



Who created the Bulldogs that end up in rescue? If you think that most dogs that come into rescue were bred by large scale "puppy mills", you would be mistaken; at least as it pertains to this area. The majority of rescue dogs appear to have been bred by what is commonly called "backyard breeders". This term generally is used to describe someone who

breeds dogs on a smaller scale, and often without thought as to the welfare of the resulting puppies once they leave their yard. Their primary concern is usually whether the interested buyer is able to meet their asking price. Backyard breeders rarely bother to determine whether the new owners are equipped to keep the puppy for its lifetime. Backyard breeders usually do not show their Bulldogs or support breed clubs, as those things cut into their profit margin. Sometimes the primary reason to breed a litter is simply because they want to get a return on the initial investment of the purchase price of their own dog.

Backyard breeders do not encourage the new owners to contact them if there are any problems with the puppy. Generally speaking, once the puppy is out the door and the check has been cashed, the relationship has ended. We have had a few cases where breeders were contacted, but they were unwilling to take back the dogs in question or help out in anyway. If people have met the breeder of their puppy only at the time of sale and have had no lasting relationship with them, it is not surprising to find that these breeders are unwilling to take responsibility for the dog later in life.

The key to keeping Bulldogs out of rescue is educating the public. One important aspect of that is to have breeders make sure buyers know how to properly train and care for their Bulldog. Buyers need to be aware that a committed breeder can be a valuable resource and should be someone they can go to when they have questions about the care and training of their Bulldog. A responsible breeder will want their puppies to go to homes where they will be loved and cared for their entire lives and will do everything they can to ensure that this happens for each and every puppy.

If a breeder does not take time to interview prospective owners, but only seems eager to take your money, odds are that breeder will be unavailable should problems arise at some later point in time. Responsible breeders usually provide written contracts that will state that they are to be contacted if a buyer is no longer able to keep their Bulldog. A responsible breeder would prefer to help buyers find solutions so that the dog is able to remain with its original family. But if that is not possible, they should be willing to help you find a suitable new home for your dog. This does not necessarily mean that they will refund any of the purchase price. It is not as easy to find eager buyers for adult dogs as it is for cute little puppies that are nice 'blank slates'. Many people do not want to deal with possible behavioral issues and would rather not take that risk. If they do, they will not want to have to pay much for the "privilege".

Not everyone who breeds occasionally can be considered a backyard breeder. It is not the quantity that determines that, but the quality of care. If a breeder seems knowledgeable about the breed and shows you that they have put some thought into the breeding and is willing to provide you with written assurances that they care about the puppies they sell, then it shows they are serious about the lives they have created. However, as long as there are breeders who are primarily "puppy producers" there will always be a need for breed rescue. If breeders are not involved in the ongoing lives of the puppies they produce, the risk is higher that those dogs will end up in a rescue program. There is no safety net for these dogs and their owners. Responsible breeders don't just care for their dogs, they care *about* them. Before a person considers buying a puppy from a particular breeder perhaps they should ask themselves, "Is this somebody I'd like to be friends with?" If the answer is "no", then it would be a good idea for them to continue their search.

Love-a-Bull MN Bulldog Rescue would like to thank all who participated in the Silent Auction for Rescue at the October 1st Wrinkle Time. We appreciate all who donated items and also many thanks to those who put in bids. Every little bit helps. The silent auction raised \$110 for Minnesota Rescue Bulldogs.

No one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.
--- Edmund Burke

Check out pictures, gathering dates, and more at www.wrinkletime.org ! Oct 06