

Puppy buying check list

Below is a list of questions which may help you find the right breeder, however it represents my opinion and should be used as a guide only

Is the breeder a member of the kennel club assured breeders scheme?

Being a member of the assured breeders scheme means that the UK KC breeding criteria should be met while not a 100% guarantee is always a good place to start.

How long has the breeder been involved in the breed?

A breeder who is new to the breed may lack experience so ensure they are working under the guidance of someone more experienced, however remember we all have to start somewhere!

What activities does the breeder engage in other than breeding?

Breeders who are reputable and breed regularly engage in other activities with their dogs the exception to this is the breeder who has taken a single litter to keep a pup for themselves

In the breeders eyes what make a suitable candidate for breeding?

There's no right or wrong answers to this one but at the least the dog should be deemed by the breeder as healthy, good natured and to conform to the breed description.

Are both parents registered with the kennel club?

The answer to this must be yes else your puppy can not be registered as pedigree

Do both parents have sound temperaments?

Yes temperament is paramount

Will mother be there to be viewed?

Yes – never buy from anywhere you can't see mum as this could indicate puppy farming

Have the parents been tested for Cerebellar Ataxia?

At least one parent should be tested clear of this fatal condition if neither parent is tested walk away.

Are the parents hip scored?

Sires score:.....

Dams score:.....

Both parents should be hip scored the lower and more even the score the better.

Have the parents had any further health tests or been DNA profiled?

Details.....
.....

What is the pedigree of the parents, can you see a copy?

You need to see the pedigree so you know what your buying a genuine breeder will freely offer this information to you either by e-mail or when you visit them

Can you visit and meet the mother before committing to joining the waiting list?

It is always best to see mum and check out her temperament before committing to purchasing a puppy

Will the puppies be kennel club registered?

Only buy Kennel club registered puppies those that are not registered may not be full pedigree or may be the result of puppy farming

What is the breeder's policy regarding puppies being bred from later on?

If you wish to breed it is important you discuss the breeder's policy most breeders will at the least expect the dog to be of certain quality with the appropriate health clearance Some breeders will not allow their stock to be bred from at all.

Where will the puppies be born, and raised?

I would always like puppies to be born in the home.

Some breeders rear their puppies in the home and other outside or a combination of the two, what is most important is that the facilities are of a good standard and the correct measures are being taken to ensure the puppies integrate well with humans.

I've seen puppies raised in the home that get very little social interaction and are actually less social than those raised in kennels and socialised properly it's not about location it's about socialisation and exposure to new things.

What provisions are made to ensure the puppies are correctly socialised?

Puppies being reared in the home will receive basic socialisation

Those reared outside must also spend time in the house so they interact with humans and get used to household noises

What diet will the puppies be raised on?

Puppies reared on cheap food often don't thrive; a good breeder will want only the best for their pups.

How often will the puppies be wormed?

Puppies should be wormed every 2 weeks from 3 weeks of age till 3 months of age.

When can you visit the puppies?

Don't expect to visit before the puppies are four weeks old, no matter how sociable a bitch is why would you subject her to strangers and the risk of infection to her litter just to secure a sale!

Do you get to choose a puppy or does the breeder choose for you?

Reputable breeders normally match puppies to owners as they have an in depth knowledge of the pups character.

When will this choice be made?

This choice should not be made before puppies are 6 weeks of age

Will the puppies be docked or dew clawed if you are offering a working home?

It is legal for working kennels to have tails docked by a vet, should you wish to work your puppy I would recommend seeking a docked puppy to avoid later tail injuries

Will the puppies be microchipped or tattooed?

All puppies must be microchipped by law

Will the puppies receive a vet check prior to rehoming?

Ideally the breeder will have a litter checked for things like heart murmurs that are not obvious to the naked eye.

Will the puppies be vaccinated before rehoming?

This is personal preference but any puppy aged over 9 weeks should at the least have received their first vaccine

What age will I take a puppy home?

This should be the minimum of seven weeks around eight is normal.

Do not accept excuses for puppies going home earlier I know of at least one breeder who lets their puppies be homed at a mere six weeks of age.

Science has proven puppies learn vital bite inhibition during the later weeks with their litter so by leaving this early they are denied this.

The only reasons for letting a puppy go at six weeks are that the breeder cannot be bothered to care for them in the two most challenging weeks.

Will you be required to sign a sales agreement and if so can you see one prior to committing to take a puppy?

Responsible breeders like to protect the rights of the owner/breeder and ensure the welfare of the dog by using a sales agreement, for those placing endorsements against breeding or export on pedigrees these are essential

Is the breeder willing to offer ongoing support and advice to you should you require it?

This must be a yes they will be your source of information over the years to come!