The Happy Dog Training Academy

Cross Breed or Pure Breed

**Cross Breed or Pure Breed Dog**

**Crossbreeding dogs**,

Is the action of breeding dogs of different or undetermined breeds. In other words, you are breeding outside of a dog’s known pedigree, if it has one in the first place. For example, mutts Heinz 57 and designer dog breeds are cross bred (e.g. Labradoodle).

Purebred dogs are dogs of known backgrounds (e.g., Border Collie) in which you only mate dogs that belong to the same restricted group of dogs. The downside of pure breeding is the limitations of dogs that are not closely in inherently. Some breeders are happy to crossbreed dogs and give up on the true pedigree, to have access to a much wider pool of specimens. Thus, able to find better quality dogs to breed with, regardless of their ties to any official breed.

Crossbred dogs rarely have paperwork since they are unable to register with the kennel clubs.

**Types of Cross Breeds**

If you were to ask for a list of all the **various types of crossbreeds** in the world, then the list you would receive would be endless. This is partially since for centuries, individuals have striven to perfect man’s best friend to create the ultimate pet. And by doing so, they created several cross breeds containing more types of dog breeds than you can imagine.

That is why, to help simplify this discussion, we have only listed the most popular cross dog breeds in the world (whose combined genetics are from just two breeds of dog), to help paint an accurate picture of all the different combinations that exist.

**Labradoodle**  a Labrador crossed with a Poodle

**Cockerpoo**  a Cocker Spaniel crossed with a Poodle

**Schnoodle** a Miniature Schnauzer crossed with a Poodle

**Puggle**  a Pug crossed with a Beagle

**Mal-shil**  a Maltese crossed with a Shih-Tzu

**Chorkies**  a Chihuahua crossed with a Yorkshire Terrier

**Maltipoos** a Maltese crossed with a Poodle

**Muggins** a miniature Pinscher crossed with a Pug

Less well-known, yet still popular crossbreeds include the . following:

**Aussiepom**  this a mix of a mini Australian Shapard with a . Pomeranian

**Labsky**  a Labrador crossed with a Husky

**Cheagle** a Chihuahua crossed with a Beagle

**Chowsky**  a Chow Chow crossed with a Husky

**Bullmatian**  a Bulldog crossed with a Dalmatian

**Goberian** a Golden Retriever crossed with a Husky

As you can see, there are many and various combinations and you could easily get lost compiling a more detailed list. However, it is important to note here that many of the above cross breeds exist for a specific reason.

For example, the Labradoodle and the Cockapoo were both originally created out of a desire to offer pet owner a Hypoallergenic Pet, that would not trigger their allergies. This same desire to fulfil a need can be applied to many of the other dogs currently on this list. This said the need can be a search for a particular skill**(scent detection, speed), look (tiny, fluffy, muscular), or property (hypoallergenic).**

**Is Cross Breeding Recommended?**

There is a lot of controversy surrounding cross breeding in dogs, especially amongst professional breeders.

On the one hand, they are mutts as their genetics are too diversified (making it impossible to judge their size, personality, temperament, and potential health implications); whilst others view cross breeding as an opportunity to change their genetics due to the number of health complications that can arise from the Pedigree, being too close breeding them for too many generations. Herein lies the problem there **are many advantages and disadvantages to both purebred and crossbred dogs**. It is just a matter for you which is the right course of action.

In most instances, cross breeds should be cheaper to buy than purebred dogs.

In this article, we aim to enlighten your understanding on cross breeding; what it entails, and all its advantages/disadvantages so you can fully comprehend what is required to breed them successfully and provide the best animal care possible.

More importantly, we shall ask the question, is cross breeding safe, or should the practice of cross breeding be stopped. For personal gain, of course you will get the accidental mating of two dogs. But we shall be looking at the Designer dogs mated for personal gain by breeders.

**Purebred vs. Crossbred**

As we have mentioned at the beginning, there are both advantages and disadvantages to owning purebred and crossbred dogs. The question you need to ask yourself is where your own personal preference lies.

For instance, there is a strong belief that **Every dog was bred for a pacific reason.** This theory stems from the fact that many purebreds were originally bred to fulfil a specific purpose, i.e., hunting foxes, guarding properties, herding sheep, protect cattle, etc. As a result, they have stronger tendencies towards certain actions, i.e., digging, barking, increased stamina, energy, and aggression, which are not always desirable amongst modern family pet owners.

With cross breeds, many feel it is possible to dampen these excessive traits and instead achieve a more moderate personality that is better equipped to adapt to the new environment or home. Yet, this is not the only theory about purebred and crossbred dogs.

There are many others, which as a potential pet owner or breeder, you need to know if you wish to have all sides of the story.

**Pricing**

**In most instances, cross breeds should be cheaper to buy than purebred dogs.** However, there are certain crossbreeds that do to demand are more expensive. Cockapoos are a perfect example of this. Bred for their hypoallergenic coats, they cost considerably more than many popular dogs including the 2 purebreds their parentage came from. Breeders confidently tell budding pet owners that their fur will not trigger any allergic reactions. Of course, breeders should be telling owners that their fur, will not trigger an allergic reaction to certain allergies, not all.

**Congenital Diseases**

There is a strong belief that cross breeds have a lower chance of inheriting congenital diseases, as you can technically ‘breed out’ the defective gene. Yet this belief is only true if you can trace its history and parentage. Without proof of its lineage, then there is no guarantee that their health will be any better than that of a purebred dog. Let me explain, a dog that has hip dysplasia which is a congenital defect. We need to know if mother and farther were clear, either could have the defective gene as could grandparents or even grate grandparents. Without having x-ray score history, built over many generations as there have been given in a lot of cases on pedigree dogs. There is no way of telling what genetic disorders are present. However, in the pedigree dog’s breeders can trace some, not all genetic conditions, But with the history of their parentage over many generations. In most cases the cross breed will not have the history to give the parents lineage.

**Lineage**

Carrying on from the previous point, unless you know the breeding history of the dog, you can place no guarantee on what their size, health or personality will be when they are fully grown. Whilst purebreds have a predictable personality/temperament it can be difficult to make such predictions when it comes to cross breeds. You cannot be 100% certain which genetic traits they will take from each parent. For example, a Border Collie as we now are bred to be keen of eye and to be able to move sheep/rams by being keen and stead fast even snapping at the heels to push stubborn sheep on. Were as the German Shapard Dog (Alsatian), was bred for guarding, strong jaws a show aggressive temperament when pushed or trained to attack. Now for this purpose lets cross these, we could have an aggressive keen dog that likes to chase or herd, that might well snap at anything that runs or faces it. (I have to say this might not be the case offspring could be a perfectly nice happy dogs). But by cross breeding we have the petechial by lineage.

With purebreds, this is a different story, as their pure parentage allows breeders to tell prospective pet owners the size, behaviour, and health to expect of the dog. This, in turn, leaves breeders in a better position to match prospective breeding pairs (based on their temperament and physical conformity), as not only can they use their history to accurately determine the type of pups they will have, but it is also easier to get them genetically tested to prevent any potential or unseen genetic diseases/disorders from being passed onto their litter.

Another bonus to purebreds is that breeders can offer prospective owners guarantees on the long-term health, wellbeing, and temperaments of their puppies. “Please note that not all breeders choose to offer this guarantee as even with testing, unforeseen events could potentially influence the health and longevity of the dog, making their promise invalid.”

Beyond potential congenital problems, inbreeding amongst purebred dogs has also been linked to temperament and intelligence problems, there is no guarantee that a crossbreed will have a higher quality of life/better health.

**Breeding dogs of different sizes** will not only make it difficult for you to predict the final size of the dog, it can also cause Birthing problems for the mother, This problem is further heightened if the male dog is considerably larger than the mother (or if he comes from a large-headed breed), as the influence of their genetics (on the pups) could make it difficult for the mother to birth, thus resulting in her having to undergo a C-section in order to protect the lives of her pups as well as herself.

**Advantages of Cross Breeding**

Whilst you cannot exactly predict how the genetics between two breeds of dogs will combine, there are several advantages to cross breeding.

**Unique look**, if you are looking for a dog that looks different to every other dog out there, then cross breeding can offer you such a dog, as even within the same litter you will find startling differences between each of the pups.

**Create a new future purebred**, many people forget that the purebreds we have today originated from owners crossing different breeds in the past (to achieve certain physical and behavioural characteristics). This means, the cross breeding that we see today could potentially act as a foundation for creating future purebreds, especially if breeders take the time to organize themselves, make wise choices and keep to a consistent plan of action. Take for instance Cockapoos. These were originally bred for their hypoallergenic coats, yet now are a popular household pet due to their other commendable traits.

**Health Implications**

**Despite common perceptions that cross breeding can eliminate health issues, this is not completely accurate.** Alongside the potential risks to the mother, e.g., if the stud is of a larger breed, it is also important to note that a few inherited medical conditions are common across more than one breed of dog.

Kidney disease, eye, and sight conditions, Hip displacer and epilepsy are just a handful of diseases that affect many dog breeds (potentially all of them at different levels). This means, that unless you can be certain that neither parent or grandparents are carriers (which is harder to trace in crossed dogs), there is still a strong chance that their puppies may suffer from inherited health issues in the future.

Another complication that can arise from crossbreeding is the creation of brand-new health problems. For example, many of the breeds we know today have been bred to look a certain way (e.g., have shorter snouts, to be smaller in size, etc). However, whilst these altered appearances may improve their appeal to prospective pet owners, trying to shrink all or parts of their body can cause health issues. These range from breathing and heart problems to spinal spacing issues with their organs, to reduced life expectancy and poor quality of life. Simply because they were never intended to be built that way, problems may occur after generations of excessively breeding for a trait. (for example, the Dachshund and Basset Hound, Prone to major health problems such as Osteochondrosis Dissecans OCD, Gastric Torsion, Elbow Dysplasia, Canine Hip Dysplasia to name but a few)

On a positive note, though whilst it can be hard to trace the genetic history of cross breeds, their diversity has been firmly linked to stronger and improved immune systems.

**Summary of Crossbred/ Purebred Dogs**

This is a truly complicated subject, as on the one hand, you could argue that we have been crossbreeding dogs for centuries, with little to no ill effect. In fact, many of the breeds we consider to be purebreds today were originally conceived by combining two, three or even four different breeds of dog over a period what we are doing today is not all that different from what has been done in the past.

Yet there are risks to cross breeding, especially when it comes to pairing breeds of different sizes. Not only for differing sizes cause birthing complications for the mother, along with many other what some would consider birth defects, but your inability also to trace their genetic history can make it harder for you to prevent and eliminate potential congenital issues. Knowing all of this, the question you really need to ask yourself, is not so much “is it safe to cross breed dogs, but rather “can dog breeders ensure that they cross bread dogs responsibly?” to ensure the new owner are getting healthy dogs.

No matter whether you are pure breeding or cross breeding dogs, what is most important is that during the breeding process you use only the healthiest dogs. Dogs where you can easily trace their breeding stock, determine their temperament, and feel confident that they will not suffer from congenital issues.

In turn, instead of trying to create dogs which look a specific way, breeders should ensure that there is no danger to the health of the mother and her future pups. As what is the use of having a dog that is a miniature version of a larger breed, when such traits cause them to have an ill health or a reduced lifespan There is none.

Only by breeding responsibly can any form of breeding purebred or cross be done safely. For that reason, if you are considering becoming a breeder or a pet owner, make sure you do your research first and check their genetic history. We should be responsible for their lifes and welfare in the end we are only custodians, we should respect that there lifes matter. Do that and only get a dog you can offer your care along with the best quality of life. We should all question cross or pedigree quality of life is what really matters. If your answer is no to any of the above, you should either not get a dog or change the breed you are looking for. In my own search for a dog, I looked at 45 litters and researched 95 altogether before I found the ideal puppy for my needs and now at 2 years old Mr Fly is the perfect companion and fits everything, I expected from him. So many people I see in my capacity as behaviour consultant, the first thing I ask, is what made you pick this puppy the answers almost every time is he/she looked cute, or I felt sorry for the conditions the puppies were in. both must be the wrong reason for paying for a puppy. Rescue centres are full of puppies that were cute or were in bad conditions.

**Take some advice** before getting a puppy there are training centres, behaviour consultants’ vets, veterinary nurses, all very willing to give advice on pets.