

Should I breed my dog? • Should I breed my dog? • Should I breed my dog?

SHOULD I BREED MY DOG?

At some point, every dog owner may consider the question: **To breed or not to breed?**

Keep in mind that the difference between a purebred and a well-bred purebred can be summed up in two words: **responsible breeders.**

Responsible breeders maintain and improve the future of purebred dogs. They are the key to a healthy dog bred to the highest standards. Breeders' hard work and dedication help preserve the health, temperament and quality of every breed. They keep up-to-date on the latest genetic testing available for their breeds and participate in ongoing canine health research. They serve as canine ambassadors opening their kennels to prospective owners, matching puppies with suitable families and bringing the AKC® into their lives. Like fine craftsmanship, the work of responsible breeders can be seen every day in the eyes of a healthy, well-tempered dog – a purebred dog that truly is well-bred.

Every breed recognized by the American Kennel Club® has a National Breed Club or Parent Club responsible for the preservation, protection and welfare of that particular breed and serves as a contact for anyone looking for information on or breeding advice about a particular breed. An experienced breeder is the best source of information and advice on the intricacies of breeding. National Breed Clubs direct aspiring dog breeders to experienced breeders who can serve as resources and invaluable mentors. Visit www.akc.org to find responsible breeders as well as local AKC dog clubs.

www.akc.org



Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Isabelle Francois ©AKC

Be sure your dog is registered with the AKC. Registration supports invaluable canine health research. It promotes responsible dog ownership and programs that make communities better places for dogs, their owners and neighbors. When you register your purebred dog with the AKC, you permanently record your dog in history. And you give your dog—and yourself—the chance to participate in exciting events. **Contact AKC to find out more.**

Some characteristics of responsible breeders

Responsible breeders ...

- Embrace the belief that each new litter should preserve or enhance their breeding lines.
- Are aware that each breed has an official standard or written description of how the ideal dog looks, moves and behaves. They are careful to only breed dogs that meet this standard.
- Understand the value of AKC registration. They register their litters with the AKC and tell puppy buyers about the importance of completing their individual dog registration application and submitting it to AKC. Each registration helps support canine health research, promote responsible dog ownership and other programs that benefit dogs.
- Give careful consideration to health issues, genetic concerns, temperament, soundness and appearance.
- Keep current on the latest policies and activities of their breeds' National Breed Clubs or Parent Clubs.
- Use contacts and referrals from National Breed Clubs and local AKC-affiliated clubs to seek out, network with and learn from experienced breeders of the same breed.
- Take advantage of the latest pre-breeding genetic tests available for their breeds. The AKC Canine Health Foundation (www.akcchf.org), the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (www.offa.org) and National Breed Clubs or Parent Clubs are great resources for news about the latest canine health research and available tests.
- Know that every dog, however wonderful as a companion, has certain flaws or weaknesses and that it is important to find a mate that can complement strengths and help eliminate the weaknesses.
- Plan ahead to be sure that each puppy they produce will be placed in a safe, loving home suited to its needs.
- Accept responsibility for the puppies they produce throughout each puppy's lifetime and are always available to answer questions and provide information to the puppy's new owners.

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