

DOG BREEDERS – WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES?

	Puppy Farmer	Backyard Breeder	Hobby Breeder	Commercial Breeder	ANKC Responsible Breeder
Motivation for breeding	Purely by profit	Accidental matings, Profit, False belief “a bitch needs a litter to develop) or simply “for the kids to see a new born puppy”	They have a bitch or breeding pair of dogs and want a puppy for themselves or a friend	Purely by profit	Generally because they need a younger dog to go with and for the betterment of the breed
Choice of breeding stock	What ever is available	What ever is in the yard or what they can get hold of at little cost	Dogs of good substance but not always pedigreed	Dogs of good substance and of a breed or cross breed that has a ready market	Pedigreed dogs selected for health, temperament, longevity and breed type and/or performance
Activities with breeding dogs	Breeding	Generally a pet for breeding	Possibly conformation showing or performance activities	Breeding	Conformation showing or performance activities
Care of breeding dogs	Whatever is cheap? Dogs do not receive individual exercise or attention. Dogs that can no longer reproduce are euthanized.	Same as a normal backyard pet but with minimal care and attention	Vet care and special diet for bitch. Dogs may be rehomed to good pet homes.	Generally good basic care as a healthy breeding bitch produces more puppies	Best care available for stud dog and bitches. All dogs receive regular exercise and individual attention. Dogs may be rehomed to good homes.
Number of breeding dogs	Many and generally over stocked	Generally only 1 or 2 breeding dogs	Generally only 1 or 2 breeding dogs	Many however are generally well managed	Can have a number however generally enough to continue their chosen activity whilst breeding
Whelping practices	Bitches often whelp unsupervised. Pups generally whelped in sheds	Often unsupervised in back yard or home	Under supervision in home	Under supervision in a whelping area suitable for multiple litters	Under supervision in home with vet on standby if required.
Are puppies socialised before sale	Not at all unless in communal whelping areas	With family dogs and members	With family dogs and members	Not at all unless in communal whelping areas	As extensively as possible with strangers, reliable dogs and family members. Socialisation inside to life in a house is conducted.
Are puppies temperaments assessed before sale	No	Little knowledge of testing	Little knowledge of testing	No	Always with family and friends
Cross breeding	Yes, particularly with designer breeds	Yes	No	Yes, particularly with designer breeds	Most definitely not
Breed association members	Not Generally	No	Yes	Yes to gain sales through breed registries and to add credence	Yes
Health testing of breeding stock	No	No	Sometimes	No	Yes where health issues are identified in a breed
Sells to pet wholesalers and retailers	Yes	Yes	Not Normally	Yes	No
How often are puppies available	Always	Occasionally	Occasionally	Always	Occasionally
Age puppies are sold	7 weeks	7 weeks	8 weeks	7 weeks	Not before 8 weeks but often older
Puppies are registered with ANKC or other recognised body	No	No	Generally	Yes as it adds to the asking price	Yes
Are prospective buyers carefully interviews	No	No	Usually	No	Yes
Provide a guarantee on the puppies health	No	No	Generally	No	Yes

Definitions

Puppy Farmer – is a person or organisation which breeds puppies solely for profit with little care or responsibility for the health and wellbeing of the adults or offspring.

Backyard Breeder – Generally a family which has a couple of bitches and breeds them to assist in the family income. Have limited knowledge of breeding and required veterinary care required.

Hobby Breeder – A person who may be a member of a breed organisation but will generally have a litter as they would like another dog of their own breeding.

Commercial Breeder – is an organisation where the primary income is the breeding and selling of dogs. They generally care for the animals and have well planned and developed facilities. May be a member of a breed organisation but only to give their business credibility.

ANKC Responsible Breeder – A person who breeds for the betterment of the breeds and actively participates in organised canine activities. These are generally the custodians of the breed and often are prepared to impart their knowledge to others in the breed or wanting to learn about it.

