



So... You want to breed a litter?

There are many key factors to be considered when deciding to breed a Weimaraner – or any dog. It is not a decision that should be made lightly or without tremendous forethought. Rescue organizations and shelters across the country are full of unwanted animals. While the lucky ones find loving forever homes, many never leave.

Here are a few questions to ask before breeding a litter:

Have you joined the **Weimaraner Club of America**? A **Local regional club**?

Do you have a mentor or breeder you are working with?

Does the dog or bitch you want to breed conform to the AKC approved Weimaraner Breed Standard and does she have the recommended health clearances?

What do you know about the variety of health problems affecting our breed?

In some states, if you're taken to court for breeding a "lemon law" puppy, you may be required to pay for veterinary care for the puppy/dog you have bred. Do you have the resources to meet this sort of obligation without undue financial hardship?

Are you prepared to devote the necessary time to breeding and whelping a litter? For the first two weeks, properly caring for the litter is a 24-hour job – seven days a week!

Are you able to take time off from work to care for the litter? Once weaned, the work has just begun! Besides the clean

up, the pups will need socialization and some one on one time.

Where will these puppies live until they are old enough to place? Will your family complain about the work? The smell? Or, will your neighbors complain about the barking? The smell?

Do you have the resources to provide veterinary care for the mother and her puppies? A sick mother or litter can cost thousands of dollars in vet bills – with no guarantees any will survive.

Are you and your family emotionally prepared to handle complications with the breeding, the bitch, or the litter? Could you take a nine-week old puppy in to be euthanized due to inherited or acquired disease? Have you considered the possibility the mother may die from whelping complications?

Are you willing to be supportive of the new owners anytime they are in need of advice or assistance?

Are you able take a puppy or adult back, no matter the reason, if things don't work out in the home in which it was placed?

These are just some of the key questions that anyone should ask before taking on the responsibility of breeding. Did your answers surprise you and cause you to rethink your course of action? If so, congratulations for your honesty!

If you are still interested in breeding Weimaraners, learn as much as you can before you breed a litter. This wonderful breed, and the people who love it, are counting on you!