

## **Distinguishing Reputable Breeders**

### **Part 1: Basic Information**

Before you buy a puppy, learn the correct answers for your chosen breed so you can ask the following questions of a breeder.

1. What size range is normal for that breed?
2. Does this dog breed need to be brushed or combed more often than once a week?
3. Does this dog breed require professional help in clipping or grooming?
4. How much ground needs to be covered in daily exercise? Is a one-mile walk a lot or not very much for this dog breed?
5. Is the dog breed you have selected one of the dog breeds that are subject to any genetic diseases? Have the appropriate tests been performed to avoid those diseases?

Contact rescuers of the breed to know how the breeder should answer this question:

What are the most common reasons given for giving up this dog breed to rescue?

### **Part Two: Investigate**

Confirm that all of the following are true.

1. Reputable breeders are more than happy to tell you about their dogs, environment and breeding conditions.
2. Puppies for sale are born on the premises - not shipped in.
3. Breeder does not sell puppies to wholesalers, brokers, dealers or retail shops.
4. Dog set up is clean and well kept.
5. Breeder insists that the puppies for sale will be at least seven weeks old before being placed.
6. Sire and dam of the litter are at least two years old and were tested for genetic health before the breeding.
7. Breeder volunteered information on the health testing of most of the immediate relatives of the sire and dam, volunteered proof and offers a guarantee against genetic health problems of at least two years. (Note: It isn't possible to produce dogs entirely free of genetic problems.)
8. Puppies for sale and dogs for sale have been introduced to children and other animals as part of their socialization.
9. Breeder reviewed some of the problems some people have with the breed.
10. Breeder asked if you plan to breed the dog.
11. Breeder is available as a resource for advice and support for the life of the dog.
12. Breeder promises to take the dog in (not return your money) if you can't keep it, for the life of the dog.
13. Breeder provides a contract for your review and goes over it with you.
14. Breeder raises no more than 3 or 4 different breeds of puppies for sale and dogs for sale. It is very difficult for a breeder to be competent in more breeds.
15. Breeder is a member of a breed club.
16. Breeder's primary concern is finding a good home for the puppy, rather than getting paid.
17. Breeder asked you lots of questions about your lifestyle, family, experience with dogs and other pets, why you are looking for a dog for sale.
18. Breeder was happy to answer all your questions and made you feel comfortable asking for advice.
19. Breeder acknowledges to you that they are familiar with the Breeders.NET Code of Ethics and have agreed to be bound by its standard of behavior.

### **Part Three:**

What you should get with your puppy

1. A properly executed Registration Certificate.
2. Registration materials may be withheld if a written statement is provided of when, and under what conditions, they will be provided (e.g. until the time of spay or neuter by the new owner as verified by a veterinarian, or if a written certification identifying the exact date of birth, and the AKC, UKC or CKC (in Canada) registration numbers of the Sire and Dam are provided instead).
3. Written, three-generation pedigree.
4. Health record including a diet, inoculation and parasite control record, and health guarantee.
5. basic diet and care information.
6. time frame during which the puppy or dog may be examined by a licensed veterinarian, at the buyer's expense, and, upon written recommendation of the veterinarian for specific reasons, the puppy or dog may be returned to the seller for a full refund of all money paid.