

Should I Breed My Dog?

Many dog owners have thought at one point whether or not to breed their dog. Responsible breeders are the key to healthy dogs bred of the best quality. They maintain the legacy of purebred dogs. They help preserve the health, standard and temperament of each breed. They participate in canine health research and the latest genetic testing for the breed.

Every breed recognized by the American Kennel Club has a National Breed Club or parent club that can serve as a valuable resource for anyone looking for information and advice on breeding a specific breed. These organizations are responsible for the preservation of the standards of each breed. Each breed has an official written description of how the ideal dog looks moves and acts. Responsible breeders are careful to only breed dogs of this standard. Careful consideration should also be given to health issues, genetic concerns and temperament. There are many pre-breeding genetic tests that should be utilized. The AKC Health Foundation (www.akcchf.org) and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (www.offa.org) have information about the latest testing. Every dog, no matter how wonderful, has certain flaws and weaknesses. A mate should be selected that can complement the strengths and eliminate weaknesses.

Spaying (female) or neutering (male) is the surgical sterilization of a dog. If you decide that breeding is not for you, please consider having your dog spayed or neutered to prevent accidental breeding. Spaying before the first heat virtually eliminates the risk of breast cancer later. Neutering reduces the risk of prostatitis and eliminates the risk of testicular cancer.

