

WHAT IS A RESPONSIBLE BREEDER?



Genetic Testing

Genetic health screening is not simply having a vet check them over. Genetic screening looks for health issues that can be prevalent in certain breeds. A responsible breeder will also be sure to avoid breeding dog pairings that can produce these genetic health issues. A few of these tests are provided by Optimal Selection, Pawprint Genetics, Wisdom Panel or Embark Vet.



OFA Certification

The Orthopedic Foundation of Animals is the United States database for health certifications. You want to make sure the parents of your future puppy has passing scores for their joints. Most breeders do Hips, Elbows and Shoulders. Some breeds also require Hearing tests and eye/heart exams done routinely as well. You can look for the dog's scores at OFA.org, as they will always be public information.



Puppy Raising

You want the breeder to follow some sort of puppy raising protocol such as Avidog or Puppy Culture and ENS (Early Neurological Stimulation). This helps to create a puppy who can confidently take on the world. The litter is introduced to new smells, sounds and textures everyday. This can make all the difference when bringing your new family member home.



Titles & Poven Dogs

A responsible breeder will always prove their breeding stock. The dog should be titled in some venue, Either Conformation (where a judge will evaluate the dog against the written breed standard) or performance sports such as agility, or a breed specific sport such as herding.



Waitlists

Responsible breeders do not always have puppies immediately available. In fact, you might be prepared to wait several months on a litter to be born. The breeder has taken time to carefully choose a stud, study his pedigree and health testing. But the wait will always be worth it.

When Choosing a new Family member, You want to enjoy your furry companion for as long as possible. A responsible breeder will do all they can to help preserve the health and longevity of their breed. Not only will you be getting a wonderful new family member, but you will also be getting lifetime support from your breeder in case any issues arise. They also have it in their contract to return the puppy back to them in case you are no longer able to care for the dog, no matter how old the dog may be.

