

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE BREEDING YOUR DOG

Breeding dogs takes more than just putting two dogs together and having puppies. It is extremely important to learn the facts and possible consequences in advance if you are contemplating breeding your dog. Today's world is overcrowded and it is our responsibility as good, caring breeders and animal lovers to make sure that we make responsible decisions for them and for ourselves. The following points should be reviewed carefully.

QUALITY

AKC REGISTRATION (OR ANY OTHER REGISTRY) IS NOT AN INDICATION OF QUALITY!

Most dogs, even purebreds, should not be bred. Many dogs, though wonderful pets, have defects of structure, personality or health that should not be reproduced. Breeding animals should be proven free of these defects before they are used for breeding. If you do not know what the defects that we are talking about are, you should not be breeding. Breeding should only be done with the goal of improvement - an honest attempt to create puppies better than their parents. Ignorance is no excuse - once you have created a life, you can't take it back, even if blind, crippled or a canine psychopath!

COST

Dog breeding is not a money-making proposition if done correctly. Health care and shots, diagnosis of problems and proof of quality, extra food, facilities, stud fees, advertising, etc., are all costly and must be paid before the pups can be sold. An unexpected c-section for the mother, or emergency intensive care for a sick pup, will make a break-even litter become a big liability, and this is if you can sell the pups.

SALES

It is hard for first time breeders to find homes for their puppies. They don't have a reputation and referrals to help them find buyers. Previous promises of "I want a dog just like yours" evaporate. It is very costly and time consuming to take care of pups that may not sell until four months, eight months or older! So now you are stuck with them what will you do if your pups did not sell? Send them to the already overcrowded pound so they can dispose of them for you? Dump them along the side of the road in the country so they will starve to death or get killed by a car or wild animal? Sell them cheap to a dog broker who may resell them to labs to be experimented? Or even worse sell them cheap to another "breeder" who might continue the same vicious cycle? Remember YOU are responsible for these puppy's future.

JOY OF BIRTH

"I would like my children to experience the joy of birth." Remember the joyful event might be at three a.m. or at the vet's on the surgery table. The experience the children might witness is the unfortunate birth of a deformed or dead puppy, or watch the bitch scream and bite you as you attempt to deliver a pup that is half out and too large. Not everyone is a good mother! Some bitches are not natural mothers and either ignore or kill their puppies. Bitches can have severe delivery problems or even die in whelp; pups can be born dead or with gross deformities that require euthanasia. Of course, there can be joy, but if you can't deal with the possibility of tragedy, don't start.

TIME

Veteran breeders of quality dogs spend well over 130 hours of delivering, raising and caring for an average litter. That is over two hours per day, every day! The bitch cannot be left alone while whelping and only for a short period of time the first few days. Be prepared for days off work and lots of sleepless nights. Even after delivery, Mom needs care and feeding, puppies need daily checking, weighing, socialization and later grooming and training and the whelping box needs lots and lots of cleaning. That is if everything goes right because if you have any abnormal conditions such as sick puppies or a bitch who can't and won't care for her babies, count on doubling or tripling the time they require. Lets not forget the countless hours spent doing paperwork, pedigrees and interviewing buyers. If you can't provide the time, you will either have dead pups or poor ones that are bad tempered, antisocial, dirty and/or sickly - hardly a puppy that will be attractive to a buyer- at any price.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It's midnight - do you know where your puppies are? There are THREE-AND-A HALF MILLION unwanted dogs put to death in this country each year, with millions more dying homeless and unwanted through starvation, disease, automobiles, abuse, etc. Nearly a quarter of the victims of this unspeakable tragedy are pure-bred dogs with papers. The breeder who creates life is responsible for that life. Will you be careful of who you sell a dog to or will you just take the money and run not worrying if the puppy is chained to a tree all of its life, or runs in the street to be killed? Will you turn down a sale to irresponsible owners or will you sell a dog to anyone who has the money? Will you allow people to "breed" your dog and now the puppy who you loved is now having a litter of mongrels every time she comes in heat, filling the pounds with more innocent victims? Will you be prepared to take back an adult maybe elderly puppy if the owners can no longer care for it or will you be able to live with the thought that the baby you helped bring into the world will be destroyed at the pound?

CONCLUSION

Because of these facts, dog breeding is best left to the professional breeder. In fact, NO REPUTABLE BREEDER WILL SELL A PUPPY AS A PET WITHOUT A SPAY-NEUTER CONTRACT !!!