

Terms you might have heard: **Back Yard Breeder, Puppy Mill, Commercial breeder and Puppy Broker.**

Many **Back Yard Breeders** do not have bad intentions, but the result of back yard breeding to a breed's gene pool and pet overpopulation is devastating. The majority of purebred dogs come from BYB's. Many backyard breeders do not have the knowledge to properly raise a healthy, socialized litter, or to know that they should help the new owner with any problems that might arise. Back yard breeders may act on a desire to make extra money, or simply out of ignorance. Sometimes back yard breeders will breed so "their children can experience the miracle of birth", or they mistakenly believe "every dog should have one litter." (Some are even told this by their vet!) BYB's do not do health screening. They often don't think it is necessary, and many know nothing about genetics and inherited diseases or pedigrees. Back yard breeders usually bring two breeding animals together regardless of their quality. Often they own both a male and a female, and breed them as often as nature will permit. Their aim is to fulfill a personal need or goal, not to improve the breed and bring excellent quality dogs to the world.

**Puppy mill:** A breeder who produces puppies hand over fist with no breeding program, little attention to puppy placement, and poor health and socialization practices. A puppy mill may or may not be dirty but it is usually overcrowded and the dogs may be neglected or abused because the breeder can't properly handle as many dogs as he has. Puppy mill operators often denigrate hobby breeders and their dogs in attempts to make a sale. It is in effect, a puppy farmer, where the puppy is the cash crop.

**Commercial breeder:** Commercial breeders usually have several breeds and breed only for profit. The dogs may be healthy or not and the kennel may be clean or not. The dogs are probably not screened for genetic diseases, and the breeding stock is probably not selected for resemblance to the breed standard or for good temperament. Most commercial breeders sell their puppies to pet stores or to brokers whom sell to pet stores.

**Broker:** One who buys puppies from commercial kennels and sells to retail outlets. Brokers ship puppies by the crate-load on airlines or by truckload throughout the country. Brokers must be licensed by USDA and must abide by the shipping regulations in the Animal Welfare Act.