

Choice of Stud Dog

The reason for peoples choice of a particular stud dog can vary in peoples minds. Estimates of a dogs ability to combine with an intended bitch vary. Different ideas, rationally and studious contemplation of a particular stud dog's service is required.

For the discerning breeder the choice of stud dog can be quite an onerous task. The choice of stud dog can be quite an onerous task. The following will no doubt ring true in many breeders minds who only wish to produce the

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very best of stock to improve their line and at of course further any success in the show ring. Fortunately, breeders in the UK rejoice in the free choice of creating satisfying advantageous selection without the demands and intrusion from an elected breed controller as is the case in some countries.

Temperament must be foremost in every breeders mind whether novice or expert it is the responsibility of all concerned to ensure that dogs they intend to mate are of a reliable and affectionate temperament sound in mind as well as body with confidence of further generating the attribute to all future progeny. The breeder/vender

consideration towards prospective buyers must be an imperative. All stock ranges from good to indifferent in varying degrees and therefore all sales cannot be guaranteed. Disappointment may also lead to dissatisfaction due to poor after sales service and in some cases unpleasantness develops.

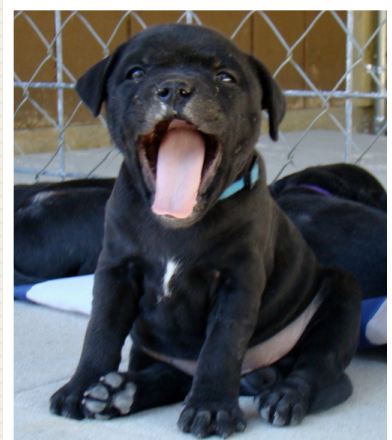
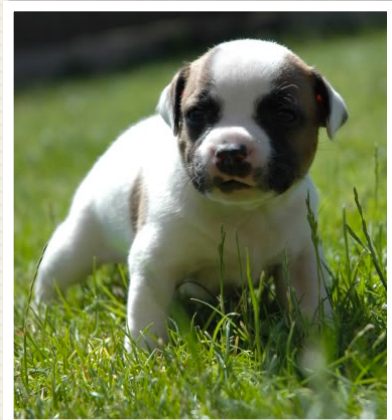
Physical conformation will indicate any faults that are obvious as well as any desired specific virtues. The affects of fault related recessive genes, undesirable traits brought to light with later development may destroy great hopes of an outstanding specimen.

Close scrutiny of pedigrees would be priority to the discerning breeder by combining pedigree knowledge with past experience of generations of the animals involved the elimination of inferior anomalies is hopefully possible. Consider the mating of two preposed animals displaying the same faults - without question this option would be regarded as near lunacy. We should be mindful of the fact that most faults are recessive and may be lying dormant ready to catch out the unwary breeder. No doubt in the past attempts to eradicate these faults may have proved unsuccessful.

Haphazard decisions can result in grave deterioration in type. This disaster can occur when the bitch owner requires an occasional litter often unconvincingly deciding it is for the bitches sake rather than for an increase in the bank balance.

Consideration must be given to the bitches make up during selection. This can only be gleaned from her obvious phenotype and pedigree.

Should a top winning dog beget a top class litter from a certain bitch it should not be taken for granted this excellence will be repeated with an other mating. In fact it could be his best result yet from many amorous associations. Cognizance at the fact that many earned him the title of champion are likely to be present in single strength only.



Choice of Stud Dog Continued

Many breeders have realized that certain lines combine well. For instance the mating of certain animals is often likely to produce progeny of better type than their own parents. This phenomenon can easily be explained in terms of genetics. The genetic suggestion is that in the union both are dominant with respect to their good points and recessive to less desirable ones. In many cases the defects are not displayed in either parent.

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Unfortunately faults can appear in later generations. Vigilance must be applied to prevent dominance of the relevant defects occurring.

Good results from a mating would be worthy of a repeat mating. Some breeders seem to refrain from this exercise preferring to go to some other speculative matings for reasons best known to themselves. A further attempt may prove uneventful; I suggest the odds are of a favorable occurrence toward the latter which would appear to demonstrate that the lines of the parents are complimentary to each other. "Better the devil you know than the devil you don't". A further error of judgment is to assess a studs value by the qualities revealed in the odd one or two of his more worthy offspring. Without the knowledge of the number of earlier litters he has produced may result in time and money wasted in pursuit of the seemingly improbable.

It must be taken into account that there is far more poor quality bitches mated than there are inferior dogs. Outstanding bitches are fairly uncommon and are only mated in smaller numbers than the average male. overseas breeder to rely on photographs and confirmation from visiting judges, or their hopeful imagination.

Close breeding may influence some fanciful breeders. This must involve well bred animals. A fundamental knowledge of basic genetics can be an advantage both in breeding and further more, health care. It doesn't take a genius to mate brother and sister or mother to son, father to daughter to account for 25% homozygosity in the offspring. The Kennel Club have now of course banned this type of pairings.

However, mating half brother to half sister will produce 12.5%. Cousins at 6.25%. of 'Coefficient of Inbreeding'. Higher scores can be achieved by back crossing many times over by the assistance of the now available 'pedigree calculating machines'. These, designed on the theory of the celebrated American geneticist and biologist Sewell Wright. By their use, a higher concentration of common ancestors can be dredged up by this method. Common ancestors refers to the pairing of similar bred dogs appearing on both sides of the pedigree. The absence of such renders a dog to be considered a complete out cross.



Choice of Stud Dog Concluded



The Kennel Clubs dictate with regard to close matings due to health reasons has created difficulties for those wishing to compound their breeding lines but there is still great satisfaction from complimenting the pedigrees they wish and are allowed to follow. The two intended animals must be worthy of their makeup and appearance and should be displaying similar attributes as their parents and grandparents. Hopefully, from this application a good line will be firmly established.



Finally, there are breeders who select their choice by chance – or educated guess. Usually, a complete outcross is their preference. This should not be condemned even if pedigrees are disregarded, however, only the best individuals must be used. Given time a fancier may produce meritorious specimens, especially if they confine their area of selection to reliable good looking type stock.



Many outstanding animals have been bred using this method. I am aware of a well known kennel from another breed which proved to be most successful in the world of its breed. The owner rarely studied blood lines or spent hours burning the midnight oil pondering the combination and complexities of pedigree virtues and faults. The breeder's ability to select wisely would seem to be a gift. By formulating an impression in his mind of a certain stud's ability to nick successfully with the intended bitch, this, along with long time experience and understanding of the breed helped him to make full use of this blessing. Unfortunately, this accomplishment is



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not available to all, just limited to a talented few.

Notwithstanding, other avenues of approach must be considered if advice is not available. On occasions advice has been ignored and disappointing results have produced a jumble of different types, shapes and sizes. The opportunity for these people to involve themselves is immense by finding an exceptional strain which may be produced within the breed by the careful use of certain breeding methods and experience. Unfortunately, there are the one's who quite happily carry on in their own way by disregarding advice, satisfied by the fact the financial gains keep rolling in enough to pay for the next holiday at some far away exotic location.

Norman Berry