

Making a Difference: Being a Responsible Dog Breeder

- **Considering getting a dog-** Whether you're looking for a pet, performance or show dog the standards are pretty much the same.
 - get one from a shelter or rescue
 - overrun with dogs produced by irresponsible breeders
 - many make wonderful companions
 - can get a wonderful dog at your local shelter
 - carefully select an ethical breeder.
 - Higher degree of predictability
 - Temperament
 - Health
 - Working ability
 - Size
 - Coat
 - Other factors you can increase by seeking a well-breed dog
 - Responsible breeder is judged by their care and concern for their dogs and dogs in general as demonstrated by their breeding decisions.
 - Review out checklist for finding a responsible breeder
 - Problems of the untested dogs and carelessly bred dog
 - No one should breed a dog unless the breeder is willing to make every effort to avoid addition to the shelter population in the USA
 - Loving a dog and loving a breed is a reflection in what you do to benefits and protect the dog and the breed.

The Responsible Breeder

- Care about each dog you bring into this world. Treat it as part of your extended family.
- Take positive steps to make sure the dogs you create will never land in a shelter or in rescue
- Interview interested parties to ensure they are a suitable match for the dogs you will be placing
- Be honest about the qualities of the dogs you are placing. Explain the good points, and the not so good
- Never promote your puppies in a way to encourage reluctant buyers
- Remain available to serve as a resource, advice and support encountered in raising, training and caring for your dogs.
- Promise to take in, or help place, dogs or puppies you have caused to be created, no matter how old they are.
- Know the typical genetic diseases for your breed. Test for them, and do not breed a dog that may pass on serious genetic disease.
- Research the pedigree for your dog and any prospective mate.
- Get an education in basic genetics.
- Make sure that the dogs you produce are capable of a full and happy life, sound in mind, body and temperament..
- Ensure that the necessary time is invested to produce puppies that will make good companions.
- Don't breed a very young dog. Mere physical ability to bear puppies is not enough. The dog needs to be completely physically and mentally mature.
- Never sell without a written contract. Make sure the contract is clear to both of you.