

# 20 BASIC BREEDING PRINCIPLES

From "The Complete Bull Terrier" by Ernest Eberhard written in 1957

There are a vast number of different breeding methods, some good, some bad. I should never presume to try to tell fanciers what is the right method because there is no such thing. Outstanding success can be achieved and has been achieved in a variety of different ways, so all I am going to do is to make some suggestions which I think helpful and to warn against certain pitfalls which trap too many of the unwary.

1. Don't make use of indiscriminate outcrosses. A judicious outcross can be of great value, an injudicious one can produce an aggregation of every imaginable fault in the breed.
2. Don't line breed just for the sake of line breeding: Line breeding with complimentary types can bring great rewards, with unsuitable ones it will lead to immediate disaster.
3. Don't take advice from people who have always been unsuccessful breeders: If their opinions were worth having, they would have proved it by their successes.
4. Don't believe the popular cliché about the brother or sister of the great champion being just as good to breed from: For every one that is hundreds are not. It depends on the animal concerned.
5. Don't credit your own dogs with virtues they don't possess: Self-deceit is a stepping stone to failure.
6. Don't breed from mediocrities: The absence of a fault does not in any way signify the presence of its corresponding virtue.
7. Don't try to line breed to two dogs at the same time: You will end by line breeding to neither.
8. Don't assess the worth of a stud dog by its inferior progeny: All stud dogs sire rubbish sometimes. What matters is how good their best efforts are.
9. Don't allow personal feelings to influence your choice of stud dog: The right dog for your bitch is the right dog, whoever the owner is.
10. Don't allow admiration of a stud dog to blind you to his faults: If you do you will soon be the victim of auto-intoxication.
11. Don't mate together animals which share the same fault: You are asking for trouble if you do.
12. Don't forget that it is the whole dog that counts: If you forget one virtue while searching for another, you will pay for it.
13. Don't search for the perfect dog as a mate for your bitch: The perfect dog (or bitch) does not exist, never has, and never will.
14. Don't be frightened of breeding from animals that have obvious faults, as long as they have compensating virtues: A lack of virtues is far the greatest fault of all.
15. Don't mate together non-complimenting types: An ability to recognize type at a glance is a breeder's greatest gift. Ask the successful breeders to explain this subject - there is no other way of learning. ( I would define non-complimentary types as ones which have the same faults and lack the same virtues)
16. Don't forget the necessity to preserve head quality: It will vanish like a dream if you do.
17. Don't forget that substance plus quality should be one of your aims: Any fool can breed one without the other.
18. Don't forget that a great head plus soundness should be another of your aims: Many people can never breed either.
19. Don't ever try to decry a great bull terrier: A thing of beauty is not only a joy forever but a great bull terrier should be a source of aesthetic pride and pleasure to all true lovers of the breed.
20. Don't be satisfied with anything but the best: The second best is never good enough.

Taken from "McGuffin & Co" a Bull Terrier History by Raymond Oppenheimer