



THE
FOREVER
DOG

**TWENTY QUESTIONS TO ASK
A PROSPECTIVE BREEDER**

RODNEY HABIB &
DR. KAREN BECKER

GENETIC AND HEALTH SCREENING TESTS

1. Have all of the currently appropriate DNA tests for the breed been conducted on the dam (mom)? (Find a list by breed at www.dogwellnet.com)
2. Have all of the currently appropriate DNA tests for the breed been conducted on the sire (dad)?
3. What were the results of the Orthopedic Foundation of America (OFA) hip dysplasia (or PennHip), elbow and patella screening results for both parents?
4. For affected breeds, when were the dam and sire's thyroid results last registered with the OFA Thyroid Database?
5. Have the dam and sire's eyes been evaluated by an ophthalmologist and results reported to CERF or OFA? (If indicated for breed.)
6. Are there any breed-related issues the breeder is trying to address/rectify/improve through mating this pair?

EPIGENETICS

7. What percentage of the dam and sire's diet is unprocessed real food?
8. What are the dam and sire's vaccine protocols?
9. Is the puppy's vaccination protocol determined by a nomograph (testing of the mom's antibody levels to determine what day vaccines will be effective for the puppies)?
10. How often are pesticides applied (topical or oral heartworm, flea and tick medications)?

SOCIALIZATION, EARLY DEVELOPMENT, AND WELLNESS

11. What early socialization program (day 0-63) does the breeder institute prior to placing puppies in their new homes?
12. Does the breeding contract require puppies be spayed or neutered by a certain age?
13. If yes, does the sterilization clause include options for vasectomy or hysterectomy?
14. Does the contract require you to attend training classes with your pup?
15. If appropriate for the breed, are puppies' eyes checked by a veterinary ophthalmologist between 6 and 8 weeks of age?
16. Have the puppies had a basic check-up by the breeder's regular veterinarian prior to going to new homes, and at what age will puppies be released?

TRANSPARENCY

17. Will the breeder allow you to visit their home or facility (in person or via live video) and provide references for you to call?
18. In the event you cannot keep your puppy, or things don't work out, will the breeder take the puppy/dog back at any time?
19. Is the breeder (or someone in their network) available for support should you need it?
20. Will your puppy packet include all of the following?
 - Contract
 - AKC or applicable registration application or certificate if already registered?
 - Other breed registration if applicable (ie Australian Shepherd Club)?
 - Litter pedigree

- Copies of puppy eye check (if applicable)
- Puppy general health summary (medical record from initial veterinary visit)
- Dam health clearances, including copies of DNA results
- Sire health clearances, including copies of DNA results
- Photos of sire and dam
- Educational resources (suggested Feeding schedule, suggested vaccine protocols and suggested dates for antibody titers to ensure immunization occurred, training resources)

