

September 2016 *AKC Gazette* column

## **The Male Chihuahua**

No one wants to keep their male puppies. Everyone wants “girls, girls, girls” in their litters. Why keep a male for your breeding program when you can use a top sire? Buyers for our pet-quality puppies are also looking for females. No, they don’t want a male, and they give all the cliché reasons.

Well, I’m here to tell you how much I love and enjoy my males. I can’t imagine life without several of these fabulous creatures running around. There is no fighting among males who live peacefully in a “pack” atmosphere. Once in awhile there could be a little jealousy when not selected to be bred to a particular bitch, but that is rare at my home. Instead they give the “lucky dog” a high five when they return to the pack.

If you have a quality male, the way to be sure of his quality is using him as a stud in your breeding program. I believe a male needs to be bred at least three times to three different bitches to determine his worthiness as a good sire. It takes time to establish a great stud dog. So going to a top dog or keeping your own stud dog is up to each individual. If establishing a “line” most likely you will want to keep several males of your own to integrate into your program.

These little boys can easily be house trained, but the invention of the “belly band” has alleviated much of the fear of letting our stud dogs run loose in the house. These little guys are much more loving and willing to please than their female counterparts, and they don’t blow their coat during the show season, which makes them more competitive than the female during a full show year.

Several years ago a friend of mine wanted a female pet-quality puppy from my breeding program. I didn’t have one, so they decided to try a male. We always have extra males, right? Just the other day the owner said to me, “I would never have believed I could love my boy more than any of the females I have owned”—a true testament to the wonderful loving heart these dogs possess. Yep, another happy owner of the male Chihuahua.

How many times have we tried to tell a prospective pet buyer that the male is more loving than the female? If they’ve never owned a male, it’s hard for them to believe this, and they think we are just trying to pass off our males. Well, many times that could be the case, but how sad that they are not willing to experience the special bond that is created with these little boys.

I am always drawn to my males first. I know how big their heart is and how much love we will share together. They are not distracted by being a mommy and protecting their get. They are happy, loving little creatures who should be in every home.

So next time you are looking for a dog, consider a sweet and loving male. You’ll be happy you did. Try it, You’ll like it!

—*Virginia (Jenny) Hauber*