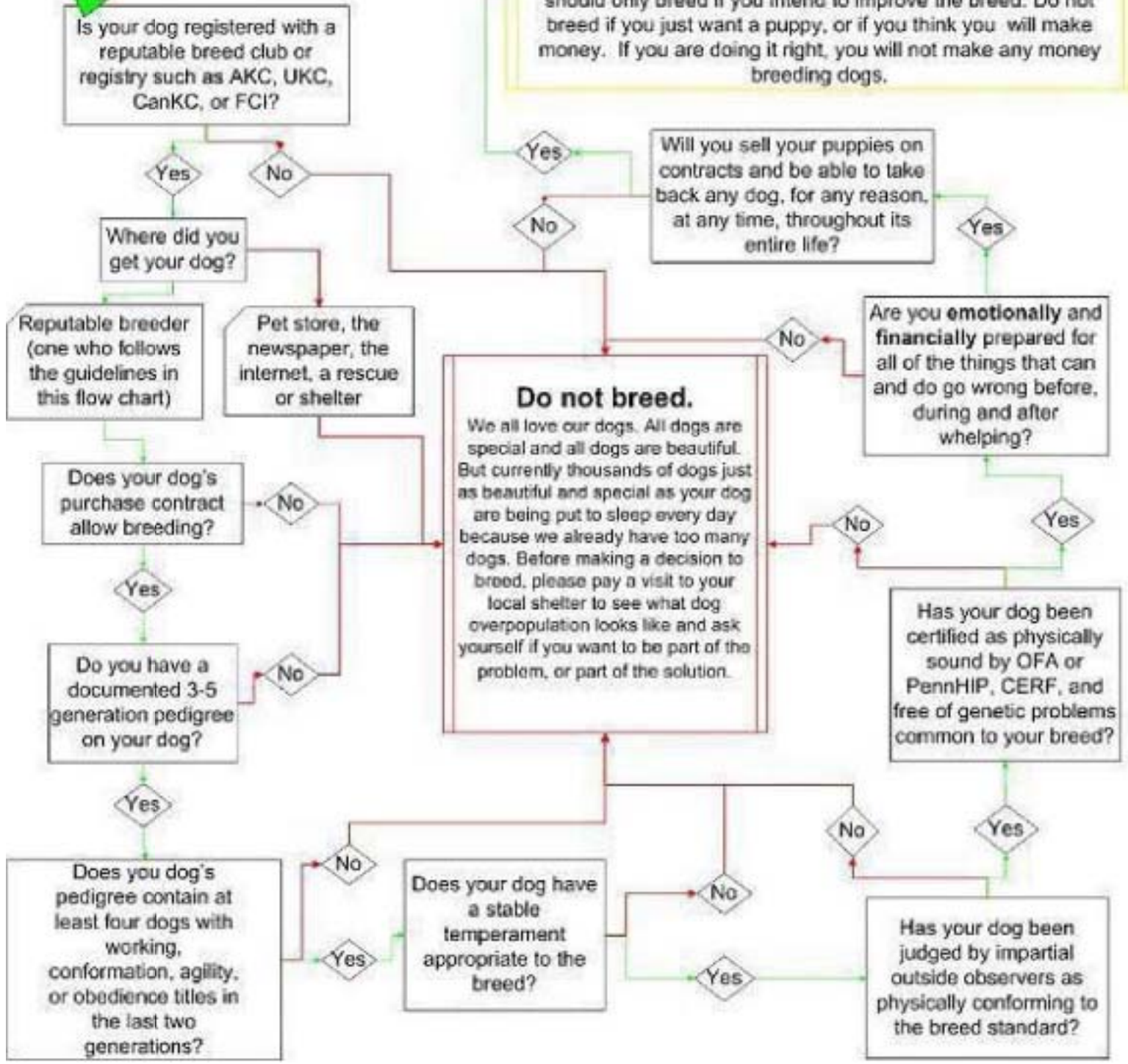


Should You Breed Your Dog?

A handy decision-making tool



If you are in this box, your dog *may* be breeding quality. If you are not showing or working your dog in performance events appropriate to his or her breed, consider carefully why you are breeding your dog. Breeding carries huge responsibilities. You should only breed if you intend to improve the breed. Do not breed if you just want a puppy, or if you think you will make money. If you are doing it right, you will not make any money breeding dogs.



Do not breed.
We all love our dogs. All dogs are special and all dogs are beautiful. But currently thousands of dogs just as beautiful and special as your dog are being put to sleep every day because we already have too many dogs. Before making a decision to breed, please pay a visit to your local shelter to see what dog overpopulation looks like and ask yourself if you want to be part of the problem, or part of the solution.

Are you **emotionally and financially** prepared for all of the things that can and do go wrong before, during and after whelping?

Has your dog been certified as physically sound by OFA or PennHIP, CERF, and free of genetic problems common to your breed?

Has your dog been judged by impartial outside observers as physically conforming to the breed standard?

Does your dog have a stable temperament appropriate to the breed?

Does your dog's purchase contract allow breeding?

Do you have a documented 3-5 generation pedigree on your dog?

Does your dog's pedigree contain at least four dogs with working, conformation, agility, or obedience titles in the last two generations?

Where did you get your dog?

Reputable breeder (one who follows the guidelines in this flow chart)

Pet store, the newspaper, the internet, a rescue or shelter

Will you sell your puppies on contracts and be able to take back any dog, for any reason, at any time, throughout its entire life?