

Finding the right breeder for you

Choosing a breeder and selecting your puppy takes time and thought. Remember to ask questions such as these before making a decision on your new family member.

- 🐾 Can we visit before deciding on our breed?
- 🐾 Why did you choose this breed and how long have you been involved with it?
- 🐾 Do you have other breeds or other litters available?
- 🐾 If we decide on your breed / litter, can we visit regularly before choosing our pup?
- 🐾 Can we see the mother / father or other family members?
- 🐾 Can we see all the litter together?
- 🐾 At what age can we take the puppy home?
- 🐾 When are the puppies wormed, microchipped and vaccinated?
- 🐾 Are the puppies registered with Dogs Queensland?
- 🐾 Are there any hereditary conditions in the breed?
- 🐾 Can we have verification of dog's assessment e.g. hip and elbow scores?
- 🐾 Can we have the puppy checked by a vet before we buy?
- 🐾 If any unforeseen conditions arise, can the puppy be returned?

Take time making your selection as your puppy will grow into a lifetime responsibility and be with you for many years.

Once you feel confident the breed you have chosen will suit your lifestyle and commitments, its time to find a breeder and hopefully a new addition to your family will be forthcoming in the near future.

No doubt you have already taken a reasonable amount of time considering which breed is right for you. That is, the amount of exercise and grooming required, the size of the adult dog, the cost of keeping it, reasons for selecting your chosen breed and some of the activities in which you and your family would like to participate.

You may have attended dog shows, obedience and dog sports to help choose your breed, but did you talk to breeders and exhibitors with a view to an actual purchase of your new family member? Breeders are always on hand at shows to answer questions. They are the best source for obtaining a healthy, well raised and well-bred puppy.

Breeding quality dogs of sound mind and body is taken very seriously and many hours are spent comparing dogs and pedigrees before decisions are made regarding matings. Responsible breeders will always consider the advancement and improvement of the breed before breeding a litter.

The responsible breeder will help you with your choice and selection of a puppy and will be willing to provide ongoing support and advice as your puppy matures. They will also answer more in depth questions about the finer details of the breed. Breeders sometimes make arrangements and contracts on sales which outline both breeders and purchasers responsibilities.

Responsible breeders care. They raise happy healthy puppies. This should also reflect in the condition and temperament of the adults living on the premises. Their living quarters should be clean and all dogs should be well cared for. The puppies should also be clean, well conditioned and lively.

Responsible breeders should proudly show you all the dogs on their premises. They may allow you to handle the puppies during visits, depending on the age and vaccination status of the puppies. The mother of the puppies should be in good condition, clean, happy and active. If the father lives elsewhere you could ask for the owner's contact details or to see photos of him. The breeder will arrange a suitable time to view your new puppy.

All dogs (including purebreds) can suffer from hereditary conditions, so feel free to ask the breeder if your chosen breed is prone to any.

Ask about test results and scores of parents and other members of the puppies' family, and whether there are any other potential health problems.

Be wary of those who deny any such conditions exist in their breed.

Also ask whether the breeder is prepared to have the puppy checked by a vet and whether you can return your puppy if any health problems eventuate.

Puppies should not leave their mother and the breeder until they are 8 weeks old. They should have been treated for worms from approximately 2-3 weeks of age, and have had their first vaccination at approximately 6-7 weeks of age.

Vaccination records and a puppy care and diet sheet should be available to you when or before you collect your puppy. The breeder will arrange to have a Certificate of Pedigree issued for the puppy.

Responsible breeders should ask you questions! After all, you are the potential owner of their baby who they have put so much time and effort into breeding and raising.

They will want to know why you chose this breed, how you propose to care for your puppy, what facilities you have prepared for him to live in, whether your premises are secure, whether he will be required to spend time alone, how your children feel about your new family member ... and more!

Dogs Queensland can provide you with details and dates of shows, events and contact details for breeders and breed clubs. This information can be found on the Dogs Queensland website www.dogsqueensland.org.au.

All Dogs Queensland members are bound to adhere to a member's Code of Ethics relating to the keeping, welfare, breeding and selling of dogs. All puppy purchasers can complete a feedback form on their breeder and return it to Dogs Queensland to check the breeder is adhering to the Code of Ethics.