



Memorial-610 Hospital for Animals

910 Antoine Drive • Houston, Texas 77024

Telephone: (713) 688-0387 • FAX: (713) 682-6359

<http://www.mem610.com>

Do You Want to Breed Your Dog?

Factors to Consider

- Will your dog contribute excellent health, temperament, working ability and conformity to the breed standard?
- Do you understand that neutering will prevent some health problems for which an intact dog is at risk?
- Are you aware of all health and temperament problems in your dog's pedigree?
- Are you willing to search for the best dog to choose as your dog's mate, even if you have to travel out of state?
- Are you knowledgeable about all of the health risks involved in breeding your pet?
- Are you thoroughly familiar with what to expect and how to prepare for canine pregnancy, whelping, and puppy care, and could you teach someone else? (One good reference: *Canine Reproduction: A Breeder's Guide*, by Phyllis Holst).
- Do you have carefully screened buyers and deposits for all the puppies that may be produced?
- Do you have adequate money set aside in the event the dam, sire, or puppies need medical care?
- Are you aware that breeding may cost significantly more money than it brings in?
- Can you be present 24 hours a day for the first 3 weeks in case hand-feeding is needed?
- Are you willing to keep and properly socialize all puppies until good homes can be found?
- Are you willing to take back any or all puppies any time in their lives should they no longer be wanted?
- Are you willing to serve as a lifetime resource for the buyers of your puppies?

Pre-Breeding Procedures

- Annual CERF eye certification
- OFA hip and elbow certification (must be at least 2 years old)
- Have all breed-specific health clearances performed; check with veterinarian and national breed club (may include heart, thyroid, genetic testing, others)
- Have Brucella canis test performed 1 month in advance
- Have a complete physical exam performed prior to each breeding; this should include a digital vaginal exam in females

Adapted from *For People Who Want to Breed Dogs*, by Joni Freshman, DVM, veterinarypartner.com