

# How to Choose a Cairn Terrier

(hint: it's more about choosing a reputable breeder than a "puppy"!)

1. Find a breeder that breeds for genetic soundness, does extensive health screenings, have good temperament, and conformation to breed standard. If not, you may end up with an aggressive or hyper temperament, or a dog that succumbs to premature death. All pups are cute...but what kind of dog will you end up spending 15+ years with???

Just because a dog has "papers" or is "AKC registered" does not make it a good dog. This merely means the dog's parents are in the AKC registry (the AKC does not police QUALITY, they are only a registry!), ...anybody can put two dogs together who have AKC registration, but they can be horrible specimens of a cairn terrier! Hint: if all a newspaper ad can say is "shots, wormed..." that's pretty pitiful if that's all you can say about your pups!

2. Don't buy the Cairn that is "closest in distance", or "the cheapest in the newspaper"...this is the WORST criteria to determine the quality of a Cairn Terrier you will have to live with for 15+ years! Choose a breeder who has been breeding Cairns to improve the breed, who is selecting excellent breeding stock, and who is doing CERF and OFA clearances. If you call a "breeder", ask, "What was your purpose in breeding this litter?" If they say, "to get wheaten, or "to let our kids enjoy the experience", or because they "love their dog" (commonly called "hobby breeders)"...these are poor excuses. If you ask if their dogs are OFA and CERF and they say "huh?????" HANG UP!!!! Or if they just say "yeah", ask, "Can you show me copies of the certificates?" Remember...even if you are just looking for a "pet" you don't need to give up a good temperament and genetic soundness for the possibility of a poor temperament or an unhealthy dog (literally!) Who wants to fall in love with a new family

companion, just to have the heartbreak of death, serious illness, or premature euthanasia because of poor attention paid to the breeding of the dog? The extra money is worth it in the end...you'll pile up hundreds or thousands of dollars in vet bills if you "skimp" on your initial investment of the "right dog"!

3. Ask if the pup comes with a health guarantee and what this includes. Most "hobby breeders" who have lower priced dogs will not do this, thus, the price is lower. Plus, they are not investing in testing for genetic clearances or investing in the most excellent of breeding stock. The breeder should be doing health clearances. If they say "what is that???" or "my vet says my dogs are fine" or "my pups never had problems" hang up...its just excuses, or they don't want to know if their dogs carry these problems, or they are cutting corners (\$\$\$) and not doing these clearances.

Be prepared to be "entertained" by the evasive answers most breeders will give you! Have fun!!!

Chances are that if you see an ad in the newspaper, it is from a backyard breeder or puppy mill. Most serious breeders do not need to advertise their puppies in the newspaper - their reputation for well-bred puppies speaks for itself. Most of their puppies are sold by word-of-mouth, and they frequently have a waiting list for their puppies. The price of our puppies reflects the amount of time and resources we spend to produce well-bred puppies.

# The Difference in Price

(Please watch this clip before asking me the price of my pups!!)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0KucYppX00>

So many of the people I talk to say "how come your puppies cost more than (Blank...)" what I want to know is, why do they cost ONLY blank??? Read on...

Professional breeder- Both the sire and dam of this pup come from top quality breeding stock which was developed over years and years of selective and knowledgeable breeding. Both meet the requirement of the written AKC standard for the breed in conformation as well as temperament. Each has a pedigree, which has been studied and thoroughly researched. These dogs have been selected to breed to each other because they can both contribute to the excellence of the breed, plus complement one another

Backyard Breeder- the dam of the litter was purchased from the local pet store came from a puppy mill. She was sick off and on the first year of life due to many types of intestinal parasites and malnutrition. The sire, an over-sized male, lives down the street and was purchased from an ad in the paper. Neither owner has ever heard of the AKC or CTCA written standard, neither owner has seen a written pedigree. The female is skittish and snappy, and her owners hope that having a litter will "calm her down".

Professional Breeder- Before this breeding ever took place; both male and female had extensive genetic tests, including OFA, CERF, and Health Clearance. The health of her pups is guaranteed.

Backyard Breeder- the breeder is often unaware of genetic problems within the breed. Trips to the vet, except for dire emergencies or shots are considered "too expensive". The breeder's hope is to make money off the puppies and "get back what I paid for the mother dog". Puppies are usually sold with no guarantee.

Professional Breeder- The breeder wishes to maintain a good reputation. His goal is to produce beautiful and sound specimens, which anyone would be proud to own. Profit, if any is made, goes toward future breedings, always aimed toward the betterment of the breed, or for show entries, handler's fees, new equipment and important veterinary tests. Both the mother and pups are fed the highest quality diet. Many trips to the vet assure him that mother and pups are thriving under the very best care. The pups are raised in a busy part of the house where they are socialized, groomed and exposed to different kinds of stimuli. They are touched and talked to, cuddled and even sung to. They are never sold before they are ten weeks old. Every buyer must be screened.

Backyard Breeder- these puppies are born in a box, in the garage and receive little care other than what the mother gives. To cut costs they are weaned on generic dog food and allowed to nurse on the mother as long as possible to keep food bills down. The bitch's health declines rapidly due to poor health and some pups are weak and runty. They are sold as quickly as possible because advertising and vaccines are expensive. They are usually sold as soon as 7 weeks old.

They are sold to anyone who has the cash. If the new owner is lucky he may receive an AKC or CKC registration application. Although the puppy is of very poor quality, it is always sold with full breeding rights. The new owner usually disappears with the pup, never to be seen again. If the market is not good, the breeder takes the leftover pups to the local pet shop.

The comparison you have just read is hypothetical, but very typical of what we see all too often. Although not every breeder who charges higher prices is reputable and ethical, pet buyers should keep looking until they find one that is. When I am asked why my prices are higher than those in some newspaper ads, I mail a copy of this article. Those buyers who respect the quality and excellence are wonderful customers and become "partners" in this hobby.

Those that are simply seeking companion pets deserve nothing less than a nice quality, healthy and trusting animal, as well as a breeder they can count on. "

Prospective puppy buyers may ask, "Why the pups are so expensive? "Why are those newspaper puppies so cheap?"

The question should be: "Why are those pups in the newspaper so CHEAP???"

Remember. There's wine and then there's fine wine.

I also wrote this up for people who tell me "I just want a pet and have no interest in showing or breeding, so I don't care about the pedigree," or something to that extent.

Q: Why should I care about a dog's pedigree if I just want a good family pet and don't intend to show, or breed my dog?

A: A good pedigree isn't everything, but it is a very good place to start when you want to learn something about a dog or it's line. Even if all you want is a good family pet, you still want a healthy dog, a beautiful dog, and a smart, trainable dog right? And you probably also want to know that the pup was well bred and did not come from an uneducated breeder or a puppy mill right?

Well, a pedigree can tell you a lot about a dog. For example, an AKC certified pedigree would show you the health clearances, if any, of each dog in your pup's family tree. You will be able to see if the parents, grandparents, and great grandparents were tested for their hips, elbows, eyes, etc. This is extremely important if you want a healthy dog.

You can also see if any of your dog's parents, grandparents, or great grandparents earned any titles. Again, if you don't want to show, or breed your dog you may wonder why this is important, however when there are a lot of champion show dogs in your dog's pedigree you can see that your pup comes from a long line of beautiful dogs with correct conformation. It also means that you have a reasonable expectation of how your puppy will grow up to be the Cairn Terrier you read about in the AKC breed standard.

If your dog doesn't have any titles in his or her pedigree, how do you know how he or she will turn out? Will she be the correct size? Will she be pretty or smart? It may even have health problems stemming from the fact that its body is improperly proportioned or carrying too much weight for its breed.

If you are looking for a dog with certain expectations in mind as to how the dog will look, how big it will get, if it will be healthy, and if it will be smart and trainable, carefully examining its pedigree is very, very important.

One last thing to consider is, a well bred, beautiful, smart, & trainable dog will come from breeders who spend the time and money to put titles on them and prove their dogs beauty, intelligence, and performance ability. If a dog has little to no titles in his or her pedigree and little to no health certifications, it either came from a puppy mill or an uneducated back yard breeder or will probably not meet many of your expectations regarding that breed. It's also important to understand that a well-bred, well-rounded, healthy dog--even just as a pet--will cost a lot of money. If you don't believe in spending much on a dog that is "just a pet" or you simply don't feel you can afford it, that's your decision, just don't expect the same quality. I believe you get what you pay for.

# The price of puppies, literally

## How much is that puppy in the whelping box?

From \$50 to \$2,500, puppies come with many different price tags. Some may be given free, and others may exceed even this range. But where do these figures come from?

Puppy sellers come in several categories. They include show breeders, working dog breeders, puppy mill or commercial kennel breeders, pet shop retailers, and backyard breeders.

Show breeders breed for correct type in accordance to the breed standard. For size and proportion, structure, front and rear angulations, movement, head type, temperament and all the other traits important to maintaining the breed according to the standard. Some of these traits are important in the long-term health of the dog. Show breeders take responsibility for certifying their males and females against problems inherent to their breed. Their efforts help minimize inheritance of potential problems by their puppies, which in turn will benefit the puppy buyer's wallet.

The prices of puppies from show dog breeders are higher than most newspaper classified ad puppies. These puppies generally come from parents that have achieved titles under the well-trained eye of an

unbiased judge. Certifications of parents have been done in an attempt to eliminate hereditary health problems.

Working titles in their pedigrees may include Obedience, Rally, Canine Good Citizen, Agility, Tracking, Earth dog, Performance Events or other titles that indicate a continuation of the dog's ability to do the work he was originally bred to do.

Although these puppies sell for higher sums than others, their temperaments should remain stable relative to the purpose of the titles achieved by their parents and grandparents.

Breeders of show dogs generally offer health guarantees, an indication of a confident, well-considered breeding. The passion these breeders have for their breed helps them continue their journey to produce genetically sound dogs.

Puppy mills and commercial kennels are the main contributors to pet shops. Their goal is to produce lots of puppies for profit. Puppies are a commodity. Puppy mills may be raided by animal control for horrid, deplorable conditions. Quality is not a top concern in this part of the industry.

Puppies are often sold to pet stores at wholesale prices and resold to the public at “show ” prices. The cost of overhead, especially mall rental property requires the storeowner to charge exorbitant prices for their “products.” Compulsive buyers and the high degree of foot traffic support these establishments. Before making a financial and emotional commitment, prospective buyers should contact the area's humane society and Better Business Bureau for information.

Backyard breeders are the main contributors of puppies. This term applies to all who breed with little knowledge of bloodlines, breed standard, or proper temperament and structure. Their breeding animals are not screened for potential inherent problems prevalent in

the breed, nor are the dogs proven under the well-educated eye of a judge in the show ring or at a trial. They have not taken the time, money, or effort to insure anyone they are breeding better dogs than the next advertisement in the paper.

“Excellent bloodline” is nothing more than a family tree if the breeder has little or no knowledge about bloodlines. Many backyard breeders confess that they are not breeding show dogs and don't subject themselves to the show or performance breeders' rigorous attempts to eradicate health problems or to maintain proper type or temperament.

Puppies are like children — they are all cute. But they do eventually grow up to be adults. If you prefer a specific breed to a mutt, choose a puppy with the potential to grow up healthy, properly sized and proportioned, and with the correct temperament distinctive to the breed you have chosen for the family pet.

# 10 Reasons NOT to Buy from a Pet Shop

1. Health - That adorable puppy in the window of the pet store is hard to resist, but you may be paying a lot of money for a dog that you know very little about. Pet stores generally rely on impulse buys to sell their "product". There is a good chance that the pet store puppy will develop a health problem sometime in its life that may cost you a lot of money to remedy. When you buy a pet store puppy it is very unlikely that the puppy's parents were screened for genetic diseases that can be passed to their offspring. Every breed of dog has genetic problems that are passed from generation to generation by breeding dogs that carry the flawed gene. Many of the genetic problems can be detected with today's technology, but these tests are expensive. People who are concerned about the welfare and future of their breed will have these tests conducted to preserve and improve the future quality of their breed. Most good breeders are more concerned about the health of the puppies that they are producing than the money that they will or won't make on the production of a litter.

2. The myth about American Kennel Club papers – Most pet shops would like you to believe that if a puppy is registered by the AKC, this guarantees the puppy will be healthy and a good example of the breed. This is not so. The only thing that AKC papers certify is that the puppy is a purebred and produced out of AKC registered parents. Even this can be fiction, as some producers register more puppies than are actually born in each litter to receive extra registration slips to pass out with un-registerable puppies. The parents of your puppy may be unhealthy or carriers of crippling or deadly health defects which they may have passed to their offspring—your puppy. They may also be horrible representations of the breed that you are buying. Often times the parentage of pet store puppies is also questionable due to poor record keeping. In other words, your puppy may not even be a purebred, even though it has AKC papers. Responsible breeders

do register their puppies with the AKC, but that is only the beginning.

3. The pet shop guarantee - Many pet stores provide a form of guarantee for people buying puppies from them, but their guarantees may be as bad as none at all. A not—so—uncommon scenario goes something like this: after your family has become attached to your adorable new puppy you find out it is sick. It will cost you several hundred dollars to treat, so you take the puppy back to the store to receive your guarantee. What they will most likely offer to do is trade puppies—take away your beloved pet and replace it with a new puppy, not necessarily a healthier one, either. They will most likely euthanize the puppy you brought back, because this is cheaper for the store. The other tactic that some stores use is to tell you your puppy will grow out of the problem—until their guarantee has expired. Do you want to take this risk?

4. What will the puppy look like when it is full-grown? You may have seen specimens of the breed that you are buying, but this does not guaranteed that this puppy would fit the breed standard. You do not know if the parents fit the standard either and cannot see the faults that each parent has. There is no perfect dog, but a good breeder will be willing to discuss the faults and strengths that each of their dogs possesses. You should also be able to see at least the mother and or father of the puppy that you are buying if bought from a responsible breeder. Even then you cannot tell exactly what the puppy will look like, but you will have a much better idea of what to expect. Why spend so much money without even knowing what the puppy's parents look like?

5. What do you know about the breed? Employees of pet stores generally know very little about the dogs that are in the store. They can probably tell you a little bit about the breed and then point you to a rack of generic dog books. What do you do after you bring the puppy home, only to find that this breed is not the right one for you

and your family? Good breeders are full of information about the breed of puppy that you are considering. They should be able to tell you the general temperament aspects of the breed and help you predict whether this breed of dog will fit into your lifestyle. They will also be able to warn you about specific health problems that the breed is prone to and will be able to tell you what aspects the breed excels in. There is no breed of dog perfect for every person and a good breeder is concerned that their puppy goes to a home that they will fit into.

6. Housebreaking and training problems – This puppy that you are buying from a pet store have most likely spent much of its life in a cage. Many pet store puppies have never seen carpet and may never have even seen grass or dirt. Due to the conditions that puppies are kept in at pet stores, they have been forced to eliminate in the same area that they sleep and eat. This goes against the dog's natural instinct, but your puppy has had no choice. This habit may make housebreaking your puppy much more difficult. A good breeder keeps the puppy area very clean and makes sure the puppy has a separate elimination area. By the time the puppies are ready to go to their new homes they will be well on their way to being house trained. Good breeders will often also start teaching their puppies how to walk on a leash and to lie quietly for grooming. A pet store puppy has most likely never walked on a leash or been brushed before. It can be much more difficult to teach a pet store puppy these daily exercises than a puppy that has been brought up properly. Responsible breeders also base their breeding decisions in part on their dogs' temperament and personality, not only on looks or the fact that they are purebred. Most pet store puppies' parents have not been selected for any reason other than they can produce puppies that sell as cute "purebred" registered by the AKC?

7. How about Socialization? - Your pet store puppy may well have never been in a house before. If this is the case then everything will be new and scary for them. The doorbell, vacuum cleaner, and

children playing are all new sensations that can be terrifying to an un-socialized puppy. Good breeders will expose their puppies to many situations so that the puppies are used to them by the time that they go to their new homes. Most responsible breeders have evaluated the temperament of each of their puppies before they are placed in a new home. A good breeder will know, due to hours of observation, which puppies are dominant and which are shy, which are energetic and which are easy going. Then the breeder will be able to match the puppy to the new owner and make sure that energetic pups go to active families and that shy puppies go to a home that can help them overcome their insecurity. This careful evaluation enables a breeder to choose which puppy will fit your household and much of the guesswork is taken out of the selection process. Good breeders can help you make an educated decision about all aspects of your puppy's feeding, training and overall maintenance and care based on your family situation. If you are going to spend so much money on a dog that you plan to keep for its lifetime, why not find one that will fit into your lifestyle well?

8. What is a pedigree worth? – Some pet shops make a big deal out of their puppies' pedigrees. This is interesting, as the pedigree is really just a piece of paper with names on it. Unless you know the dogs behind goes names the pedigree is really quite useless to the new owner. Can the pet store tell you what your puppies' grandparents died of, or how long they lived? Do any of the dogs in your pup's pedigree carry genetic diseases? Most pet store employees do not know any more about your puppy's background than you do. A reputable breeder can tell you all of this information about your pup's family tree and more. When you buy a puppy from a reputable breeder you are getting more than a piece of paper, you are getting the important information associated with the names too. Almost all responsible breeders will achieve titles on their dogs by showing them under unbiased judges. They will achieve championships on their dogs, which tells that the dog is a good representative of the breed. Some breeders also obtain obedience or

other titles that relate to the job that their breed of dog was originally bred to perform. Many also achieve Canine Good Citizen titles on their breeding dogs. These titles will be shown on the dog's pedigree before and after parents' names. Ask the breeder to explain what the letters mean.

9. Do you want to support puppy mills? - Almost all puppies that are in pet stores come from puppy mills. These operations are exactly what the name implies. Most mass-produce puppies with money as the prime motive. Their breeding dogs are often kept in very poor conditions and are sometimes malnourished. The dogs are almost never tested for genetic diseases and may not receive vaccinations. Puppy mills often obtain their breeding dogs from people in a hurry to get rid of their dogs for some reason, often through "free dog" ads in newspapers or public auctions. Occasionally they are stolen from their owners. Females are generally bred every heat cycle until they are worn out and then they are often sentenced to death. The horror of puppy mills is encouraged every time a puppy is bought from a puppy store. How do you know that your puppy comes from one of these places? The main reason is that almost no responsible breeders will sell puppies to pet stores. Good breeders want to make sure that their puppies go to good homes and are well cared for. They want to be actively involved in screening the home that their puppies go to. Breeders are also concerned about keeping track of their puppies after they leave the breeder's home. They will know about any health problems that their lines may carry, and will be interested in any health problems that a puppy of their breeding develops. A pet store usually never hears about their puppies once they leave the store, and generally really don't care. Buying from a pet store does not mean that you will save any money in the purchase price of the puppy either. When you buy from a reputable breeder there is no middleman involved who wants to take his share of the profit out of the price of the puppy. Often the price that good breeders charge is no more, and sometimes less, than what you will pay buying a puppy from a pet store. The only way puppy mills will ever be stopped is if

people stop buying from them, and when you buy from a pet store you are supporting the puppy mills.

10. After the puppy goes home – Once you take the puppy home from the pet store they do not generally care what happens to the puppy. Most pet shops do not care if the dog is left to run loose and kill livestock, or if it dies of liver disease at 1 year old. If you have a training problem they will often be unable or unwilling to give you training advice. Most do not care if you take your dog home and breed it continually. Responsible breeders are more than people who sell puppies; they will also be good friends to you and your puppy. They care what happens to their puppies once they are sold. Almost all good breeders sell spay/neuter contracts or limited registration. This practice enables breeders to keep dogs that are not breeding quality out of the breeding population and also monitor what happens to their puppies in their new homes. Some breeders sell show quality puppies on co-ownership, so that they retain a portion of the dog's ownership, for better control of what happens to their dog later in its life. If you have a health or training problem a good breeder will generally be able to offer you advise and help you through the ordeal. Most reputable breeders care about each of their puppies' futures and will be concerned about their welfare. They care not only about their own dogs, but also the impact their dogs will make on the breed as a whole.

So please, next time you are looking a new puppy to buy, do your research. One of the best steps toward becoming an educated puppy buyer and dog owner is to attend American Kennel Club sanctioned shows and carefully research each breed that you are interested in. Once you decide what breed of dog you would like to add to your household, talk to several breeders. Good breeders can inform you about genetic diseases common in the breed you want, and are generally happy to share their knowledge. When you are ready to buy a puppy from a particular litter, ask the breeder for proof of genetic tests specific to the breed and request to see one or both of the parents of your new puppy.

A common excuse for buying a puppy from a pet store is that you do not plan to show your puppy, you just want a companion. Out of each litter that a reputable breeder produces there is a good chance that at least a portion of the puppies in each litter will not be show quality, but would make outstanding pets. Not every puppy that a breeder produces is destined for stardom in the show ring, but might well be the next shining star in your household. Please pass up the next puppy you see in the pet store and contact breed organizations. They will be able to match you with a responsible breeder that will help you have a well-adjusted and healthy new canine member to your family. Other positive alternatives are adopting an adult from your local Humane Society or adopting a rescue dog from various rescue organizations located throughout the United States. Every breed of dog registered by the AKC has at least one rescue organization that will take in dogs of that breed and places them in new, loving homes. There are endless numbers of dogs of all shapes, sizes, ages and personalities in need of a new loving home. When you obtain a dog from one of these organizations, you are more than saving that dog's life. You are also sparing a female dog in some puppy mill from being condemned to produce yet another litter for pet shops sales. So please, be rational and thoughtful when you go to get your next dog and help prevent irresponsible pet ownership.

A pet store is generally the worst place to buy a puppy. As long as there is a market for pet store puppies, other dogs will be condemned to death by mass breeding, only so that a few people can make some money, often with no thought of the welfare of their "product". This is not to say that a good pet has never come out of a pet store; many have. For each that has, though, many others have not. Remember, when you buy a puppy, you are adding another member to your family, not just another piece of furniture that can be disposed of at the smallest whim. You would not have a child without careful research and planning for the child's future ten or fifteen years down the road. Your new dog should be no different. Adding a dog to the family is a long term commitment and responsibility that should be

taken seriously and only acted upon after careful consideration and research.

*It is our duty to breed responsibly, and this means....*

*\* Using high quality breeding stock that have been temperament tested, are loving, and beautiful specimens, certified free of common genetic abnormalities.\* placing puppies with families that have been approved only after being interviewed at length, and have demonstrated a willingness and ability to raise a member of this active & hardy breed in a healthy, nurturing environment.*

*\* Offering complete follow-up and lifelong support for all puppies produced\* assisting families that are interested in pursuing events especially designed for terriers by recommendations for training and classes, clubs and associations as well as guidance to get started.*

*Helpful Steps to take when reviewing breeding programs in search of a new companion...*

*As in any profession, there are those in purebred dog breeding that act with integrity and those that simply conduct themselves in a manner unbecoming. \*Be extremely wary of the information you obtain. Much of what you read is opinion, and often not informed opinion. Some is even blatantly incorrect. In the highly competitive landscape that is purebred dog breeding/showing etc. do your homework for best results. \*The best breeders are well thought of in a circle of their peers and are exhibitors in their breed and members in good standing in one or more dog clubs. Get in contact with the club most reputable breeders belong to in their area and ask for a professional referral. \*Research a variety of breeds to find the one that best suits your family and lifestyle. \*Talk to people you*

*know or meet that own the sort of dog you admire. Find out where they acquired him or her, and how happy they are with their pet and breeder. \*Visit websites, club affiliations, attend shows and trials, see the dogs, read and hear testimonials and get info from a variety of sources before committing. Judge for yourself to avoid disappointment. Good Luck!*

## A BREEDER

A Breeder (with a capital B) is one who thirsts for knowledge and never really knows it all. One who wrestles with decisions of conscience, convenience, and commitment.

A Breeder is one who sacrifices personal interests, finances, time, friendships, fancy furniture, and deep pile carpeting! She gives up dreams of a long, luxurious cruise in favor of turning that all-important show into this years "vacation".

A Breeder goes without sleep (but never without coffee!) in hours spent planning a breeding. Or watching anxiously over the birth process, and afterwards, over every little sneeze, wiggle, or cry.

A Breeder skips dinner parties because that litter is due or the babies have to be fed at 8. She disregards birth fluids and puts mouth to mouth to save a gasping newborn, literally blowing life into a tiny, helpless creature that may be the culmination of a lifetime of dreams.

A Breeder's lap is a marvelous place where generations of proud and noble champions once snoozed.

A Breeder's hands are strong and firm and often soiled, but ever so gentle and sensitive to thrusts of a puppy's wet nose.

A Breeder's back and knees are usually arthritic from stooping, bending, and sitting in the birthing box, but are strong enough to enable the Breeder to show the next choice pup to Championship.

A Breeder's shoulders are stooped and often heaped with the abuse of competitors, but they are wide enough to support the weight of a thousand defeats and frustrations.

A Breeder's arms are always able to wield a mop, support an armful of puppies, or lend a helping hand to a newcomer.

A Breeder's ears are wondrous things, sometimes red (from being talked about) or strangely shaped (from being pressed against a phone receiver) often deaf to criticism, yet always fine-tuned to the whimper of a sick puppy.

A Breeder's eyes are often blurred from pedigree research and sometimes blind to her own dog's faults, and are always searching for the perfect specimen.

A Breeder's brain is foggy on faces, but can recall a pedigree faster than an IBM computer.

It's so full of knowledge and can sometimes blow a fuse: It catalogues thousands of good bonings, fine ears and perfect heads...and buries in the soul the failures and the ones that

didn't turn out.

A Breeder's heart is often broken, but it beats strongly with hope everlasting.... and it's always in the right place!

Oh yes, there are breeders, and then, there are  
**BREEDERS!**

-Author Unknown