

# Designer dogs : Fashion or New Breeds ?

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# What are these breeds ?



# What is a breed ?

- **Dog** breeds are groups of closely related and visibly similar domestic dogs, which are all of the subspecies *Canis lupus familiaris*, having characteristic traits that are selected and maintained by humans, bred from a known foundation stock.

- During domestication 30,000 + years ago different traits were selected which led to different types of dogs for different environments and roles :

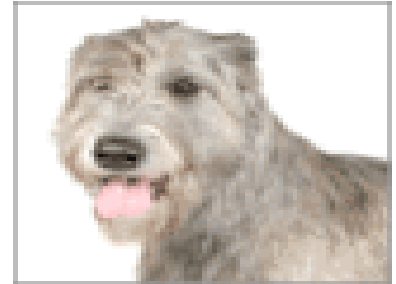
- Terriers



# Herding dogs



# Hounds and hunting



# Toy Dogs



# Guarding





# Pedigree /Purebred/Cross breed or Mongrel

## **Pedigree :**

lineage known for many generations of same breed, breeding to “type”. **Only the owner of the bitch can register a dog or its pups under IKC rules .**

## **Pure bred:**

Parents may be pedigree or look like a pedigree but no documentation to prove dogs are “pure” or have characteristics of the breed type .

## **Crossbreed :**

Two different breeds

## **Mongrel :**

Mixture of multiple breeds in differing generations



# Hybrid Vigour

- Thought that by crossing unrelated breeds the health of offspring is somehow stronger.
- **BUT** recent research (vet records of over 150,000 dogs ) from RSPCA / Royal Vet college shows **no** difference in health aspects between Pedigree and crossbreed/ mongrel dogs
- ? Most cross bred dogs are only one generation from pedigree dogs.

# Life Expectancy

- Generally thought crossbreeds/ mongrels live longer
- **BUT** latest research from Royal vet college shows there is no significant difference.
- Life expectancy is linked to size so there appears to be a discrepancy because most mongrels / crosses are smaller than most pedigree breeds

# Labradoodle

- Originally bred as a service dog for people with allergies in Australia :
- Offspring tested and only hypoallergenic pups bred with for 10 generations
- Now ? Popularity and fashion but not really hypoallergenic because not tested

# Fashion victims

- Cute names hiding bizarre combinations Cockapoo, Borgis, Cavador, Golden Saints, Hugs and Jugs
- High prices
- More labradoodle types being rescued : over 1000 in UK last year
- Unscrupulous breeders : no health checks and little socialisation.

# Designer dogs : health check ?

- Crossing dogs is not like mixing paint
- Newspaper reports and vet info shows that certain combinations have poorer health or behaviour / maintenance problems

(eg. goldendoodle coat problems; puggles overheating; Gerberian Shepsky behaviour patterns)

# Caveat emptor

- Rarity does not mean high value
- Check out the breeder and conditions
- Don't be seduced by cute names
- Understand the traits of both breeds
- Understand that you may get the worst of both breeds not the best.



PET YARD



Thank you