

IS CROSS-BREEDING A MORAL THING

Cross-breeding has been an issue for many years, but only lately people have noticed how much of an impact it has had towards dogs.



Cross-breeding dogs is when you breed one pure bred dog with another pure-bred dog of a different breed. For example, a German Shepherd cross Pug, which is called a "Shug". There are many effects of what cross-breeding can do to society and dogs, here are a few disadvantages to cross-breeding: British dog-lovers spend up to £2,000 for a designer breed of a dog; it is very difficult to predict the exact personality of the two cross-bred dogs; there is a strong chance of physical abnormality from birth; breeding dogs of different sizes can sometimes lead to difficult births.

Although there are many disadvantages to cross-breeding, there are still many advantages: to have a unique look; some people prefer a dog that doesn't look like any other breed they know. They can make great pets; dogs being cross-bred doesn't automatically mean that the dog won't make a great pet. It may become a foundation for a future pure breed; some of today's crosses could potentially evolve into tomorrow's famous breed of dog.

On the 12th of March 2018, a protest group called 'PETA' (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) ran into Crufts' 2018 show in Birmingham's NEC. As soon as they got on to the arena, they were wrestled to the ground while all the dog owners brought their dogs to safety. They were protesting against "extreme breeding". The PETA group say's "Crufts is a cruel beauty pageant that rewards breeders for producing dogs with ideal physical traits with little or no regard for welfare". They also say that, "breeding pedigree dogs in abnormal shapes and sizes leaves them with genetic predispositions to epilepsy, heart disease, deafness, hip dysplasia, and numerous other health problems". Many people that were at the event said that they feel no sympathy for the protesters as they frightened all of the dogs that attended.

While there are many people who may disagree with cross-breeding altogether, there is no right or wrong opinion. You need to think about the effects of what this could do to animals. Some people may say, "they're only dogs", but to some people dogs are more than just animals. Not everyone buys dogs for show, some may buy them for protection or even company, not just because of their looks. It may be nice to have designer dogs, but the breeders may only be doing it for the money.

by: Emma, Carys and Rhys