

STILL WANT TO BREED YOUR PET?

If you still think you would like to breed your pet, please be a responsible breeder. Research your breed's standards thoroughly to determine if your pet is suitable to breeding. Get involved in a local breed association to get expert opinions your pet's breed. Speak with ethical breeders to get recommendations on blood lines/pedigrees, congenital abnormalities of the breed, and specific traits to look for or avoid.

Have the knowledge of the breed to ensure that only healthy, behaviorally sound animals are being produced that will go to good, loving, lifelong homes. Be prepared financially for the medical issues that can occur.

PRIOR TO BREEDING YOUR PET:

- 1. BE AN EXPERT ON YOUR PET'S BREED.** Know the congenital abnormalities and behavioral traits to avoid.
- 2. DO ALL RECOMMENDED PRE-BREEDING TESTING.**
 - OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) CERTIFY HIPS, ELBOWS, PATELLAS, THYROID, CARDIAC-BE PREPARED TO GIVE COPIES OF ALL PARENT'S CERTIFICATIONS TO FUTURE PUPPY BUYERS
 - CERF (Canine Eye Registry Foundation) EYES TO IDENTIFY AND AVOID INHERITED EYE DISEASES-BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FUTURE PUPPY OWNERS WITH COPIES THAT DECLARE BOTH PARENTS FREE OF GENETIC EYE DISEASES
 - TEST FOR BLEEDING DISORDERS LIKE VON WILLEBRANDS
 - TEST FOR BRUCELLOSIS AND OTHER SEXUALLY-TRANSMITTED DISEASES
- 3. YOUR PET SHOULD BE AT LEAST 2 YEARS OF AGE** (*most certifications cannot be done until over the age of 2*). Also, some heritable health problems, such as epilepsy, may not show up until a later age.
- 4. BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE A MULTI-GENERATION PEDIGREE OF THE PARENTS, INCLUDING HEALTH CERTIFICATIONS AND TITLE'S** (AKC CONFORMATION, OBEDIENCE, CGC, ETC.).
- 5. BE PREPARED FINANCIALLY:**
 - Prior to breeding, the mother must be in excellent health (up to date on vaccinations, dewormed regularly, radiographs or ultrasounds to assess the pregnancy, regular veterinary visits, etc.)
 - Some pets have difficulty giving birth and may need a cesarean section (often in excess of \$2000) - sometimes resulting in the death of the babies, the mother, or even both
 - You are ultimately responsible for all of the litter. You will need to provide the necessary veterinary care until they go into their new home. Deworming every 2 weeks starting at 2 weeks of age, proper high-quality diet after weaning, vaccinations starting a 6 weeks of age, and treatment if they become ill. You will have the entire litter until at least 8 weeks of age (possibly longer depending on time needed to find good homes).
- 6. IF YOUR PET'S HEALTH AND TEMPERMENT ARE NOT EXCELLENT, WE STRONGLY DISCOURAGE BREEDING!** IF YOU STILL WISH TO BREED, GET MANY REFERENCE BOOKS, INCLUDING "Breeding A Litter-The Complete Book of Prenatal and Postnatal Care" by Beth J. Finder Harris.