

# ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

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## Know the Facts before Breeding Your Pet

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

1. **Quality:** Registration is NOT an indication of quality but non-registered pets, even if you were told they were purebred, should never be used for breeding.
2. **Cost:** Breeding is NOT a moneymaking proposition. Those who breed as a business often take shortcuts in proper medical care and in showing their pets.
3. **Sales:** Often those who told you to breed your pet are nowhere around when there are problems or when you need to find homes for the young.
4. **Leftovers:** Consider what you will do if you have several puppies or kittens for nine or ten months, or forever.
5. **Joy of Birth:** If you are doing it for your children's education, remember that the whelping may be at 3 a.m. or at the veterinarian's surgery table. Don't forget that the birthing process may end in tragedy. Are your children ready to see that? Teaching your children the importance of pet population control is, in fact, a much more valuable lesson.
6. **Time:** Most breeders will spend over 130 hours in raising an average litter. Who will get stuck with that?
7. **Humane Responsibilities:** Can you justify adding to the 63,000 unwanted dogs and cats put to sleep every day? Even if yours find homes, what about their offspring and the cute puppies and kittens at the pound that may have found a home if you hadn't added yours to the population?
8. **Health:** There has never been a medical or behavioral reason for breeding your pet. Intact pets are actually less healthy and have more behavioral problems.

Although we love cute little puppies and kittens, we realize breeding should be left to the experts. **BE RESPONSIBLE. THINK BEFORE YOU BREED.** 🐾