

The Truth about Designer Dogs

Before I tell you about some of the wrong reasons for creating a designer breed I must tell you that almost all dog breeds began as designer dogs.

If you read the history of many pure breeds you will find that many detail how they became the dog they are today. Many are crosses between one breed and another or a mix of several in order to refine the traits that they now possess.

However, you will also note that these cross breeding's took place over several generations that were, for the most part, very carefully studied and considered for health and purpose.

They were not done for the sake of financial gain because of the cute new name or appearance of this, possibly accidental, cross breeding.

The reason for me providing this information is to help prevent the overwhelming flood of unhealthy mutts into the world.

It is not my intent to condemn all designer dogs, but to make people aware of the potential problems that can come from irresponsible breeding in all cases. Some people are serious about creating a quality breed in the same manner as was done in the past, and I commend those very few and wish them success.

However, most of the designer breeders of today are only interested in the dollar signs. They rarely even consider the simplest of health tests to determine if either of the breeds is sound or that they might have an inherited disorder that can be passed on. This is true with all irresponsible breeders and puppy mills as well.

Most health problems of the parents are passed to the offspring and in some cases even enhanced because both have the same or conflicting disorders.

It is bad enough that the pure bred dogs have inheritable disorders that have been defined, and in most cases treatable and/or preventable, without adding to the problem.

Truly responsible breeder's health test to prevent passing problems to the next generation.

I have investigated many of the designer breeds and noted that all have inheritable disorders on the side of both parents. Some have disorders that can compound the others if crossed.

There are numerous foundations, universities, companies, and other organizations that have documented research on these inherited disorders.

One of these is the **Canine Inherited Disorder Database** (from the University of Prince Edward Island) www.upei.ca/~cidd/intro.htm. If you go to this site you can determine possible disorders inherent to each of any breeds used to create a designer dog. This is also a valuable source of information should you decide to breed any dog.

I recommend that you **RESCUE** a designer dog rather than buy one, as the shelters are full of them, and you can save the life of an animal that will love you with it's entire being for it.

Galen Kennedy