**How to Evaluate a Breeder**

**By Mrs Peggy Adamson – Former President of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America. This is a reprint from September 1976 article**

The reputable breeder is like the head of the family. He feels responsibility towards the breed itself, towards the dogs he breeds, the dogs he hopes to breed, and additionally to all the people who have dogs of his breeding. He spends astounding amounts of his time and money on matters he thinks are for the best interest of his breed.

It is this awareness of responsibility, combined with a sense of continuity that marks the difference between the true breeder and the mere “puppy raiser”. The breeder is an artist, motivated by a drive to create perfection: the puppy raisers and the dog dealers are motivated by the desire to make money. They are truly in the dog business, selling puppies like over-the-counter commodities to anyone who can pay the price.

The breeder is the link between the past and the future. Since he is well aware that the buyers of today maybe the breeders of tomorrow. He does is best to educate the people who come to buy his dogs and instill in them the ideals and values on which he has built his reputation.

Fortunate is the novice buyer who purchases his first dog from a reputable breeder! Whereas puppy raisers may sell whole litters to dog dealers, the breeders insist on direct contact with those who buy his dogs, and sells only after the most careful screening of the would-be purchaser in order to ascertain the mutual suitability of dog and buyer.

While not often not fully appreciated until after the dog is bought, the screening by the breeder is the greatest protection a dog purchaser can have.

The puppy raisers and dog dealers are often high-powered salesman. They never ask questions, their only concern is to sell dogs and to get them off their hands as soon as possible in order to avoid additional expense and work. Their interest ends when the sale is completed.

The attitude of the reputable breeder is very different. Though the cost of properly caring for his dogs may cause him sleepless nights and untold worries he will never let a single puppy or older dog leave for a home that is not as good or better than the one he is providing. Even when the dog is sold, the breeders help and advice do not end but continue throughout the dog’s life, a responsibility chiefly accepted by him without expectation of compensation.

Each national breed club has been founded by people anxious to produce the best possible representatives of that breed and to help all others with the same objectives. At the heart of each club, there must be breeders. They may not all agree as to what constitutes perfection but by belonging to a national organisation, they are able to arrive at a consensus, which is the AKC standard for that breed.

**So to summarize a reputable breeder WILL:**

**1) Ask questions and get you to fill out a questionaire to assess your suitability for one of their puppies**

**2) Belong to their appropriate breed standard kennel club**

**3) Have no obligation to selll a dog or puppy to you**

**4) Not push you into a sale**

**5) Back the puppy’s health**

**6) Stick with the breed standard which means no fad colours!**

**7) Give you Dog NZ papers – no others will do!**

**8) Support you throughout the life of the puppy.**

**9) Health test.**