

## 10 Reasons to Breed your Dog

by Cheri Thomson

1. Your dog is a top quality representative of the breed that will add valuable traits to the breed in future generations. He or she has been shown in conformation/field or obedience with success. The virtues of your dog far outweigh the flaws and any conformation faults are minor in nature and pose no risk to a healthy life. Your dog has no disqualifying faults. Your dog fits the written AKC or CKC standard for the breed as closely as possible, including SIZE!
2. Your dog has a wonderful, friendly, happy disposition in all circumstances. Your dog loves everyone and everything, is trainable and obedient.
3. Your dog has been tested for Brucellosis, PRA and vWD, thyroid dysfunction and cleared all those tests. Your dog's family background is free of major health problems. His or her parents live long and healthy lives, without serious hip dysplasia disease. To the best of your knowledge, your dog's siblings are also healthy and sound in mind and body.
4. Your female is at least 2 years of age and has had at least one heat cycle before breeding. You are prepared to give your dog a rest of one year between each breeding and do not plan on breeding past the age of 6 or 7, depending on the overall health and vitality of your dog.
5. Your male dog is superior in pedigree, conformation, temperament and health. He is fully capable of producing literally hundreds of offspring that can influence the breed for generations to come. If he has a major flaw of any kind, he should never ever be reproduced. Like stallions in the horse world, only the best stud dogs should ever be used to add to the gene pool. The rest should be neutered!
6. You have a reason for breeding this litter besides producing puppies to sell, i.e., you plan to keep a puppy yourself, or you have a waiting list of at least 1 or 2 or more who want a puppy and have confirmed this with a deposit or at least frequent contact to see when the puppy will be born. This doesn't mean your neighbor or your aunt who oohs and aahs over "Missy" and say they would like one just like her someday. Believe me, when someday comes, they will have a zillion excuses why now isn't someday!
7. You have the financial wherewithal to send your female to the most suitable stud dog that will enhance her attributes and improve the breed while doing so. You are also financially prepared for the possibility things may not go as planned and problems can arise. The vet bills can be staggering when things go wrong.
8. You can stay home and care for your dog and the puppies during the whelping and raising period. You have the time and energy to spend training, socializing and caring for the puppies. You have the time and energy to clean up the puppy pen 4 to 6 times a day for many weeks on end. NO breaks for holidays or weekends and working full time outside of the home would make this job done right almost impossible. You like spending hours and hours on the phone talking to people inquiring about your puppies, or coming to visit the puppies and mom.
9. You are prepared to keep the puppies for as long as it takes to find them all perfect homes. You will have the money, time and energy to feed, properly train, house, and socialize puppies of an older age that have not yet been placed in perfect homes.
10. You are prepared to guarantee the health of these puppies for a minimal time of 2 years against hereditary defects. If a puppy should fall victim to hereditary defects, you are prepared to either refund the purchase price and take the puppy back, or pay the vet bills it will take to allow the dog to live as normal a life as possible. If a purchaser should no longer be able to keep the puppy, you will take it back, anytime, anywhere, without hesitation.