

The Hallmarks of A Good Breeder



- Breeds dogs of only one or two breeds, and does not have a larger number of animals than they can reasonably provide with a good quality of life.
- Requires you to visit and will show you their dogs (including the mothers) and where they are housed.
- Has facilities that are clean and spacious and their dogs are healthy and well socialized.
- Keeps puppies clean, warm, well-fed and allows them to stay with their mother until they are weaned.
- Doesn't allow puppies to go to new homes before eight weeks of age.
- Raises their puppies in the home where they can become accustomed to household sounds, such as the phone, dishwasher, vacuum, people coming and going, etc.
- Is a member of their breed club and the national kennel club (in Canada, this is the Canadian Kennel Club), and adheres to their Code of Ethics.
- Is very knowledgeable about the breed and asks you many questions to ensure your lifestyle, knowledge of dogs and attitude are a good fit for one of their puppies.
- Will talk openly about their breeding program and practices.
- Has working knowledge of genetics and will talk to you about genetic disorders prevalent in the breed and how they are working to prevent them.
- Screens all their breeding stock for relevant genetic disorders and removes affected animals from their breeding program. Affected animals are spayed/neutered and may be placed as companion animals as long as health issues are disclosed to buyers/adopters.
- Takes lifetime responsibility for their breeding dogs and the puppies they produce and will take back any animal of their breeding, at any time, for any reason.
- Does not breed animals younger than 18 months and stops breeding by middle age, which will vary depending on the breed.
- Stops breeding any female dog once she has delivered 3 to 4 litters if she's a large breed, and 5-6 litters if she's a small breed.
- Provides ongoing guidance and support to puppy buyers.
- Provides a contract that spells out the breeder's obligations and the purchaser's responsibilities, such as obedience classes, spay/neuter surgery and the general care of the puppy.
- Provides a guarantee of overall health and temperament, as well as absence of genetic disorders. The guarantee offers some financial reimbursement, not simply a replacement puppy.
- Provides puppy buyers with proper paperwork, including a bill of sale, Canadian Kennel Club registration papers, vaccination certificates and copies of genetic screening clearances for the sire and dam (father and mother) of the litter.