

Breeders: What are they Good for?

At the dawn of time man left his warm fire and crawled from his cave to find food for his family. As he set out he was shadowed by some of the wolves that visited the nearby refuse piles. Ever observant, they knew his mission and they knew that when he was done there would be some remnants for them. One very bold and clever female took the lead staying closer to the man than the others. She lifted her nose and read the air in the clear cold morning. Soon man would find food. Her joy and anticipation in this knowledge forced her pace faster ahead of the hunter toward the game in their path. The hunter seeing her direction trusted her guidance. Together they found the quarry more quickly and feasted well that night. A portion of the kill was tossed to the wolf in thanks for the help bonding them together as a lethal pack and insuring their continued survival in a harsh land.

As time passed the relationship of the man and his hunting companion grew to include warmth at the fire and additional food. Their trust grew as well. She was his partner. He part of her pack. Together they were both stronger and safer in one another's company.

The female grew strong with his offerings. Eventually she took a mate and brought her young into the camp gifting the man with new offspring that carried the female's abilities into the next generation. Thus the first breeder was born and neither man nor dog ever looked back.

Every breed of dog began as a dog that exhibited a useful function. The owner would recognize those talents and seek to preserve them in the offspring. Shepherds created herding dogs with coats to match the climate of the area where they lived through selection for those needed traits. Hunters developed dogs that would go below ground after vermin, run down fast quarry, or track wounded animals. When an individual came along that was especially talented in any desirable task, others in the area would seek to gain those talents by getting a pup or using a talented stud dog.

The results of these efforts developed into an array of different looks and types of animals specific to the purpose for which they were bred. While all were still dogs, they preserved the different looks and talents that enabled them to be successful in pursuit of the purpose for which they'd been carefully bred. Over hundreds of years, one generation, one litter, at a time nurtured talents were brought into the present day. Each breeder was but a single link in an unbroken chain linking past generations of talented animals to the next generation. A breeder's choices determined the direction and survival of the species and the goodness that it possessed.

In recent years animal rights activists have arisen as a threat to the preservation of talented dogs. They were created words like, "Puppy Mill", "Back Yard Breeder", "Vanity Breeder", etc. and phrases such as , "Don't breed or buy while others die". Slowly they crept into the animal welfare community and changed its mission from caring for animals to that of destroying the animal human bond one breeder at a time.

Their goal is the end of all animal agriculture. Dog breeders were attacked first as a softer target than livestock production. Here is the animal rights agenda for any to see:

"We have no ethical obligation to preserve the different breeds of livestock produced through selective breeding. **One generation and out.** We have no problem with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding." **Wayne Pacelle**, Senior VP of **Humane Society of the US**, formerly of Friends of Animals and Fund for Animals, Animal People, May, 1993

"**Breeders must be eliminated!** As long as there is a surplus of companion animals in the concentration camps referred to as "shelters", and they are killing them because they are homeless, one should not be allowed to produce more for their own amusement and profit. If you know of a breeder in the Los Angeles area, whether commercial or private, legal or illegal, let us know and we will post their name, location, phone number so people can write them letters telling them 'Don't Breed or Buy, While Others DIE.'" "Breeders! Let's get rid of them too!" Campaign on **Animal Defense League's** website, September 2, 2003.

"Our goal is to make [the public think of] breeding [dogs and cats] like drunk driving and smoking." Kim Sturla, former director of the **Peninsula Humane Society** and Western Director of **Fund for Animals**, stated during Kill the Crisis, not the Animals campaign and workshops, 1991

"My goal is the abolition of all animal agriculture." JP Goodwin, **employed at the Humane Society of the US**, formerly at Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade, as quoted on AR-Views, an animal rights Internet discussion group in 1996.

Mankind stands at a unique point of time in the history of animal agriculture. We can choose to support the work of breeders to ensure the continuation of well bred talented animals into the future, or we can turn away. After all none of it is our fight, let them work it out on their own. But as the knife cuts away the sex of each animal till there is no reproduction possible, what else is being lost to human kind? What talents are forever silenced? The union of our two species has created a wildly successful survival strategy which has stood the test of thousands of years. If this is lost what else will be lost?