



Puppy Buyers Guide

Test yourself:

- Do I know what the breed I like was bred to do?
- Do my breeds tendencies suit my lifestyle?
- Is there a training class nearby to help me socialise my puppy?
- Do I have 2 months of free time to settle my puppy into its new home and teach it to be left for short periods?
- Do I have support should I need to go on holiday or on a day trip?
- Can I afford the puppy, vet care, training costs, food, toys and time?

Test your breeder!!

- Firstly mystery shop your breeder to check if they are honest before visiting the house with puppies. Give a fake name and tell your breeder you live alone in a flat and work full time and wanted to know if these puppies would be a good choice for your lifestyle. The answer should always be NO.
- Can you hear dogs barking when you knock on the door? If so WALK AWAY! The puppies will have barking behaviour imprinted from very young and are likely to bark when startled for the rest of their lives.
- If it is a pure breed, is the puppy registered with Kennel Club? If not why not?
- Can you visit the puppy a few times before deciding? Avoid pressure sales such as the 'last puppy left' or any breeder that encourages you to take the puppy before it is 8 weeks old.
- Is the puppy vaccinated and microchipped? Does it come home with any food?
- Can I view both parents? If not why not? Touch, talk to and interact with both parents. If the parents are wary the puppies will inherit this fear also.
- Is the puppy being raised indoors? Family pets should always be reared in a home environment however working dogs are often bred in kennels.
- Is the household hectic or unclean? Puppies need rest in the early weeks to sleep and grow, if the household is too hectic your puppy may arrive over stimulated and stressed.
- Have the breeders bred before? What advise can they give you to take home?

How to spot a puppy farmed puppy:

Puppy farms breed dogs in cages under very poor conditions just for profit. These soulless breeders follow popular breed trends and give no care or attention to the dogs they are breeding. Puppies either die very young or have life long behavioural problems as they have had no socialisation to normal everyday sights and sounds. The following tips should help you spot a puppy farmed puppy. Do not fall into the trap of buying a puppy to 'rescue' it from poor conditions as you are simply paying back into this horrible market as well as signing yourself up for 15 years with a dog with learning difficulties.

- The puppies are asleep every time you visit
- The puppies are nervous or wary when you come in or call them over
- The puppies are fighting over toys or resources with growling and winners will take their prize away and guard it with posture or hard eye contact
- Puppies are messing in their beds and the mother seems not to care
- Make a loud noise in another room, normal puppies should startle and show interest but recover quickly, puppy farmed puppies will stay nervous for much longer, bark or sometimes even shut down and hide.
- Offer the puppies a treat and see how they respond as a group. Is one puppy pushing the others aside and are the other puppies becoming aggressive at this challenge?
- Knock knock a table or inner door, are the puppies startled or barking? Or is the mother barking at the strange noise?
- Can you handle the puppy? Are they enjoying it or struggling away? Do they fearfully roll over on their backs or squat and pee as you approach?

How to spot a trader

Traders buy puppy farmed puppies and sell them from residential homes with a similar breed that can be displayed as 'the mother'

- Adverts in newspapers have a small T in the corner of the ad
- Puppies are brought into you without a mother one at a time
- Traders will offer to drop the dog off to you
- Often more than one breed of puppies are available at the same time
- The breeder will have little to no breed knowledge
- You may be given a 'Puppy Registration LTD' certificate instead of a genuine pedigree certificate from Kennel Club
- You will be encouraged to take the puppy on the same day as viewing
- You wont be given a receipt, food or any after care
- Traders will tell you it was an accidental litter and a member of the family has the other dog.
- Traders may say that there is only one puppy left.. the one they are showing you but then a week later the phone number you called is now advertising a different breed of puppy online or in newspapers