



# TOPLINE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB

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## *To Breed or NOT to Breed?*

Millions of pet owners have asked this question. Breeding an animal comes with huge responsibilities and should NOT be entered into lightly. Here are some of the most common reasons people cite for their desire to breed and some things you need to know and consider if you are seriously considering breeding your pet.

### I really love this dog and I would like to have a puppy.

We ALL love our pets, however, that alone is NOT a valid reason to breed. You need to ask yourself HONESTLY if your pet is truly an exemplary standard of the breed. Does it have a good, sound temperament? Is it good with people and other animals? Does it have any health problems that are potential genetic issues, such as allergies, seizures, or poor body structure? It's nice to think we could have a puppy from a dog we love, but dogs produce litters that average 8-10 puppies, so unless you plan to keep them all, you need to be sure that you have enough permanent, loving homes willing to provide high quality, lifelong care and companionship to your puppies before you breed.

### I can make money by breeding and selling puppies.

Truthfully, very **few** people make money selling puppies. There are select breeders who have been successful breeding and selling dogs for years, however, they spend thousands of dollars and tremendous amounts of time on their dogs. They obtain Championship titles, certify their dog's hips and elbows with the Orthopedic Foundation of America, and certify the temperament of their dogs. Puppies are an expense and require a lot of money up front in care for worming and check-ups by a veterinarian, maintaining their shots, micro-chipping, and potentially caring for un-foreseen emergency medical care. In addition, you need to be able to take back a puppy after 6 months, or a year, or more, AND refund the buyers money or replace that puppy. It is imperative that you are financially prepared for these expenses BEFORE the puppies arrive.

### I would like my kids to see the "miracle of birth".

The birth of an animal is an amazing thing, but unfortunately, it doesn't always go smoothly. It is COMMON for puppies to be stillborn or pass away shortly after birth and mother dogs are susceptible to serious and fatal complication during the process, including bleeding to death. It is crucial that you are prepared to deal with the potential complications that could arise. Would you be able to recognize if the mother was in

trouble? Do you know how to assist a puppy that has not started breathing, or that breaches, or is born outside its sack? Do you have a vet on call that you can depend on if a problem arises? You must be prepared for all possible situations. It is true that dogs have been giving birth since the beginning of time, but certainly a loving pet can have problems and you better be prepared and ready to help ASAP!!!

### Breeding & The Pet Overpopulation Problem

Most people don't realize how many unwanted pets need homes. Cats and dogs are being euthanized daily, by the thousands, throughout the country and irresponsible and inappropriate breeding only makes the problem worse. If you need proof, please visit an animal control facility, particularly one in a rural area. These facilities are poorly funded and most animals have only three days before they are euthanized, put in a freezer until it is full, and then dumped in a land-fill. If you really want a companion, **PLEASE SAVE A LIFE**. Call a rescue organization or contact a local animal control facility or shelter.

Another contributor to the breeding and pet overpopulation problem is pet shops that sell animals. If you plan to purchase a dog, please stay away from pet store dogs. These dogs are bought from unscrupulous puppy mills that breed their animals under horrible living conditions with NO regard for the health and well being of the mother or the puppies. These animals often come with horrible life long health problems.

### Above all, PLEASE BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER.

If you own a dog or cat, please don't make this problem worse. **SPAY/NEUTER**, so we won't have to keep killing unwanted pets.

If this is a political issue for you and you believe that you should be able to do whatever you want with your pet, please consider this: **Hundreds of Millions of your tax dollars are being spent every year to euthanize un-wanted pets!**