

# Responsible Dog Breeding

by Anne Bowes, Past President, PWCCA

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What can we, as responsible dog breeders, do to ensure that the joy we all experience in raising litters of puppies does not add to the problem of dog over-population? All of us should ". . . take a hard look at our own breeding practices to make sure that the puppies we produce and sell do not end up as rescue Corgis or even in the pedigree of a rescue Corgi". Here are some suggestions as to how to do this:

1. Raise litters solely from stock with sound temperaments, health and structure; and characteristic type as described in the Pembroke Welsh Corgi standard.
2. Place each puppy directly into carefully-researched homes where the personality of the puppy matches the needs and environment of the home.
3. Train each puppy (i.e. crate-train, leash-break, simple obedience commands of sit and come) before selling so that it will be easier for the new owners to raise into a well-behaved adult.
4. Educate each new owner on the best methods of puppy raising, training and care. Make sure the new owner feels comfortable calling you throughout the life of the dog concerning any problem that may come up.
5. Sell all puppies with AKC Limited Registration (not for breeding) except for those puppies going to experienced and reliable breeders. You can always change the registration later if you feel the Corgi is of breeding quality and the resultant puppies will be carefully raised, trained and placed.
6. Sell all puppies with written contracts carefully outlining what is expected from both buyer and seller. Include assurances that the puppy will be returned to you at any time during the life of the dog if the new owners are unhappy with it or can no longer provide for its care.
7. Follow-up by phone or letter to make sure the puppy and new owner have made a good adjustment.
8. Limit the number of litters raised per year to ensure your ability to carefully raise, train, place and if necessary retrieve and relocate each puppy you produce.
9. If you offer stud service, make sure the prospective breeder will follow these guidelines in the raising and placing of the litter.

It is my feeling that if each and every breeder of Pembroke Welsh Corgis followed these guidelines, there would be no further need for the extensive Corgi rescue efforts going on today. If each and every Corgi breeder took life-time responsibility for every puppy produced in his/her breeding program and/or by his/her stud dog, all the people who currently volunteer so many hours to Corgi rescue could devote their time to other pursuits. Wouldn't this be wonderful? Wouldn't this ensure that all of us could enjoy the pleasures of breeding litters of Corgis for years to come?

So, why won't this work? There is one simple problem with raising dogs this way — you cannot make money. In fact, you can hardly break even! If you follow these guidelines, instead of making a living from raising dogs, you have to have another source of income to pay for the privilege.

It all comes down to one issue: are we dedicated to the preservation and welfare of the Pembroke Welsh Corgi or are we dedicated to the preservation and welfare of ourselves *by means* of the Pembroke Welsh Corgi?

Provided by **COLUMBIA RIVER PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI CLUB**