

standard-sized litter of
shepherds,

**IT'S MIDNIGHT,
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR
PUPPIES ARE?**

**Ethical responsibilities
belong to both the owner of
the Dam and the owner of the
Sire of a litter.**

**SALES: SEVERAL MILLION DOGS
ARE KILLED** each year in our
shelters, burdening tax
payers and wasting precious
life, simply because not
enough good homes exist to
care for the numbers of
animals produced,
Approximately one quarter of
these unfortunate victims are
purebred dogs. Since GSDs are
the third most popular breed,
many of these are German
Shepherds or shepherd mixes.
These puppies and dogs are
often abandoned on the
streets, at shelters, or sold
to brokers before becoming
laboratory experiments or
breeding mill animals. It can
happen to any breeder's
puppies, even yours!
Responsible breeders follow
their puppies for life and
back them, in writing, both
for genetic defects and in
case they should ever become
unwanted. Many ethical
breeders will not plan their
litter until they have cash
advance deposits for a

JOY OF BIRTH: If you decide to
breed simply so that your
children can enjoy the
experience, you might want to
consider all of the
possibilities.

Most puppies are whelped in the
middle of the night; some are
born on the vet's surgery table.
Even if the children are around
to see it, they may witness the
birth of defective or dead
puppies. The mother may scream
and attempt to bite those
helping her whelp. Some mothers
may ignore or attempt to kill
their puppies. Occasionally a
whelping Dam will die or have to
be euthanized. If you are not
fully prepared to deal with a
possible tragedy, don't "go
there." Spay your female
immediately.

**Before breeding, consider if you
would be willing to take back a
grown puppy if the owner is
unwilling or unable to care for it.**

~

**Will you carefully screen puppy
buyers to insure the future of your
puppies?**

~

**Will you ensure the pets you place
are spayed or neutered and not
adding to the overpopulation
crisis?**

Before buying, look for a
knowledgeable, known breeder
with ethics and integrity

towards the breed and the public. Professional breeders are concerned about their dogs' well being and the future of their puppies.

They give written contracts, guarantees, information and ongoing support to puppy buyers.

They work to improve their breed and reduce the numbers of unwanted, ill-cared-for, and discarded animals.

Things to Consider BEFORE Breeding or Buying Your German Shepherd Dog



www.savegsd.org

GSRNC Inc.
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<http://www.savegsd.org>

1-866-SAVE-GSD
(1-866-728-3473)

**Currently serving the Northern
California counties of:
Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno,
Madera, Marin, Merced, Napa,
Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano,
Sonoma, Stanislaus and Tuolumne.**

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If you are thinking of buying a German Shepherd for breeding and showing, you will want to learn as much about the breed as possible. Contact your local German Shepherd Dog Club, and the German Shepherd Dog Club of America, Inc. They can help you find plenty of information about showing AKC registered dogs. If, after researching, you find the Germanic style dog more appealing, Schutzhund USA is the show sponsoring organization for you.

Any of the above mentioned breed clubs can provide you with a copy of their written Breed Standard for German Shepherd Dogs. Clubs will also have long-time breeders who are willing to share their time and knowledge with you. We urge you to do a great deal of research and develop and understanding of German Shepherds, and specifically their genetics, before you proceed.

German Shepherds, like all breeds of dogs, are subject to inherited (genetic) defects and attributes. These are a variety of positive and negative traits which are

passed on through generations of dogs. Reputable, conscientious breeders are always working to improve their dogs' attributes, and eliminate faults and defects.

COMMON INHERITED DISORDERS

Poor Temperament

Hip and Elbow Dysplasia

Pancreatic Enzyme

Insufficiency

Von Willebrand's Disease

Thyroid Disorders

Pannus

Poor physical type, not representing the breed standard

WE BELIEVE IT'S CRITICAL TO LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT BREEDING.

QUALITY: AKC or other registration is NOT an indication of quality. The vast majority of dogs should NOT be reproduced.

Many dogs, though they are wonderful purebred pets, carry defects of structure, character or health that should not be perpetuated. Reputable breeders strive to improve their breed, and can prove the quality of their breeding stock in various ways. **German Shepherds used for breeding should carry finished titles in conformation, and in a working or obedience arena. Breeding dogs should be carefully chosen from lines with few major faults. They should also be thoroughly health-**

screened, and wherever possible, certified free of defects.

Both the proposed Sire and Dam of a litter should have been x-rayed at two years of age, and certified free of hip and elbow dysplasia by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). Puppy buyers should ask to see the certificates. This does not guarantee that all the puppies produced will be defect free. It merely means the breeding stock is certified clinically-phenotypically free of the defect. This increases the odds that a puppy produced will not be affected. Both parents must also be tested free of Canine Brucellosis prior to breeding. Brucellosis is a highly contagious venereal disease, which can have serious consequences. Normal thyroid function and a clear test for Von Willebrand's blood disorder should be established. Breeding dogs should be up to date on all vaccinations, worming, heartworm testing and in prime health and condition.

COST: PRODUCING QUALITY DOGS IS NOT A MONEY MAKING PROPOSITION.

The costs of raising, training, showing and proving breeding stock makes ethical breeding an expensive labor of love. All these things must be done before puppies come and many expenses can be further generated such as an unplanned cesarean or a sick puppy. First time breeders have

no reputation to help them find suitable buyers. Those thinking of breeding should be aware they may have offspring to care for several months or even years down the road.

TIME: GOOD BREEDERS FOLLOW A WELL THOUGHT OUT PLAN for proper rearing and socialization of pups. They provide hours of care and attention to the Dam and puppies each day. The average NORMAL litter requires several days off work and sleepless nights at home feeding, cleaning, weighing, then feeding and cleaning again and again. More hours are spent on paperwork, pedigrees and interviewing buyers. Those considering breeding must be aware of these requirements, or their puppies' futures are at risk.