



The Consequences of Irresponsible Breeding

While we at Critter Corner Rescue will always support adoption, we also support responsible breeding. Anyone can breed an animal, but, not everyone can or will do so responsibly. Responsible breeders are those who are able to tell you specifics of generations behind the animal you are interested in. They produce animals that are healthy, strong, and, of course, super adorable.

But what happens if I want to breed my pet? Well, depending on where you got that animal, or animals, from, you more than likely do not know all the details of that pet's past. Therefore, you have no idea what kind of genetic markers makeup it's genome. They could carry dangerous traits that could result in ill offspring.

Philip is a Critter Corner Rescue Camper. He is a two year old leopard gecko that came into our rescue in late 2020. Shortly after his intake, he started showing signs of neurological abnormalities and was diagnosed with Enigma Syndrome shortly after. Enigma Syndrome is only caused by faulty genetics due to irresponsible breeding. Because of this syndrome, Philip is, for the most part, unable to walk in a straight line and will constantly turn in tight circles. Additionally, he has a consistent head tilt and is unable to catch prey on his own.



Sampson is another Critter Corner Rescue Camper. He was a young syrian hamster with Hydrocephalus and Bracycephaly. Again, both of these conditions are genetic, and occur in utero. Due to his shortened skeletal structure, Sampson has issues breathing properly. As a result of the fluid buildup on his brain, he has increased occipital pressure, teeth abnormalities, and the possibility for neuro deficits.

Both Philip and Sampson's conditions could have been prevented. However, they now face challenges in life that they will have to learn how to overcome. Still, with ethical and responsible breeding, we can prevent animals in the future from facing the same fate.