



Purebred vs Well-Bred

“What difference does it make who I buy a puppy from? I don’t want a show dog, I just want a pet!” This comment inevitably follows the question of price. If price is all you are looking at, then price may seem like a legitimate way to choose a breeder. After all, ALL Tibetan Mastiff puppies are cute and cuddly! Unfortunately, that stage only lasts about 6 months.

The average lifespan of a TM is 10-12 years. Have you thought ahead to what the next 9 ½ -11 ½ years may hold? That is where you are going to see exactly why it matters who you buy your puppy from!

A *purebred* dog can be bought from anyone who decides to breed a registered dog, whether that dog is a good example of the breed or not. While most purebred dogs can be easily recognized as the breed they represent, in truth, a dog need only resemble the breed and have papers saying it is that breed in order to be called purebred. Compare photos of aboriginal Tibetan Mastiffs and some of the dogs now being registered and sold as purebred Tibetan Mastiffs, and be honest about whether you would recognize them as being the same breed. A purebred dog can be bred with or without health issues or health testing, with or without good structure and conformation, with or without correct temperament, and can be sold with or without a contract which may or may not protect the buyer. Catch phrases are thrown about that seem to make sense on the surface, such as “A contract is only as good as the person who signs it and I don’t need one because my word is good” or “I don’t need to health test; even if the parents don’t have hip dysplasia, it doesn’t mean the puppies won’t”. In addition, a purebred dog can be sold to anyone, whether they are a good home or a bad one, whether they are prepared for this puppy or not, and requires no breed education, follow up, or support from the breeder. The breeder of a purebred dog may take your money, hand you the papers, and wash his/her hands of you, which is too often the case, and is one reason breed specific social media groups are flourishing. Sometimes, it is the only source of information and support that puppy buyers have to turn to when questions and problems arise. In short, purebred means a puppy has papers certifying it is registered as a particular breed, and nothing more.

A *well-bred* dog is more than just purebred. A well-bred dog comes from a responsible breeder who carefully studies pedigrees and chooses the best purebred dogs to breed in order to preserve the integrity of the breed and to protect the puppy buying public. A well-bred dog is bred to meet their Breed Standard, conforming to recognized type, structure, and temperament. The breeder of a well-bred dog invests in quality breeding stock at great expense, and invests additional time, money, and effort to show their dogs and obtain an objective evaluation of the quality of their dogs. A well-bred dog comes from parents that have been health tested to weed out dogs with genetic health issues that may be passed on to the puppies, and while it is true that there is no way to predict Mother Nature, it greatly increases the odds that the buyer won’t take home a puppy with a crippling genetic problem, bringing with it untold heartache along with massive vet bills.

A well-bred puppy is not sold to just anyone, but the breeder works diligently to find, screen, educate, and approve homes that are knowledgeable and prepared to take on the responsibility of a new puppy. In addition, the breeder considers all aspects of the puppy, from structure, to temperament, to personality, and communicates with potentially hundreds of applicants to find the perfect home that will be a perfect fit. A well-bred puppy comes with a written contract that protects the buyer as well as the breeder in case something unforeseen does go wrong, and the breeder stands behind that contract and will offer a refund, replacement, or take the puppy back if need be. A well-bred puppy will have support from the breeder and will always have a home to come back to if for any reason the new owner can no longer care for it. A well-bred puppy has the promise of a lifetime of love. And that promise comes with a price.

Purebred vs well-bred. There is a difference.

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Noble Legacy Tibetan Mastiffs