

Why do Breeders have Contracts?

As the primary point of contact for Friends of Rescued Mastiffs, Inc. in NY and our breed club, the question often comes up "Why do breeders have contracts"? I feel most of the time that people just wanting a pet that don't understand the breed or people who have their own agenda tend to be the ones who ask this question or avoid getting dogs from breeders with contracts? True.....not all breeders have contracts BUT if they do not have a contract (pet/show/breeder) then they are NOT a TRUE BREEDER! Anyone selling pure bred dogs without a contract does not have the breeds best interest at heart!

The intentions behind a breeder having a contract with the dogs that they home is to protect the dog, the breeder, the new owner, and the BREED. If all breeders actually did what they were supposed to do we would **not** need a Mastiff Breed Rescue Organization. I will not even get into puppy mills or pet stores. Breeders Contracts need to stipulate the following:

- The buyers obligation to the dog.....health, food, water, shelter, and safety
- The spay/neuter clause for pets as defined by the breeder
- Requirements to restrict breeding as defined by the breeder, usually a show contract
- The buyers obligation to the breeder as defined by the breeder, usually in a breeders contract
- The breeders obligation to take back the dog if for any reason the owner can no longer keep or care for the dog
- The buyers obligation to return the dog to the breeder if for any reason the owner can no longer keep or care for the dog

People who are True Breeders have the best interest of the breed at heart. I'll use Mastiffs as an example to define what we know is important to the Mastiff Breed. We know that health and vitality is important, we know that temperament is important, and we know that form and structure is important. Having said that.....does anyone want a 180 lb. dog that will eat the neighbors kids or has to be carried to bed every night when he/she is still young. A great breeder once told me....."When you breed a dog, you should breed toward the goal that the puppies will be better than their mom and dad". Of course, it doesn't always work that way but the best interest of the breed is the objective there!

We can tell you that our rescue organization will not take dogs that come from certain groups of puppy producers because it's been proven that their wires can be crossed.....these people are just breeding for money, they don't care about the BREED or the temperament on these 160-220# dogs? This instability in the dogs is mainly due to the inbreeding practices associated with these farm bred dogs. Unfortunately, much of the instability isn't realized until the dog is 1-2 years old?

Our rescue group received a call from a woman who could not sell her puppies and she wanted Rescue to take the puppies because she could no longer afford to feed them. Sure, we will take the puppies but we need to take the Mother also, unless you can prove to us that she is spayed? How did this woman get two intact dogs to breed? FROM SOMEONE CLAIMING TO BE A BREEDER WHO DID NOT HAVE A CONTRACT!

Every day we see so many dogs with temperament issues, health issues, or dogs that have been put in jeopardy by stupid humans and it is no fault of their own. This my friends, is why **Breeders HAVE CONTRACTS!**

People have said, "well it is the big money breeders that have contracts".....NO, it is the real breeders who have contracts! Real breeders who are health testing, real breeders who are showing and finishing their dogs, real breeders who stand behind their dogs no matter what, real breeders who stand behind their buyers from the time you get your puppy/dog till the day that dog crosses the bridge. A real breeder is WHO I want to buy my next dog from!

When we were looking for our first mastiff, we did tons of research. We went to dog shows and talked to people, etc. In the end after learning so much BUT not nearly enough? We decided to get our first mastiff from the best breeder we could find. It was way more important to me to pay a little more for a dog I knew was sound than save a bunch of money on a puppy and risk making up for it later in vet bills or heart ache.

Trust me people, real breeders are not in it for the money. Anyone doing all the things they should be doing as a breeder is not making any money! They are doing it for the love and commitment to the breed. Anyone doing it for the money should **NOT** be doing it at all! I have been showing for only a few years. I do all the health testing on my dogs and my husband can tell you it is very expensive but I do it because I enjoy it! I apologize that this is so long and **I did** get onto a bit of a soap box but this is the reason Breeders have contracts and I hope I explained it well enough to answer the question?

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