

BREEDING FROM YOUR DOG

If you are contemplating dog breeding, there are certain questions that you will need to ask yourself before proceeding:

- Have I the time to devote to a litter until the puppies are old enough to go to their new homes, which is usually around eight weeks?
- Am I knowledgeable enough to advise new owners about the various aspects of caring for their puppies, including rearing, diet, training and health problems?
- Can I afford to pay for the recommended health tests for the bitch prior to mating her and, where necessary, her litter?
- Do I know enough to help the bitch during the whelping, if necessary?
- Can I afford to pay for a caesarean should the dam have difficulty whelping the litter?
- Could I cope with a very large litter of, say, 10 or 12 puppies?
- Do I have sufficient knowledge to rear the litter correctly, including on worming, vaccinations and socialisation?
- Would I be able to find good homes for the puppies?
- Could I cope if I have to keep any puppies if I am unable to find homes for them?
- Am I in a position to take back or re-home any puppies if it becomes necessary?

If you have not been able to say yes to all of the above questions, then dog breeding may not be for you. You may therefore wish to consider having your bitch spayed to prevent unwanted or unplanned pregnancies; your breed club or the breeder of your bitch may be able to provide you with further expert advice.

If you have been able to say yes to all of the above questions, do not forget that you will also need to keep the following in mind:

- Responsible dog breeders believe that each litter that they breed, should be an improvement on the parents.
- Responsible dog breeders give careful consideration to health issues, temperament and soundness.
- Responsible dog breeders plan ahead of each mating so as to ensure that each puppy produced will be bred in the best possible environment.
- Responsible dog breeders accept responsibility for a puppy that they have bred, and make themselves available to give advice, help and information to new owners.

Below is a list of important factors you should think about when considering breeding from your bitch:

Before Breeding

- [Transfer the dog into your registered ownership](#) if you have not already done so.
- Microchip your dog.
- Obtain a [Kennel Name](#).
- Check that no [breeding endorsement](#) has been placed on your dog's records.
- Ensure your dog is healthy and suitable (especially in temperament) to whelp a litter.
- Carry out all relevant health checks on your bitch prior to mating e.g. hip scoring, eye testing for PRA and DNA testing for CEA, MDR1 and possibly Degenerative Myelopathy.

- Check the [Breed Information Centre](#) for all breed specific health information
- Consider joining the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme for support in relevant paperwork.
- Ensure vaccinations and worming are up to date.
- Ensure that the health status of the proposed stud dog is satisfactory.
- Talk to the breeder of your bitch, as they may be able to help you.

The NEW Kennel Club Healthcare Plan offers breeders optional cover for Breeding risks including fertility, pregnancy, whelping and litter before they are sold. For more information call 0800 369 90 90 or visit www.kcinsurance.co.uk