAQ

Listed here are the questions that I am asked most frequently about the Native American Village Dog (NAVD).

If your questions are not answered here please feel free to contact me by phone at (540)489-9900 or by filling out the contact form on this website. We appreciate your input and strive to improve the information available to our current and perspective families.

If you are a first time dog owner or you are wanting to buy a pup or dog for your child(ren) instead of as a family companion, I cannot comfortably sell a pup under those circumstances. Indian Valley Kennels strives to provide families a wonderful family dog that is good with children. These dogs are not meant to be children's playmates or toys. They are sold as family companions.

Do you have anything that is required in order to purchase a pup from you?

Yes. For the future protection of the puppies I require that all puppies being sold have a vitamin and joint supplement. We require NuVet Plus and NuJoint Plus be fed if you wish to have the extended warranty on your puppy/dog. It is also a good additional level of security to help support the health and growth of your new puppy. In addition and to qualify for the extended warranty, Indian Valley Kennels requires that you feed the puppy or dog Life's Abundance Dog Food. If you choose to feed a different dog food then the basic warranty is all that we will honor.

What is the difference between the Native American Indian Dog (NAID) and the Native American Village Dog (NAVD)?

The Native American Village Dog is similar to the Native American Indian Dog only in the breeds that are used in the combination and represent many of the same characteristics of the NAIDs. The NAVDs like the NAIDs are considered hypoallergenic and have no doggie odor. They blow their coats in the spring/early summer and early fall but should have little to no shedding the rest of the year. A dog that spends a lot of time indoors will shed its undercoat as it comes in so you will experience shedding throughout the year. The type of dog food fed can also increase loss of coat in some dogs as can stress and illness.

NAIDs and NAVDs are both a mix of Alaskan Malamute, Siberian Husky, German Shepherd, Chinook. My original foundation stud Zakai was an NKC registered NAID from the Majestic View Kennel lines and was the offspring of Hakata We and Pahuuma and the full brother to Fantastic Fred. I have purchased my own foundational stock to help build my line. In breeding the NAVDs I chose to include more German Shepherd to help bring additional loyalty into the line. The Alaskan Malamute can be very independent, doesn't like to stay close to home, and tends to wander. I felt that by adding more German Shepherd into the line I would increase the loyalty to stay closer to home and so far have been successful. I will continue to pursue improving the line by breeding dogs that I feel represent the breed in the best possible manner, and that will provide wonderful family companions. I rely on my puppy families to keep me abreast of how their dogs are progressing and let me know if there are any problems so that I can continue to improve the breed.

As with any breed, you should always research all the breeds that are represented in the dog you are interested in so you can learn about all the different temperaments. Each puppy could

have a different temperament. One pup may lean towards one breed versus another, even within the same litter. Some may have more Alaskan Malamute characteristics and temperament and others may lean more towards the German Shepherd characteristics and temperament, some the Siberian Husky, etc. This breed is a Northern Breed dog and therefore has many of the characteristics and temperaments that make up these breeds. Always ask your breeder if you have questions about their dogs as they know them best. They can inform you of any issues they have experienced with their dogs and the offspring so that you can make the best decision possible before you purchase.

A breeder can only do so much to ensure a good match of a puppy with a family. It's up to you to be honest with your breeder so they can help you purchase the right pup for you and your family. This will give you a wonderful dog to add to your family and to enjoy for many years to come.

How often do you have litters?

Currently we have one to two litters per year. Each litter can produce from 4 to 8 puppies on average.

Will you fly your puppies?

I do fly my puppies but prefer they either be picked up or ground transported. It is always very hard to decide on putting a puppy on an airplane as this is not a normal experience. At 8 weeks of age the pup begins entering the first "fear stage" in its life and much of what it is exposed to can have detrimental affects on its future coping skills. Being handled roughly at the airport can traumatize a pup and can cause behavioral insecurities. A shy, timid or reserved pup will be much more traumatized than a more confident pup even if both experience the same level of trauma from their experience. They would just have different coping skills.

With that said, pups can still be well adjusted even when flown. If that is the only way your pup can get to be with you then flight arrangements can certainly be made. It's just important for you to know that they may be more skittish and unsettled longer than if they had been picked up and driven and spent time with their new family.

Many people work their vacation around picking up their new pup so that they don't have to fly the animal. This is a great alternative and offers the pup time to bond with their new family on the ride home.

Another option is to fly into the airport and take the pup back as "carry on", as long as it meets the weight and size requirements and is not too big for the soft-sided crate. By checking with the airlines to determine the weight requirements and what the largest sized "soft sided" carrier you can bring on the plane are, you can be prepared to pick up your bundle and take him or her back with you on your flight home. Be aware that most soft-sided carriers have a weight limit so make sure your pup is within that weight limit by the time you board and doesn't exceed the weight requirements; otherwise it would be better for the puppy to be put in a hard-sided crate and placed in the animal section of the plane.

Also available are ground transportation services. These services usually charge more to transport your pet and it takes longer for your pet to arrive at your home. If you are interested in this type of service, Indian Valley Kennels does have a ground transportation service that we use and which we have had great success with. We can schedule the pick-up from the kennel

and provide an estimated delivery date for your pup to your home if you wish to use this service provider. The ground transportation costs would be COD and someone would need to be there to accept the puppy and pay the transportation service.

Why do you say these dogs need to be an indoor/outdoor dog? When I was growing up we kept our family dog outside all the time and he did just fine. Why can't I get a dog from you and just keep him outside. Besides, that's where a dog belongs.

I don't believe a dog does just fine outdoors by itself. Most dogs, including the Native American Village Dogs, are very "pack" oriented. They need the companionship of their family and other dogs. They feel a responsibility to their family and cannot do their job if they are kept away and isolated from their family. This is why it can be difficult to crate train them as they would not be able to get to you if something happened and they were crated. These dogs thrive on being with their family and love the outdoors, especially in the cold winter months, but there has to be balance. A dog that spends too much time indoors or crated could begin having behavioral issues because of the fact they are not being allowed the freedom to move around and play at their convenience. Having a safe environment for your dog, where it can run and play, is of utmost importance. These dogs do best when they can have the freedom to come and go as they please. That way they can come in and spend time with the family and when they get to warm or want to go outside they can. It's all about balance. They need their families and the companionship of them to be happy. Another dog in the household will help as well, especially if you will have to be gone for long periods of time during the day.

Are the Native American Village Dogs able to be registered? Are they AKC registered? What about CKC?

The Native American Village Dog is a new breed. The AKC requires many generations of breeding along with a large amount of dog owners and breeders. They also require that there be an established breed club and breed club website. There are other requirements as well that need to be met and it can take centuries to get recognized by the AKC. The CKC is not as hard but it is still very difficult to be recognized by them. When a new breed is created, getting a registry that will accept the beginning foundational breeding stock as well as the offspring is important in order to establish your line. We have found a registry that will allow us the flexibility to utilize the breeding stock we chose to help create the breed.

Currently the NAVDs are registerable with the NAPDR (North American Purebred Dog Registry) and the ACHC (American Canine Hybrid Club) and the DRA (Dog Registry of America). We may look into registering the breed with the NKC.

The "big" registries want to make sure that a breed that is in "creation" and pursuing "purebred" status is going to stick around before it takes them on to their registry. Many breeds do not stay around long enough to meet the strict requirements of AKC registration. We are working hard to make this happen, and with the help of others this breed will continue to grow.

Do you require all families to have a fenced yard?

Yes. It is required that you have at least a 6' fence. There can be exceptions under certain circumstances. There has been some success with an invisible fence system but I cannot guarantee that each dog will respect it, and not attempt to break the barrier in an attempt to chase rabbits, squirrels, cats, birds, etc. These dogs can be very strong willed and stubborn and that could cause the dog to ignore the warning and cross the fence line anyway. Once they cross the barrier they will not be able to return to the yard without getting jolted and this could lead

them to not want to re-enter the yard under any circumstances, even if the fence is temporarily turned off. You basically use it at your own risk. If you wish to use an electronic fence instead of a physical fence, please visit the Havahart website. When you use the links on our website and purchase from one of our sponsors, you are helping to provide support with kennel expenses such as dog food, supplements, medical needs, heartworm medication and flea/tick products.

If you do not or cannot have an actual fenced in area, invisible fence or enclosed outdoor kennel with a dog house and fresh water for your pup, we do not recommend this breed for your family. Keeping your NAVD on a chain or cable for long periods of time is NOT an acceptable option. As stated previously these dogs are to be purchased only if you are able to keep them as an indoor/outdoor dog.

Does this breed of dog really need the companionship of another dog?

This would depend on your family and the personality of the dog. If someone is able to be home most of the time you may not need to have another dog. If your family is like many and the NAVD would need to be left home alone for long periods of time every day, it really is best to have another dog to keep them company. The NAVD is a very social animal and needs the companionship and interaction that would be provided by another dog in your absence. There are some cases where the dog may show signs of loneliness or sadness or just not seeming to be “complete” – once another dog is brought into the family the dog relaxes and seems more content and happy.

How is the NAVD with children?

The NAVD is excellent with children, especially if there are children already in the home when you first get your pup. The NAVDs tend to bond very quickly with children and learn to love and protect them right away. Of course, it is important that you begin teaching and training the pup immediately as to how to properly interact and play with children. Waiting to train your pup and/or allowing bad play behaviors, even just one time, can lead to a very difficult experience in integrating your pup into the family. If you don't have children when you get your pup, but plan to in the future, it is very important that you expose your pup to children of all ages frequently so that when the time comes, it will know how to act and treat the children you eventually have in your home. Some NAVDs may have some shyness to children who move very quickly and this can be worked on by teaching children that when they are around a puppy they need to be calm and quiet.

Do these dogs have wolf in them?

These dogs are bred to have the look of the wolf. The combination of breeds in the NAVD are breeds that have the closest genetic link to the wolf (German Shepherd, Alaskan Malamute and Siberian Husky). If you live in an area that has restrictions to having a dog that looks wolfy then you should NOT purchase a NAVD. There are some states and counties within some states that consider any dog that looks wolf-like to be a wolf dog and so would require the dog to be under the restrictions and guidelines of those laws or could possibly be required to be euthanized and, in some cases, can be shot at will. Please be sure you know what the laws are in your state and county before committing to purchasing a puppy from Indian Valley Kennels.

How do the NAVD do in really cold weather?

Our dogs that have the thick wooly coats love the cold weather. This NAVD has northern breed blood in them. Their double-layered coat offers them the optimal insulation and is designed for

warmth and protection from the coldest of temperatures. The undercoat provides warmth and insulation against the cold and the outer coat provides an insulating and waterproof barrier. You will notice the snow will not melt off their outer coat until they come into a warmer temperature. Despite this, all dogs should have a shelter to take refuge in when the weather is cold and to protect them from the dangers related to bad storms and freezing weather.

The offspring from Kachina Inola do not handle the cold as well as Nita Mahaley's offspring when it is very cold and below freezing as they do not have as thick a coat as the woolly coated dogs. They can handle a certain amount of cold but will need to have a place to go to warm up. As I continue to perfect this breed. I am hoping to continue to mold and shape these dogs to get the best of the best so that all the offspring will be able to handle the coldest of weather. If you need suggestions about good quality dog boxes, shelters and dog shelter heaters/air conditioners please ask.

How does the NAVD handle heat or warmer climates?

As long as the dog is provided plenty of fresh water, shade and a place to get out of the elements they can be outside in warmer temperatures. It is best to provide them a plastic kiddie pool or a strong plastic water trough (\$79 at Tractor Supply) placed in a shady spot, so they can cool off in the water. Some NAVD's love the water and will entertain themselves for long periods of time playing and splashing in the pool. If you are at home it is advisable to bring them indoors with you until the weather cools down outdoors, especially if the weather gets into the 90s and 100s. If you live in an area where the temperature outside gets very hot it would be advisable to invest in an air conditioner for your dog's dog house or shelter to offer relief when you can't be home. Remember, these dogs are Northern breed dogs and are bred for the really cold weather.

You may also notice, if you live in a warmer climate, like Florida, that the heavy undercoat they develop for the colder winter months may shed as it comes in since it is not needed. Thus, you may experience shedding more than the typical springtime and early fall sheds that are normal in the colder climates.

Is the NAVD really "hypoallergenic"?

It has been our experience that the NAVD does not cause allergic reactions in the majority of individuals who have respiratory-type allergies to dogs. So far those who typically develop hives seem to be able to tolerate these dogs. If the person has a strong sensitivity they may still have an allergic reaction, although typically not as severe. No dog will be 100% hypoallergenic for everyone. I have heard of people being allergic to Poodles, Shitzu's, Yorkies and the like, who have hair, not fur.

If you or someone in your household is allergic to dogs it is required that a hair sample be sent to test for sensitivity. If possible, an in-person meeting with the breeding dogs or their offspring is even better.

Does the NAVD get along well with other animals?

We have many owners with house pets (cats, birds, etc) and the NAVD does very well with them, especially if the other pet is already in the home when you bring home your puppy. We've been told that it is usually the original pet that has the issue with the invasion of a puppy into their space. When you have other pets in the home it is important that you train your pup on

how to play and interact with the other pet beginning from the moment it enters the home for the first time.

The NAVD has not been bred to be a guardian breed and at this kennel is NOT exposed to chickens, geese, goats or the like. These dogs can have strong prey drives. If they will be exposed to these types of animals it is important that they be given strong boundaries as to what they can and cannot do to avoid problems. I do not guarantee that they will be suitable farm dogs around chickens, ducks, geese, goats or the like. Larger farm animals like horses and cattle they should be fine with given proper boundaries.

I have heard this breed is not trainable and is not fit for a family

If you ask those that have purchased pups from me in the past, I think that they would disagree. Many of the families that have pups from me, with the exception of a few, have children in their homes. One of the pups from Molly's litter in 2008, at 4 mos. old, scored 192 points out of 200 points on her Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test. She scored the highest points in her class and many of the dogs were much older. There is another of our pups in Canada that excelled in her training classes at 4 ½ mos. of age; so much so that after just 3 basic obedience classes, the trainer pushed her into the intermediate classes and quickly moved her up to advanced. A family that has two of my pups also have an autistic child and they are very happy with the dogs; they have said on numerous occasions that they felt the dogs helped their son to relax. They said that he had fallen asleep on the floor with his arms wrapped around one of them and again outside in the yard while he was watching them play. I have another dog in Canada, who is owned by a trainer and she uses the dog to help train dogs with aggression or shyness issues. She has also taken him to a school for autistic kids, and he has done amazingly well. I have had similar comments from other owners. If the dogs are handled correctly and trained according to their temperament, you should have no problem training them.

If you try to train a very shy, timid or reserved pup the same way you would a more confident, stubborn, outgoing pup you could end up creating negative behaviors and cause aggressive reactions towards people and possibly your training techniques. The training methods you chose for your pup need to be catered to its personality. You will have a happier dog with the right training catered to its needs and temperament. Training is not a cookie cutter thing. You have to be flexible with training techniques to find the one that works best for your pup and that will help produce the best positive outcome. There are many good trainers out there that can help you train your puppy. Cesar Milan (The Dog Whisperer), The Volhard Method, and The Monks of New Skete are good training methods that work well with this breed, especially if they tend to be more pushy or dominating. I am not against the positive reinforcement training if it works for your dog. What I have found is that these dogs tend to learn how to manipulate the system and when reliability is needed, are not reliable...but it depends on the dog and its personality. Catering training to suit the animal's personality is the best advice I can give. If one technique is not working, don't waste your time; move on to another technique until you find one that works.

If you have additional questions that were not addressed here please feel free to call or email me and I will be more than happy to discuss the breed in more detail with you. I can be reached at 540-352-8504 or through the contact form on this website.

I found a complaint about you and your kennel on the internet

If you have questions about what you have read I will be more than happy to discuss it with you and provide you the telephone number of the current owner of the dog that was represented in the complaint.

Please help support the kennel by purchasing from our sponsors at the links provided on the website

If you wish to donate to the kennel please contact me to find out what is needed. We appreciate your support. As a hobby breeder I do not make enough to earn a profit on breeding (over a 12 month period) so any help you can give allows us to continue to offer this wonderful breed to people like you. Thank you!