

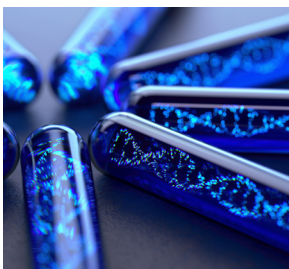
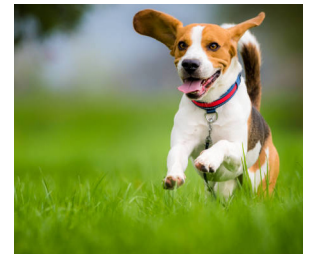


ARE YOU CONSIDERING BECOMING A DOG BREEDER?

25 Questions to Help Prepare You and Set You Up for Success as a Responsible Dog Breeder

There are many important welfare considerations when you prepare to open a dog breeding kennel. It is critical to take the time to work through these pieces before embarking on this long-term commitment. This checklist aims to identify these topics and direct you to resources on the [Canine Welfare Science](#) website to support you in taking steps to ensure the welfare for the lifetime of dogs in your care. Click on the embedded links to view resources related to each question. You can also learn more about the importance of these considerations here: [Before Opening a Dog Breeding Kennel](#) and here: [User Roadmap Breeder Section](#).

1. What is your motivation for breeding dogs? Is it impulsive? Is it feasible? A very clear understanding of why you would like to breed dogs can help ensure that it is the right fit for you and that you can safeguard the welfare of dogs in your care. An understanding of the role of dogs in human society ([At-A-Glance: Evolution of the Dog-Human Relationship](#)) and current population trends ([Overpopulation or Too Many Unwanted Pets? Perspective on Concepts and Management Approaches](#)) can help set you up for success.
2. How will you maintain and monitor the welfare of dogs? It is critical that all dogs are bred with their welfare needs at the forefront ([Welfare of Breeding Dogs](#)). Considerations include the physical and behavioral health of dogs and open communication with new families regarding your protocols is important for the continued care of puppies and dogs. Breeding kennels must be established with the welfare of the dogs as the main priority ([Animal Welfare Concepts: Applications to Dogs](#)). Are you familiar with how welfare is defined and the components of animal welfare ([At-A-Glance: Welfare, Animal Welfare and Animal Rights: Ethics, Science and Explanations](#), [The Five Domains Model Aims to Help Animals Thrive](#))? Are you prepared to monitor the comprehensive welfare of dogs in your care ([Behavior Wellness: Adult Dog Daily Checklist](#), [Assessing Kennel Dog Welfare](#), [Kenneled Dog Welfare: Challenges of Field Assessment](#), [Collecting and Utilizing Phenotypic Data to Minimize Disease: A Breeder's Practical Guide](#))?
3. How will you maintain and monitor the genetic health of dogs? Breeding dogs responsibly requires close attention to genetic welfare ([At-A-Glance: Genetics and Welfare](#)). What genetic disorders is your breed susceptible to ([Canine Health Information Center](#))? What genetic tests will your dogs need ([At-A-Glance: Genetic Counseling, Getting Started with Genetic Testing, DNA Tests - How to Choose Which Ones to Use](#))? Where will you have these tests completed ([Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs](#))? What is your selection process for breeding dogs? What will disqualify a dog from breeding? What criteria do you have in place to avoid inbreeding? Will you utilize the services of off-site stud dogs? Understanding genetics ([Canine Genetics for Dog Breeders](#), [Understanding Genetics](#)) and how disorders are inherited ([At-A-Glance: Genetic Heritability](#), [How are Dog Defects Inherited?](#)) is important for guiding care ([At-A-Glance: Genetics Application](#)). Where will you gain further training on relevant concepts ([Course: It's all in the Genes](#), [Course: Hereditary Diseases in Dogs](#), [Greg Leroy Blog](#))? Learn more here: [Genetics Section](#).



4. What breed is the right fit for you? Dog behavioral factors (for example: sociability, energy level, vocalizations) and physical characteristics (for example: disease susceptibility, size, grooming needs) must align with what the caretaker is hoping ([Factors that Impact Dog Selection and Welfare](#), [Be Dog Smart: Commonly Sought Traits in Dogs to Consider](#)). What breed-specific considerations have you prepared for? How do you feel about grooming needs such as hair trimming and cutting ([Be Dog Smart: Grooming](#))? What about excess drool or barking? Exercise requirements? Are there health concerns to be aware of for your breed of interest ([Breed Health Information](#))? Are there local laws or restrictions to consider ([AVSAB Breed Specific Legislation Position Statement](#))?

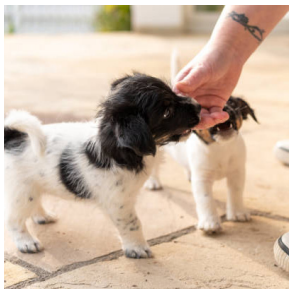


5. How will you provide comprehensive, healthy care for pregnant females? In addition to impacts for breeding females, the welfare of mother dogs also has implications for the welfare of their puppies ([Prenatal Stress and Puppies: Implications for Dog Welfare in Commercial-Breeding Kennels](#)). How will you ensure that pregnant females receive the physical and psychological support required ([AKC Guide to Responsible Dog Breeding](#), [What to Expect When Your Dog is Expecting](#), [Dog Pregnancy: Signs, Care, and Preparing for Puppies](#)), are not stressed ([At-A-Glance: Maternal Stress](#)), and are supported and monitored in the care of their puppies ([At-A-Glance: Maternal Care](#))? How will you prevent and monitor for reproductive health concerns ([Canine Herpes Virus](#), [Canine Mammary Tumors](#))? What will your testing, management, and prevention protocols be for brucellosis ([Canine Brucellosis](#), [Brucella Canis: Emerging Zoonotic Disease? Implications for Commercial Breeding Kennels and Public Health](#))? What resources will inform your protocols for caring for pregnant dogs ([Society for Theriogenology/American College of Theriogenology Position Statements](#), [Theriogenology and Reproductive Medicine Service: Canine Frequently Asked Questions](#))? Will you need to transport pregnant females? How will you do so with their welfare in mind? How will you navigate the need for cesarean sections? How frequently will you breed each dog? What are the minimum and maximum ages for breeding females? Learn more here: [Reproductive Care Section](#).

6. How will you provide a comprehensive, healthy start for puppies? Puppyhood is a sensitive time period and it is important that puppies are provided with adequate physical care (basic needs, vaccinations, deworming) and behavioral care (socialization, early exposure, enrichment, maternal care) ([At-A-Glance: Development: Application](#)). How will you design the whelping areas of the kennel to provide a healthy and safe first environment ([Preparing for your Litter Whelping Box - Hints and Considerations](#), [Innovations in Whelping Boxes](#))? Are you prepared for the early care needed to support healthy behavior in adulthood ([Early Neurological Stimulation \(ENS\): Implications For Canine Welfare And Management](#), [At-A-Glance: Early Neurological Stimulation](#), [Fear, Stress, and Puppy Brain Development: What to Know](#))? How will you support the unique needs of puppies through all of their developmental stages ([At-A-Glance: Puppy Development: Stages](#), [Development Stages](#), [Your Puppy's Development](#))? How will you identify individual puppies? When and how will you conduct puppy soundness examinations? At what age will you wean the puppies ([Implications of Weaning Age for Dog Welfare](#))? At what ages will you separate puppies from their mother and littermates? How will you monitor and track litter welfare ([Whelping Chart - Puppy Birth Record](#), [AKC Litter Record](#))? Learn more here: [Puppy Development Section](#).



7. How will you provide socialization for all puppies? Appropriate socialization is an important piece of setting dogs up for behavioral success in adulthood ([Welfare Implications of Socialization of Puppies and Kittens](#), [Behavioral Indicators of Lack of Socialization in the Dog](#), [AVSAB Puppy Socialization Position Statement](#), [The Factors Involved in Dogs' Fear of Strangers and Unfamiliar Dogs](#)). Critically, much of this sensitive period falls during the time when puppies are with breeders ([Puppy Socialization: Why, When, and How to Do It Right](#), [Socializing your Puppy: Why "Later" is too Late](#)). It is therefore imperative that breeders provide socialization for all puppies in their care.

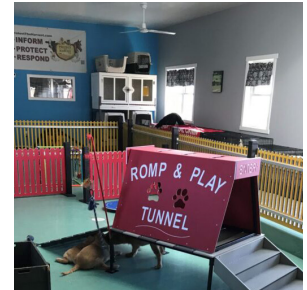


Socialization requires time and preparation. How will you ensure that all puppies receive a comprehensive socialization program ([At-A-Glance: Puppy Socialization and Early Exposure](#), [Quick Tips for Success: Puppy Socialization and Early Exposure](#))? How will you design your socialization program ([Basics of Socialization](#), [Early Exposure for Puppies](#), [How to Socialize a Puppy: Puppy Socialization Checklist](#))? It is critical to be aware that while more positive exposures are great,

negative exposures and overwhelming experiences can have a detrimental impact ([Intensity and Thresholds in Socialization](#)). How will you track the socialization that you are providing ([Puppy Socialization and Early Exposure Checklist](#), [Dog socialization tips and checklists](#))? Learn more here: [Socialization Section](#).

8. How will you provide comprehensive, healthy care for adult dogs? Are you prepared to meet the basic needs of dogs beyond food, water, shelter, and veterinary care to include behavioral care as well ([Meeting the behavioral needs of kennelled dogs](#), [Meeting the Basic Needs of Your Dog](#), [Companion Animal Care Guidelines](#))? How will you manage the behavioral care of bitches in season?

9. How will you provide enrichment to meet the behavioral needs of dogs? Enrichment is a critical piece for dog welfare that attends to the psychological needs of dogs and decreases stress ([Environmental Enrichment in Kennels](#), [At-A-Glance: Environmental Enrichment, Stress, and Improved Welfare](#)). Enrichment supports desirable behavior in dogs ([The Effects of Environmental Enrichment on Dog Behavior](#)). How will you provide enrichment for dogs in your facility ([At-A-Glance: Environmental Enrichment Application](#), [Quick Tips for Success: Environmental Enrichment in Kennels](#))? Providing this outlet for energy and the chance to exercise their mind can also minimize the potential for undesirable behavior from dogs. There are five categories of enrichment (social, occupational, physical, sensory, and nutrition) ([At-A-Glance: Enrichment: Types](#)) and it is important to provide opportunities for each type ([At-A-Glance: Enrichment, Implementing Environmental Enrichment for Dogs](#)). Food puzzles are a great way to introduce nutritional enrichment ([Food Puzzles for Dogs](#), [A Guide to Using Food Puzzle Toys with Your Dog](#)). What types of environmental enrichment are you prepared to provide? How will you track the enrichment that you provide ([Canine Environmental Enrichment Log](#))?



Do you have play yards for added enrichment where the dogs can express naturally rewarding behaviors such as a sandbox for digging or elevated platforms for surveying their environment ([22 Easy DIY Dog Playground Ideas For Small Backyard](#), [How to Build a Dog Playground](#), [Love Wrangler's New Plaza Play Space? 'Property Brothers' Share How to Create Your Own](#))? All dogs need both mental and physical stimulation, however, how much and what type differs across breeds and individuals. Learn more here: [Enrichment Section](#).

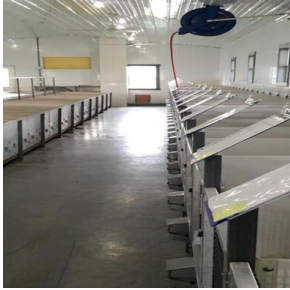
10. How will you meet the social needs of dogs? It is important that dogs are given the opportunity to interact with a variety of people and other dogs. How will you ensure that all of these needs are met ([At-A-Glance: Social Interactions: Application](#))? What will social interactions between dogs entail ([At-A-Glance: Social Interactions: Dogs and Other Dogs](#))? Training is an example of an effective way to improve your relationship with your dog ([At-A-Glance: Social Interactions: Skills](#)). Will dogs from different runs have opportunities to interact with each other? How will the dogs be housed - in groups or pairs? How will you support positive caretaker interactions with dogs ([The Role Of Caretaker Interactions In Environmental Enrichment For Kennelled Dogs](#))? How will you ensure that dogs will have safe interactions with people unknown to them ([At-A-Glance: Social Interactions: Dogs and People](#))? Learn more here: [Social Interactions Section](#).

11. How will you provide adequate physical exercise for dogs? Physical exercise is very important for both the physical and psychological welfare of dogs and puppies ([Fit Facts On Exercise And Dogs](#)). How much exercise do dogs and puppies of your breed need each day ([How Much Exercise Does A Dog Need Every Day?](#))? What types of physical exercise will you provide ([At-A-Glance: Exercise](#))? What breed-specific considerations are important for your dogs ([Puppies, Exercise, and Arthritis](#))? How will you safely schedule exercise time for all of the dogs ([Why Exercise Before Or After A Meal Can Be Really Bad For Your Dog](#))?



How will the dogs access outdoor areas? How will the dogs be restricted when outdoors ([Does Long-Term Tethering Of Dogs Negatively Impact Their Well-Being?](#))? How big are the indoor and outdoor runs ([Promoting The Welfare Of Kennelled Dogs: Space Allocations And Exercise](#))? How long will the dogs be indoor versus outdoor each day? Before setting-up a breeding kennel, it is important to have a plan for how you will provide adequate physical exercise for dogs that meets their needs ([Be Dog Smart: Fitness and Exercise](#)). Learn more here: [Exercise Section](#).




12. How will you ensure that your kennel is effectively designed for dog welfare ([At-A-Glance: Kennel Design](#))? Whether through remodeling, initial design, or reorganization, the physical space of kennels can have a large impact on the welfare of dogs living in the facility ([Kennel Design with Welfare Considerations](#), [Setting Puppies and Dogs Up for Success: Designing Kennels with Behavior and Welfare Considerations in Mind](#)). What changes are needed in your target facility or current design in order to improve the welfare of dogs in your care ([Quick Tips for Success: Kennel Design with Behavior & Welfare Considerations](#))? How can stress in dogs be minimized through design ([Reducing Stress by Design](#), [Easy Designs to reduce Stress and Fear in Kennels](#))? Are the wall colors from a calming palette ([Color Me Fear Free](#))? Can caretakers easily see into runs to evaluate the wellbeing of dogs? How many dogs do you plan to house? Where will the facility be located?



Can caretakers deliver food and water easily to the runs and access without needing to lean over the dogs? Are the runs large enough to house multiple dogs? Is there enough space for single-layer housing for all dogs? Is the whelping area removed from other potentially more noisy areas ([Auditory Stress: Implications For Kennel Dog Welfare](#), [Designing for How Animals Hear](#))? Are there distinct spaces for veterinary care, grooming, exercise, and more ([Promoting the Welfare of Kennel Dogs: Environmental Considerations](#))? Learn more here: [Kennel Design with Welfare Considerations Section](#).

13. How will you ensure that your facilities are clean and safe? What cleaning is needed ([Spring Cleaning Tips for Kennels](#))? How will you have time to clean and sanitize the dog’s environment as needed? What type of flooring will your runs have and how will you keep it sanitized ([Effects of Flooring on Animal Health and Well-Being: Implications for Kennel Dogs](#))? How will you minimize ammonia in the environment ([How Much Ammonia Is Too Much, Part II](#))? What disinfectants will you use ([Shelter Disinfectant Quick Reference](#))? How will you monitor and maintain an appropriate temperature in all areas of the facility ([Temperature Requirements For Dogs - Are They Tailored To Promote Dog Welfare?](#)) including outdoors ([The Prevention And Management Of Heat Stroke In Dogs](#))? How will you minimize the potential for pests? Do you have designated quarantine areas for unwell dogs and temporary holding pens for new dogs? Learn more here: [Environmental Management and Monitoring Section](#).

14. How will you ensure that all caretakers can read dog body language and implement humane handling in order to support dog and human safety and wellbeing? How do dogs use body language ([How Dogs Communicate with their Body Language](#))? How can understanding dog body language improve the welfare of dogs ([At-A-Glance: Body Language: Application](#))? How can understanding dog body language improve the safety of dogs and people ([The 4F’s of Fear- Fear Responses](#), [The Four “Fs” of Fear](#))? What does relaxed dog body language look like ([Relaxed Body Language](#))? What is dog body language indicating ([At-A-Glance: Body Language: Decoding](#), [Canine Body Language Handout](#), [Understanding canine facial expressions and body postures](#), [Dog Body Language 101](#), [7 Tips on Canine Body Language](#))? To better understand what dogs might be communicating with their body, check out the [Body Language Section](#).

SCORING SYSTEM 2	
FIDO BEHAVIOR SCORING SYSTEM	
SCORE	BODY LANGUAGE
GREEN - NOT FEARFUL - FEELS SAFE	
RED - FEARFUL - DOES NOT FEEL SAFE	
YELLOW - AMBIGUOUS - CANNOT SCORE GREEN OR RED	

Adapted from the approach first published in the FIDO Welfare Assessment Tool. See: A.L. Jordan, M. Collin, M. Shlager, T. Croney, D. Ewasinger, FIDO: Developing and Pilot Testing the FIDO Welfare Assessment Tool. The Behavior Science, 2017, 4(1), 16.

There are safe ways to approach ([The Best Way To Approach A Dog](#)) and handle dogs ([Quick Tips for Success: Adult Dog Body Handling](#), [How Do You Pick-Up A Small Dog, Correctly?](#)) and puppies ([Quick Tips for Success: Puppy Body Handling](#)) that can minimize fear and therefore improve the welfare of dogs ([At-A-Glance: Dog Body Handling](#)). How will you help set dogs and puppies up for success by building positive associations with handling ([Adult Dog Body Handling Checklist](#), [Puppy Body Handling Checklist](#))? How can you assess if a dog is consenting to an interaction ([Consent Handout](#))? Learn more here: [Low Stress Handling Section](#).

15. Have you identified appropriate veterinary individuals or organizations to provide care? Part of meeting the basic needs of dogs includes establishing valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationships with a veterinary team that provides positive veterinary care ([Positive Vet Visit Position Statement](#)). It is important to establish a relationship early and support positive associations between dogs and their veterinarian ([Fear Free Veterinary Visits 101](#)). How can you support the comfort of dogs during veterinary care ([My Dog is Scared of the Vet: What Can I Do to Help?](#), [Why are Dogs Scared of the Vet and What Can I Do to Help?](#), [Teaching Chin Rest to Dogs](#))? Do you know what to look for in a veterinarian? Do you know where to look for veterinary

providers? Does the veterinarian provide surgical care if needed? Are you prepared with questions to ask your veterinarian about your breed of dog ([Be Dog Smart: Questions to Ask your Veterinarian](#))? For example, breeds can have susceptibility to specific genetic disease. It is important to consider breed susceptibility in advance of deciding which breed to focus on and also to know what to look for in your dogs.

16. Have you discussed a healthcare plan with your veterinary team? It is important that dogs and puppies receive preventative routine wellness care in addition to veterinary care when they are unwell. Have you discussed a preventative care health plan with your veterinarian ([Canine Preventative Healthcare Guidelines](#), [Companion Animal Care Guidelines](#), [AAHA Canine Vaccination Guidelines](#), [Be Dog Smart: Vaccinations](#))? What will your protocols be for regular infectious disease testing? Have you discussed ear cropping and tail docking with your veterinarian ([Ear Cropping and Canine Otitis Externa FAQ](#), [Ear Cropping and Tail Docking - Position Statement](#))? How will you track dog health and daily visual inspections ([Pet Health Record](#))? Are you ready to care for your dog in an emergency or after an unexpected injury ([CPR for your Dog or Cat](#), [Foxtail Season!](#))? What activities are part of your program that might expose dogs to particular health risks? Have you considered how you might navigate end of life care and the criteria for euthanasia ([Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals](#), [State Laws Governing Euthanasia](#), [Euthanasia for Behavioral Reasons - A Complicated and Difficult Decision](#), [Euthanasia for Behavioral Reasons - A Complicated and Difficult Decision](#))? These decisions can be very difficult and it can help to have done some thinking about options in advance of needing to make any decisions. Discuss your kennel design, activities, and plans with your veterinarian to receive guidance on recommended health plans. Learn more here: [Veterinary Care Section](#).



17. What preventative health care will you provide for dogs guided by your veterinarian? In addition to care provided directly by the veterinarian, there is also a need for caretaker-delivered preventatives. Have you researched parasite control? Fleas and ticks are common external parasites ([Essentials of Flea and Tick Control](#), [Making Smart Choices About Topical Flea and Tick Preventatives](#), [Safe Use of Flea and Tick Prevention Products](#), [Controlling Fleas and Ticks on Your Pet](#), [How to Check Your Dog for Ticks](#)), while intestinal parasites ([Addressing Giardia in Kennels: Implications for Canine Health, Management, and Welfare](#)) and heartworm can also infect your dog ([Heartworm in Dogs](#)).



Are you caring for grooming needs? Maintaining the health of dogs' coats ([Watch: Grooming Day for Poodle](#)) and nails ([Trimming Your Labrador's Nails](#)) improves welfare ([Grooming Your Pet Isn't About Looks](#)) by minimizing mats, skin irritation, torn nails, pain, and more. Nail trims can cause fearfulness in dogs if they are not exposed in a positive manner ([Nail Trims: Trimming Away the Terror](#), [Toe Trauma? Daily Handling Reduces Nail Care Fears](#), [Train Your Pet to Love Grooming and Nail Trims](#)). There are different tools that can be used ([Grinders vs. Clippers: What's Best for your Dog's Nails?](#)) and preparing in advance for accidents can minimize the negative experience through a quick response ([How To Stop A Dog's Nail From Bleeding Safely and Quickly](#)).

Are you caring for dental needs? Dental care is a critical component of dog physical health. Improper dental hygiene can negatively impact the health of other body systems ([Welfare Implications of Dental Health in Commercial Breeding Dogs](#)). Caretakers can provide some care and veterinary dental care is necessary to ensure that periodontal disease is avoided ([AVDC Position Statement: Companion Animal Dental Scaling Without Anesthesia](#), [AVDC - Animal Owner Resources](#), [Preventing Periodontal Disease in Dogs](#)). Learn more here: [Preventive Care Section](#).



18. Have you identified appropriate behavior individuals or organizations to provide care? Do you know what to look for in a trainer? Do you know how to identify when you might need guidance from a professional ([Why Would a Puppy Need to See a Veterinary Behaviorist?](#))? Do you know where to look for behavior service providers? Meeting the basic needs of dogs includes establishing a relationship with a trainer who uses positive reinforcement training only ([At-A-Glance: Problem Behavior: Experts](#), [How to Choose a Trainer](#), [Red & Green Lights In Training & Behavior Consulting](#)). Positive reinforcements training is the most humane and effective form of training ([At-A-Glance: Problem Behavior: Intervention](#), [AVSAB Position Statement on Humane Dog Training](#)). Be sure that the trainer does not use dominance/hierarchy training methods ([AVSAB Position Statement on the Use of Dominance Theory in Behavior Modification of Animals](#), [Moving Beyond "Leader of the Pack"](#)).

There are a variety of individuals who provide behavioral care ([Behavior Resources for Owners](#), [Selecting a Behavior Consultant](#)) it is important to understand what services each provides and what to look for. There are multiple certifications that qualified behavior professionals might have and as they are not all created equal you must look for certifications from reputable sources ([How To Find A Qualified Trainer Or Behavior Consultant](#)). Do you know how to assess if a trainer is a good fit for you and your kennel ([How to Find a Trainer Who Won't Harm Your Pet](#))? Learn more here: [Problem/Abnormal Behavior Section](#).

19. How will you address behavioral concerns that arise? It is common for dogs to engage in behaviors that humans find undesirable. Some of these behaviors are normal for dogs and it is important to find appropriate outlets for them ([How to Get your Dog to Stop Barking](#), [How to Train your Dog not to Bark- Episode 1 - Barking at Noises](#)). Others of these behaviors are abnormal for dogs and the underlying causes need to be explored ([Reactive Dog Behavior](#)). Are you prepared to navigate undesirable dog behaviors that might arise? Do you know how to recognize concerning behaviors ([At-A-Glance: Problem Behavior: Recognition](#))? How do you navigate fear in dogs? Dogs may be fearful of other dogs, unknown people ([The Factors Involved in Dogs' Fear of Strangers and Unfamiliar Dogs](#)), objects ([Overcoming Your Dog's Fear of Everyday Objects](#)), sounds ([Dog Noise Phobia: An Introduction](#)), and more. These fears can manifest in behaviors that caretakers find undesirable. There are ways to foster confidence in dogs and in doing so, improve their welfare ([Preventing and Alleviating Anxieties 101](#), [All About Dog Training: The Best Way To Train Your Dog](#), [Ten Tips To Integrate Dog Training Into Everyday Life](#)). Recognizing and addressing ([At-A-Glance: Problem Behavior: Intervention](#)) behaviors that humans find undesirable supports dog welfare and the human-dog relationship. To better understand dog behavior concerns and recommended intervention methods, visit the [Problem/Abnormal Behavior Section](#).



20. Where will you purchase food and supplies and how do you know what you need? The nutritional needs of dogs can vary by individual depending on life stage and physical health ([At-A-Glance: Nutrition](#)). Providing improperly balanced nutrition for dogs can result in malnourishment with severe health implications. Alternatively, properly balanced diets can support dog health and functioning ([Maximizing Success in the Breeding Kennel and Show Ring: Vital Health Care and Management of Competitive Dogs](#)). Consult your veterinarian regarding recommended diets for dogs ([At-A-Glance: Adult Dog Nutrition](#), [Dog Nutrition Tips](#)). Not all foods are equal in quality ([Complete and Balanced Pet Food](#)) and it is also important to properly handle and store food to avoid contamination or spoiling ([Safe Handling of Commercially Prepared Pet Food and Pet Treats](#)). Monitor dog body conditions with your veterinarian so that any concerns can be addressed early ([Body Condition Score](#)). Learn more here: [Nutrition Section](#).
21. How will you manage the unique nutritional needs of puppies and lactating and gestating females? There are unique and specific nutritional needs for pregnant females ([At-A-Glance: Nutrition During Gestation](#), [Feeding the Pregnant Dog](#), [Canine Health Facts : What to Feed a Pregnant Dog](#), [Properly Feeding your Pregnant or Nursing Dog](#)), for puppies ([At-A-Glance: Puppy Nutrition](#), [How To Feed a Puppy - How To Choose the Best Puppy Food](#), [Feeding Growing Puppies](#), [WALTHAM® Pocket Book of Puppy Nutrition and Care](#)), and for lactating females ([At-A-Glance: Nutrition During Lactation](#), [What to Feed a Lactating Dog](#), [Feeding the Nursing Dog](#)). Monitor puppy growth with your veterinarian so that any concerns can be addressed early ([WALTHAM™ Puppy Growth Charts](#)). Consult your veterinarian regarding recommended diets and learn more here: [Nutrition Section](#).

22. Is opening a dog breeding kennel feasible in terms of time, finances, and logistics? Do you have adequate time to provide for the dogs' needs? What do you anticipate the daily rhythm to look like? Time budgeting for dog care includes (but is not limited to) the provision of food, water, access to outdoors, veterinary care, social interactions, and play. What is the licensing process for dog breeding facilities? How many staffers will you need? What will their roles be? How will you educate your team on dog welfare and care needs? What is the projected monthly payroll amount? Can you afford to run a breeding kennel? Providing quality care for dogs requires financial stability in order to attend to routine costs (food, preventive veterinary care, grooming, training, toys) and also unexpected costs (emergency medical care) ([Enterprise Budgeting and Partial Budgeting for Dog Breeders](#), [Be Dog Smart: Learn the Cost of Owning a Dog](#), [Money tips for caring pet owners](#)). Puppies require more preventative veterinary care, training, and tools than do adults, all of which cost additional money ([Cost of Owning a Puppy](#)).



23. How will the acquisition process work for new owners? What platforms will you use to market your puppies to potential families? How will you communicate that you are breeding your dogs responsibly ([Be Dog Smart: Know What to Expect from a Responsible Breeder](#), [Be Dog Smart: Be Aware of Irresponsible Breeder Red Flags](#))? Will potential families purchase puppies directly from your kennel and have the opportunity to visit the site ([Be Dog Smart: What to Look for When Visiting a Breeder](#))? Will you utilize the services of pet retailers? How will you identify responsible retailers ([Be Dog Smart: Know What to Expect from a Responsible Pet Store](#), [Be Dog Smart: Know What to Expect from a Responsible Retailer](#), [Be Dog Smart: What to Look for When Visiting a Pet Store](#), [Be Dog Smart: Be Aware of Online Retailer Red Flags](#), [Be Dog Smart: Questions to Ask an Online Retailer Before Buying a Dog](#))? Will you use online tools for connecting puppies with their new homes? How will you indicate that your breeding facility and practices are legitimate and humane ([Current Pet Scams](#), [How To Spot A Puppy Scam Online](#))? At what age will puppies be ready to go to their new homes? What does the acquisition process look like for new owners and how will you prepare them? Will you screen families to ensure a good match? What records will you provide for new families - socialization logs, vaccination history? Will you have puppies microchipped before they transition to new homes?



24. What is your plan for retired breeders? How will you provide continued care when a dog is retired from breeding and not a match for rehoming? How will you determine fit with rehoming? What will the rehoming process entail ([At-A-Glance: Rehoming Breeding Dogs](#), [Rehoming Breeding Dogs](#))? Will new families come to the kennel or will you utilize a third party? Will you screen families for fit prior to rehoming? What records will you send with the dog to their new home ([Retired Breeder Placement Form](#))?

25. Are you prepared for the unexpected? What is your plan if you are no longer able to care for dogs? What is your plan for keeping dogs safe during a natural disaster or other emergency? Are you prepared with a list of items needed ([Pets and Disaster](#))? Are your dogs trained to be comfortable in crates? In muzzles ([Muzzle Up! Project](#), [Muzzle Up! Videos](#))? Wearing Elizabethan collars [Teaching Your Dog To Love The Cone](#)? Microchipping can be a helpful tool in case the dog ever becomes lost ([Microchipping FAQ](#)).

