

Breeder Comparison Matrix

Characteristic	Backyard Breeder	Puppy Mill	Commercial Breeder	Hobby Breeder	Reputable Experienced Breeder
Has a specific breeding goal	To produce puppies to make money	To produce puppies to make money	To produce puppies to make money	To better the breed	To perfect a specific type to leave a legacy
Belongs to and works with the breed club	May masquerade as a member	Hardly ever	Has a network of business contacts	Extremely dedicated	Very active, generally an officer
Has at Least one Mentor	Works independently, lacks guidance	Not interested in breed improvement, only money	Not interested in breed improvement, only money	Invites Knowledge	Is a Mentor, writes books/articles, conducts seminars
Understands and breeds to the Standard	May not even know what it is, uses any available stock to produce puppies to make money	May not even know what it is, uses any available stock to produce puppies to make money	May not even know what it is, uses any available stock to produce puppies to make money	Strives towards the ideal	Often helps to define it

Active in dog related activities (shows, trials, rescues) with and through the parent club	Rarely attends shows or trials, when they do is to try and get a title to produce more puppies to make more money	Rarely attends shows or trials, when they do is to try and get a title to produce more puppies to make more money	Rarely attends shows or trials, when they do is to try and get a title to produce more puppies to make more money	Shows and trials to prove to objectively test breeding stock	Often Judges, provides seminars, writes articles, and willingly mentors
Knows the true history of the breed	May share false incomplete information, often pretends to know some	May share false incomplete information, often pretends to know some	May share false incomplete information, often pretends to know some	Studies continuously	Impacts the breed for many decades
Sells pets with spay/neuter contract and tries to stay in touch with new owners	Will charge more for "breeding rights"	Will charge more for "breeding rights"	Will charge more for "breeding rights"	Yes and diligently follows up on progeny	Always differentiates breed/pet quality and insists on frequent updates

Keeps up with health and temperament issues affecting the breeding and provides in depth warrentees.	Refuses to acknowledge most problems, if they know wouldn't tell the truth about them.	Refuses to acknowledge most problems, if they know wouldn't tell the truth about them.	Refuses to acknowledge most problems, if they know wouldn't tell the truth about them.	Goes above and beyond standard requirement	Maintains a solid support sytem – accepts full responsibility for puppy produced.
All breeding stock is tested for genetic diseases affecting the particular breed	Some occasionally may be to impress consumers will probably provide undocumented paperwork for appearances sake.	Some occasionally may be to impress consumers will probably provide undocumented paperwork for appearances sake.	Some occasionally may be to impress consumers will probably provide undocumented paperwork for appearances sake.	Testing is a priority	Often initiates club sponsored seminars and clinics
Clean, sterile environment always maintained	Conditions may vary greatly depending on available income	Often tries to maintain minimum standards	Often cleanest, state inspected	Home raised and well cared for	Home raised and well cared for