



Canine Care Certified is a nationwide, voluntary program that addresses the health and overall welfare of dogs in the care of breeders in the United States.

Canine Care Certified establishes extensive, science-based standards for breeders to ensure a higher, documented quality of care for dogs and puppies. Canine Care Certified is wholly administered by Purdue University.

The program was developed at the request of a small group of breeders that wished to have uniform, nationwide, and voluntary standards that considered physical and behavioral welfare of dogs and puppies raised by breeders. The certification program is based on standards developed and led by Dr. Candace Croney, Ph.D. at Purdue University in 2013.

Breeders seeking to be certified must meet or exceed rigorous standards for physical and behavioral welfare in areas such as nutrition, veterinary care, genetics, housing, breeding age & frequency, and retirement & rehoming.

CANINE CARE CERTIFIED - FIVE PILLARS OF CARE



PHYSICAL HEALTH

Only veterinarians may perform any necessary alterations and surgeries. Breeders must also create comprehensive physical health plans for preventative care and treatment and ensure they are implemented. Genetic and health screening, regular dental care, and grooming are required.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Caretakers need to create a behavioral wellness plan, both for preventive care and treatment, as well as provide exercise, meaningful socialization, and enrichment for adult dogs and puppies.



ENVIRONMENT

Breeders must provide safe, enriched, high-quality spaces with access to the outdoors and multiple flooring surfaces.



BREEDING LIFE & RETIREMENT

Breeders must follow established limits for breeding ages & litter numbers. Retirement and rehoming plans are required. Adult dogs at retirement cannot be sold for continued breeding or research.



CARETAKER EXPECTATIONS

Breeders must participate in continuing education on canine care and welfare, must use low-stress handling procedures, and be transparent with stakeholders and compliant with best practices.