

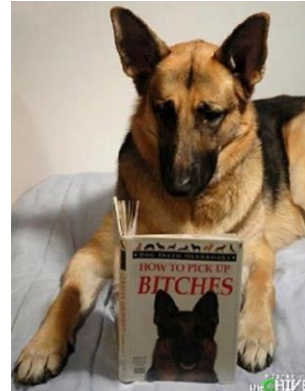


# Choosing the Best Stud Dog

United All Breed Registry 888-908-9299

Originally published by email October 15, 2013

The most difficult decision in any dog breeding operation is how to choose the best stud dog. This article will help you think about the process you use and what factors should influence your decisions. Whatever your goal, top performers or family pets, careful selection of a stud dog is the only way to get what you want.



Whether you are looking to buy him or pay a fee for his services, choosing the best stud dog for your bitch can be really nerve-wracking. In the end, it's a guessing game. But there's a LOT you can do to make an *educated* guess and get the results you want.

Here's a rundown of the basics.

## 1. Know your breed.

- Fix an image of the breed ideal firmly in your mind
- What traits are especially valuable in this breed?
- What are the common faults and weaknesses?

## 2. Check out your bitch.

- Are you certain that she is breeding quality?
- Is she definitely free of any health-endangering defects?
- Are all of her immunizations current?
- Is her temperament superior for her breed?
- Which of her virtues do you want to keep? What faults need to be overcome?
- On what dates will she be available to breed? *This is usually the 10<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> days of her cycle.*



- Study every individual in her pedigree (at least 3 generations). Chart their virtues and their faults. *See Carmen Battaglia's book [Breeding Dogs to Win](#) for a super-simple charting system for all this information.*
- How do you gather info on the dogs in her pedigree? Call breeders, visit kennels, hunt for photos on the internet and in publications for your breed, attend specialty shows and veteran classes... SEE AND FEEL the dogs in her pedigree or their offspring. Books cannot teach what your hands and eyes need to know.
- If you don't find animals you absolutely love in your bitch's background, don't breed her!

### 3. Talk to the breeder of your bitch.

- Who do they recommend breeding her to, and why?
- If you were to line breed on a particularly outstanding dog in her pedigree (male or female), which one would they choose? *Doubling up on virtues this way is usually your best bet, e.g. granddaughter to grandfather, niece to uncle, half-brother to half-sister.*

### 4. Check out your prospective males.

- A list of 10 or more is a good place to start, later narrowing to 2 or 3
- Research all the names in his pedigree, as you did for your bitch.
- Is he the result of line breeding on an outstanding individual?
- In what ways is he really special? If he's just average, take him off your list!
- Have the males in his line proven to overcome, in other matings, faults in females similar to those of your bitch? Caroline Coile, PhD shared this on [Dog Channel.com](#): *If your bitch's undesirable trait is inherited as a simple dominant, then the stud dog may not be able to correct it, even if he doesn't have that trait. If your bitch's undesirable trait is inherited as a simple recessive, then the stud can only correct it if he does not exhibit the same trait, and even then some puppies may still inherit the trait if he carries a recessive gene for it.*
- To get more information on prospective studs, share photos of your bitch with the owners. Let them know what your breeding goals are and when you plan to breed. Ask if they would be interested.
- Are there any red flags in his genetic test results?
- Are there health or longevity problems in his siblings and ancestors?
- Look at photos of his offspring or meet some of them. Is he producing the shape, size and color you seek?
- Visit him first if possible... see him in action, his temperament with



strangers, is he in good health?

- Do you **like** him? *Never breed your bitch to a dog that is nervous, shy, aggressive or in any way unpleasant.*
- Do you trust his owner?

## 5. Make arrangements.

- Once you've narrowed it down to 2 or 3 best picks, ask each owner about their terms and conditions.
- Will they require a puppy from the litter (usually second pick) or just a fee or both?
- Will it cost extra to board your female there? *Typically, bitches are transported to the stud dog and not vice-versa because the male will be more comfortable doing his job in his own home environment.*
- Have both animals tested free of communicable diseases including brucellosis?
- What arrangements will be made if the breeding does not result in a litter?
- Get everything in writing, signed.
- Keep a copy of the stud's pedigree and registration certificate. You'll need it later when registering the litter.

---

## More Info

[VIDEO: How to Understand Your Dog's Heat Cycle](#)  
[BreedingBetterDogs.com: Dr. Carmen Battaglia's site](#)

[DogChannel.com: 11 Essential Steps to Choosing a Stud Dog](#)

[Article: "The Perfect Stud Dog"](#)