

Choosing a Purebred Dog

"Just think what it means to have a purebred dog. It is a purebred dog for only one reason: because someone cared and supervised the birth of every single generation. For decades past, or even for hundreds of years in some breeds, someone saw that the right dog was bred to the right bitch, and reared the pups to a healthy adulthood. Think how hard it is to keep a bitch in heat from cavorting about with any cur that passes by. Do you think that she cares about the lineage of her whelps? No! Humans care! And ever since the breed was originated, humans have supervised every step to improve on the features that make every breed useful, special, and unique."

As Phyllis A. Holst so aptly describes in her book *Canine Reproduction*, we have a huge responsibility to keep our breed "pure, strong, and correct." Each breed has specific characteristics typical of that breed and we want to breed dogs that are of excellent quality, that meets their breed standard, have wonderful temperaments, and are in top health without hereditary defects. When you are looking for a breed to fit in with your family's lifestyle, know what you want. Do you want a large dog, small dog, guard dog, working dog, a loveable companion, one who is good with children? All of these are important questions. In this day where "designer" dogs are popular, it is still reassuring to know that you can find a dog specifically bred to suit your requirements.