

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB OF MICHIGAN

What is a Responsible Breeder?

A responsible breeder:

- screens homes for their puppies to insure a correct match between owner and dog, and to insure that the physical and emotional needs of the dogs are fulfilled.
- will take back ANY dog of their breeding at any stage of its life if the original owners are unwilling or unable to keep the dog.
- has a plan, knows the standard of their breed, breeds for health and performance as well as conformation, and has a true understanding and love of their breed.
- provides health, vaccination and historical information on their dogs at the time of sale. They are available to the new owners for information, advice, etc... They welcome visits and are happy to give out information on their breed.
- immediately neuters any dog who may be responsible for passing along inherited diseases, even though they are unsure whether it is THEIR dog or the “other” dog who is the carrier. Having “done their homework in advance” on both dogs, they still don’t risk that it is their dog.
- cares about their dogs, checks up on them, and keeps in touch with the new owners. They relay information to the new owners on littermates’ health and condition.
- is not insulted by any questions you may ask, not only about health concerns, but about personalities, care, temperaments, obedience, etc...
- may require you to have a fenced yard. They feel there should be no such thing as having a dog hit by a car.
- may ask you to do certain health checks on your dog (even if he is pet quality and to be neutered) such as CERF, etc... Testing all of their offspring can help a responsible breeder make good future breeding decisions.
- is eager to share detailed breed information and grabs every opportunity to educate.
- supplies shot records, pedigrees and care information.
- offers guarantees and tests all breeding stock, explaining the genetic defects in their breed and providing genetic test results.
- will ask you a lot of questions and expects you to ask a lot of questions.
- will be honest with you about both the best and worst parts of their breed.
- are not motivated by profit but by the love of their breed.
- breeds to improve the gene pool of their breed.
- are active in showing/obedience/agility/breed clubs, etc...
- no matter what the quality of the dogs they produce, the amount of winning, the number of Champions in the pedigree, will EVER sell puppies through a pet shop. The act of not screening prospective homes removes them from the ranks of responsibility.