There is a new fad for “designer” dogs going on. From doodles, to everything in between. In our breed the new fad is the Vizsla/Weimaraner cross or Weimardoodles. A lot of people think crossbred dogs are “better” because the breeders of those dogs claim they are healthier, and a “mix” of the two breeds you like. Many breeders even label these dogs as “hypoallergenic” especially in the doodles. All of this could not be further from the truth. At Nosam we do not believe in cross breeding and we wrote this to explain why!

# 1. Irresponsible breeding

Genetic makeup determines its predisposition to diseases, body structure, personality and temperament. Most of the breeders producing this cross are only breeding for profit. They do not care about preserving each breed. They don’t care about health testing or the temperament they are producing. They hook you with sales pitches to produce the next high dollar “trend”. Once that cross stops selling, they are on to the next fad. These breeders are simply not putting forth the effort to produce quality puppies. They are irresponsibly mixing two breeds who have different temperaments, along with different possible health issues for each breed. These breeders have no option but to select poor representatives of each breed to breed together because no reputable breeder is going to allow their well-bred dogs into a cross-bred program. So, in essence you are getting the cross of the two WORST examples of each breed of dog (in health and temperament). When you breed two poor examples of each breed together you are creating puppies who are even worse than their parents. As a responsible breeder the goal should be to produce puppies who are better than their parents. When shopping for a puppy you should do so responsibly as not only are breeders responsible for the future of well-bred dogs but so are you. When you shop with an irresponsible breeder you are supporting those bad breeding practices for future generations. The more puppies they sell the more they will breed.

**2. They are not purebred.**

 Though they have fancy names like Vizweimarner, Weizslas, etc. etc. These dogs are not purebred.

A purebred dog by definition is a dog who has been selectively bred over many generations to "breed true." When a dog breeds true it means that every puppy produced will look alike and share the same characteristics. It's almost as if these dogs are crafted with a cookie cutter which roughly produces dogs with similar traits. When you plan to get a purebred puppy of a certain breed, you can rest assured you know for a good extent what you will be getting. These purebred puppies are consistent in size, temperament and overall breed traits. Your breeder can almost guarantee what kind of puppy you will get as an adult.

Pure breeds have been developed for different purposes, and their temperaments match those purposes closely. For example, Vizsla’s were bred to hunt smaller game and be wonderful family companions. Weimaraner’s were bred to be somewhat aloof and originally bred for larger game. It would be difficult to predict the exact type of personality a cross breeding between these two dogs might produce.

# 3. They aren’t healthier

There's this common belief that hybrid dogs are much healthier than purebred dogs, a phenomenon known as "hybrid vigor" or in scientific terms "heterosis." This phenomenon has often been used by unethical breeders to advertise their hybrid dogs as superior so they could ask exorbitant prices, but how true is this? This conventional wisdom likely stems from the belief that shallow gene pools, as often seen in purebred dogs, predisposes them to inherit health problems and loss of vigor (inbreeding depression) which includes lower sperm count, lower conception rates, smaller litter sizes and shorter lifespans. It's a known fact that the introduction of another breed or even a different line of the same breed adds genetic variety which adds vitality. This is known as "hybrid vigor" and it's a strategy longtime dog breeder have been implementing in their breeding programs, explains Carol Beuchat, a vertebrate biologist with PhD in animal physiology.

So, is variety really the spice of life when it comes to genetics and is hybrid vigor the secret recipe for a healthy dog? Perhaps, but not in the way that some unethical breeders portray it. A study on hybrid vigor speaks volumes when it comes to heritable health conditions and offers a different view of the story.

According to a large, five-year old study conducted by Thomas P. Bellumori et al. and published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, after analyzing more than 90,000 health records, it was found that no difference was seen among purebred and crossbred dogs when it came to the incidence of 13 heritable conditions. There were only a few exceptions where it was actually found that some hereditary conditions remain isolated to specific breeds, but other than that, the superior health benefits claimed by breeders seem to be a myth.

However, it must be said that this is often the result of poor breeding practices which focus more on conformation and certain traits, rather than health. For instance, if Labradors which are prone to hip problems are crossbred with poodles who are prone to eyesight problems you may end up with puppies prone to both conditions, explains Marc Abraham, a popular veterinarian making appearances on TV in the UK. Claims by unethical breeders stating that hybrids are healthier and get the best of both worlds from their parents are quite unfounded.

# 4. Color/Appearance

I have found that most people who are looking for a Vizsla/Weimaraner cross are simply shopping for them due to color and look. The solid “chocolate” & solid black dogs are appealing. However, did you know that there is already a purebred breed in those colors? They are called German Shorthaired

Pointers. A quick google search for solid liver German Shorthaired Pointer or solid black German Shorthaired pointer will bring up a photo of how similar they are to this cross you are attracted too. And in fact, we breed them here at Nosam. If you are attracted to the color of this mix simply shop for a reputable GSP (German Shorthaired Pointer) breeder. You can get matched with a puppy of that color from two purebred parents bred for health, temperament and predictability. Rather than supporting an irresponsible breeder trying to sell you their next popular money makers.

# 5. Price

Most often when you buy a “designer dog” you are paying double if not triple the price of a purebred puppy. A puppy bred from two parents who are the worst representatives of each breed. You’re buying a puppy from parents that are not health tested, have not been worked to prove breed traits and temperament. You are paying more for a dog that will be unpredictable in every aspect. When you buy a

purebred puppy, you are buying a that was produced simply because it was profitable NOT because it is any better.