

WHAT IS A REPUTABLE BREEDER?

A Reputable Breeder-----

- Chooses breeding stock carefully, with an eye to physical and temperamental soundness.
- Chooses a stud because he is complementary to the bitch and not because he is nearby, popular or cheap.
- Does genetic testing for defects such as hip dysplasia before breeding, as well as pedigree analysis for less obvious faults.
- Breeds only for the purpose of preserving or improving the breed and never for ego satisfaction, financial gain or "because she/he ought to be bred at least once".
- Is very knowledgeable about their breed.
- Provides the bitch with a warm, safe, comfortable place to whelp and care for her pups. Provides pre- and post-natal veterinary care for the bitch and her pups.
- Begins a medically-sound inoculation program before the bitch is bred and continues it when the pups are the proper age.
- Is able to provide written certification of clearances from genetic diseases that affect the breed.
- Belongs to a local or regional breed club and is willing and able to supply the names of officers and members of that club as references.
- Is very concerned that all pups are placed in suitable homes. To that end, personal interviews with buyers are conducted with information requested about life-style, children, other animals, fencing and general knowledge of the breed. Proper contracts, guarantees, medical records and pedigree are all in writing and understood by all concerned.
- Accepts life-long responsibility for the pups' welfare, assisting when necessary in finding a suitable new home for dogs whose family circumstances change.
- Stays in touch with puppy-buyers, ready with advice, referrals, assistance and empathy.
- Is a treasure you will want as a friend for life.
- Encourages the neutering of all "pet quality" dogs (and all dogs that will not be shown in conformation). Spay/neuter contracts should be issued with the sale of all pet quality dogs.
- NEVER sells puppies to puppy brokers, pet shops or puppy outlets of any kind (including so-called "Kennel Clubs"). Period.**
- Screens potential owners thoroughly, and does not sell to those who are unsuitable.*

***A reputable breeder wants to know as much about you, your household, your schedule and your ability to properly care for a puppy (throughout its entire lifetime), as you want to know about the breeder's puppies.**

****Important Note: Many pet stores and puppy outlets tell prospective puppy buyers that their puppies come from reputable breeders, even though the large majority of these places actually get their puppies from puppy mills and second-rate commercial breeding facilities. The bottom line is: NO reputable breeder will ever sell their puppies to a pet store or puppy outlet, and NO pet store or puppy outlet will ever admit to getting their puppies from a puppy mill.**