



Animal Health Clinic  
1495 Dauner Rd.  
Fenton MI 48430  
810-629-9882

## KNOW THE FACTS BEFORE BREEDING YOUR DOG!

We think it is extremely important to learn the facts and possible consequences in advance if you are contemplating breeding your dog. In today's overcrowded world we must make responsible decisions for them and for us. The following point should be reviewed carefully:

**QUALITY:** AKC registration is NOT an indication of quality. Most dogs, even purebreds, should not be bred. Many dogs, though wonderful pets, have defects of structure – therefore should not be perpetuated. Breeding animals should be proven free of these defects before starting on a reproductive career. Breeding should only be done with a goal of improvement – an honest attempt to create puppies better than their parents. Ignorance is no excuse, once you have created life, you can't take it back, even if it's blind, crippled, or a canine psychopath.

**COST:** Dog breeding is not a moneymaking proposition. If done correctly, breeding is a very costly field including: health care and vaccines, diagnosis of problems, proof of quality, extra food, facilities, stud fees, advertising, etc. An unexpected caesarean or emergency for a sick pup can make or even break a litter and this is if you can even sell the puppies.

**SALES:** First time breeders have no reputation and no referrals to help them find buyers. Previous promises of "I want a dog just like yours" evaporate. Consider the time and expense of caring for pups that may not sell until four months, eight months, or more. What would you do if your pups didn't sell? Send them to the pound? Dump them in the country? Sell them to a cheap dog broker who may resell them to labs or other unsavory buyers? Veteran breeders with a good reputation often don't consider a breeding unless they have a cash deposit in advance for an average size litter.

**THE JOY OF BIRTH:** If you are doing it for the children's education, remember the whelping may be at 3am or at the veterinarian's surgery table. Even if the kiddies are present, they may see the birth of a deformed pup or mummy. They will witness the screaming dog trying to bite you as you attempt to deliver a pup that is half out or too large. Female dogs, also known as bitches, are not natural mothers and either ignore or savage their whelps. Bitches can have severe delivery problems or even die in whelp – pups can be born dead or with gross deformities that require

euthanasia. Of course there can be joy, but if you can't deal with the possibility of tragedy don't start!

**TIME:** Veteran breeders of quality dogs state they spend well over 130 hours of labor in raising an average litter. That is over two hours per day, every day! The bitch CANNOT be left alone while whelping and only for short periods of time for the first few days after. Be prepared for days off work and sleepless nights. Even after delivery, mom needs care and feeding; puppies need daily checking, weighing, and socialization. Later, there is grooming and training, and the whelping box needs a lot of cleaning. More hours are spent doing paperwork, pedigrees, and interviewing buyers. If you have any abnormal conditions, such as sick puppies or a bitch that can't/won't take care of her babies, count on double the time. If you can't provide the time, you will either have dead puppies or poor ones that are bad tempered, antisocial, dirty – hardly a buyer's delight.

**HUMANE RESPONSIBILITIES:** It's midnight – do you know where your puppies are? There are 3.5 MILLION unwanted dogs put to death in this country each year, and millions more dying homeless and unwanted through starvation, disease, automobiles, abuse, etc. Nearly a quarter of the victims of this unspeakable tragedy are purebred dogs "with papers". The breeder who creates a life is responsible for that life. Will you carefully screen potential buyers? Or will you just take the money and not worry if the pup is chained in a junkyard all of its life or runs in the street to be killed? Will you turn down a sale to irresponsible owners? Or will you say "yes" and not think about the puppy you help and loved, now having a litter of mongrels every time she comes in heat, which fills the pounds with more statistics – your grand pups? Would you be prepared to take a grown puppy if the owners can no longer care for it? Or can you live with the thought that the baby you helped bring into the world will be destroyed at the pound?

