

But I Just Want a Pet

When the Breeder says “I want to see this dog shown” and your heart sinks, because all you wanted was a pet that would be well trained and share your life with you, perhaps your Breeder should have taken the time to explain WHY the dog being shown is so important.

We as Breeders tend to forget that you as the prospective purchaser, do not walk our walk, talk our talk or understand our lingo.

You do not understand, nor do you care that this puppy “could be the one” that the breeder sells to young for too little money and with no possibility of that perfect offspring ever becoming a reality.

IN THE BEGINNING.....

Your Breeder probably started in the same place as you, gave their breeder the same nightmare's and problems as you will. They too started with that one dog and did not understand the Breeders explanation of the importance of your dog to him. This puppy was not just a sale, rather he should have been part of her dogs family's future.

They persevered (and so did their Breeder) until finally your breeder got their second dog, bred a litter and had their first Champion. Now their Breeders explanation made sense, and they can no longer understand WHY THEIR PURCHASERS DON'T GET IT!!

Think of this bundle of joy that you are considering purchasing just as he is before you get him. He/she is part of a larger family plan. This is VERY necessarily true of the specialty breeds like Boston's, Pekingese, Pug's, Bulldog's, French Bulldogs etc. These breeds have small litters with high C-Section and Vet Bill expenses. Breeders of these breeds do so for a love of the breed, not to even break even.

Quite often, by the time the litter is 2 weeks old several have died and being left with one puppy and \$1800.00 in expenses is not uncommon.

If we approach this matter logically, we must first understand that the Breeder has to have females of varying ages to continue to be able to breed your pet dog.

Consider that a female can have only 3 C-Sections. This number is arbitrary as the determining factor as to whether it ends up being one, two or three C-Sections is scar tissue and there have been females that have to be retired after just one litter.

Next, we need to realize that there are statistically, more males born than females
With the above issues in mind, now we start to get to the issues that you as the purchaser are adamant about.

“I just want a nice pet with a good temperament.” And your Breeder wants to supply you with a puppy that will become a devoted life long companion. Do

remember that on average that there may only be one or two puppies that could be sold. However, if you are able to recognize that showing your puppy might open up the possibility of getting you your puppy a lot faster than it might make sense. You must however, get in writing the fine details like who will show the dog and where and how often and who will pay the entry fees and expenses.

What is the purpose of showing? When Breeders spend the time and money to test to ensure the absence of the genetic diseases prevalent in your breed, then every puppy that is free and clear from disease is a dog that can go forward to give both parents credit towards their ROM and ROMX. These are awards that should be almost more important than the Champion in front of their names, as this award indicates many generations of healthy, conforming dogs that ensure the ongoing quality of the breed. Each offspring that becomes a Champion for its Mother and Father propel the parents to this coveted status.

A dog show is NOT a beauty contest. In this publication you will find a section with the BREED STANDARD. Look at your dog, evaluate him. How close do you think he comes to meeting it? A Breeder's goal is to produce puppies, that be they pet or show, are so consistent to the standard that even the pet stock could go in the ring and receive the affirmation from the judges that they are bred to standard.

Showing is training. It is another way of socializing your dog and teaching him to bond and devote himself to you. If the breeder is to show the dog or their handler, this WILL NOT detract from your bonding with the dog, rather it will enhance your relationship with him.

Above all remember that your Breeder may forget that you do not understand what showing and breeding are. They are far more than just having puppies. Breeders have been talked into selling animals for pets that they wanted NO NEEDED to use in order to keep the limited supply of puppies available to people like you who just want a pet. They have then had the mother who had 2 puppies spayed on her last litter and the female they kept was sterile.

This actually happened to more than one breeder that the writer knows of and in one case they had devoted 30+ year and the other 22 years to this magnificent breed. The status of BREEDER ENDED THAT FAST.

Be sure to ask questions, make observations and say how you feel. Most breeders will work with you and help you through the rough spots.