

On Backyard Breeding, Mill Breeding, and Being a Professional Breeder

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It is interesting that, a backyard breeder takes in two animals and breeds them for money. Genetics are not a question. And more specifically, a backyard breeder is depending on the work that others have done. A pet mill goes from there, and builds a facility, and does this on a large scale, usually keeping the animals in terrible confined conditions. The difference between these situations and a pro is that a pro may not "profit" for 10 years. They are passionate about genetics, and what I mean by this is this -- an animal that is intelligent, calm not nervous, loving not mean, has good house habits, has a strong immune system, - all the qualities that will not land him in a shelter. Should a pro sell an animal for big bucks? YES. This ensures the animal will be valued and vetted and cared for. There is not a problem for someone who is knowledgeable and understands animal husbandry to command prices equal to the task. Raising healthy animals is a constant effort at shepherding genetics. CONSTANT. And one of the essential aspects of this, when raising a creature who will accompany a human through life, is to raise them on a very small scale, with generations of love, health, and happiness... not in cages. The choice here comes down to nothing less than the future of domestic animals. There is a lot of ignorant propaganda about it being wrong to raise animals for money. Yes and no! If money is the driving factor, then yes, it's wrong. But that does not mean that the answer is to devalue animals. America is one of the worst countries for lowering the quality of genetics in domestic breeds because the art of raising animals simply isn't known and it is looked at as a shortcut for money. Believe me, I know what goes behind working with animals and I get so frustrated at backyard and mill breeding... I feel personally taken advantage of. I raise, each on a very small scale, horses, goats, cats, dogs, and various poultry. I have one foal a year, 3 litters of kittens, so far no pups, and a small Kiko goat herd. I have at least one mentor for every kind of animal... except for CMDs because that is my breed, so I am the mentor. I have had years and years of animal mentoring...and what that means is being chewed out for hours by cranky animal people, and learning. New breeders can expect to invest thousands, like we all have, and not to make a dime for many years...to be responsible lifelong for every pup brought

into the world, to take them back, to stand behind them. While I understand the need for backyard and mill breeding to stop, I also see it from the other side. I started CMDs almost 9 years ago and did not make anything until this year when Caspian studded out to our approved ranches. Finally I got back what I have put into this. THAT is how you know you have a legit breeder. Rabid animal activists are on the other side and every time they tell me that mills, backyard breeders, AND pros need to stop, I ask them where animals should come from, the government? They never know what to say. If pros shut down, then mills and backyards are all that is left. A pro does not allow any animal to go to a shelter at any life stage. They plan for all their animals throughout all their life stages, and if they cannot place pups well they stop. Our animal companions are amazing and we owe it to ourselves and to them to value them highly and to be responsible for the personalities, minds, and bodies they will be born into.