

BUYING A DOG

Purchasing a purebred puppy can bring joy and happiness to you and your family for many years. However, the decision to purchase a dog should not be based on impulse nor taken lightly. [Click here](#) to read Make the right choice - Selecting a purebred puppy.

Understanding Terms

The general term “Papers” commonly used to describe the official CKC registration documents you are given by your breeder should not be confused with a “pedigree” for your dog. The registration papers are the legal documents in the CKC Registry that prove you are the legal owner of your dog. The unique identification of your dog guarantees the dog you have purchased is the same dog registered in our files. The registration “papers” are the guarantee that your dog is a purebred animal.

A “pedigree” is simply described as a “family tree” for your dog. It will show 3 or 4 previous generations for the puppy you have purchased. A pedigree is a valuable tool for CKC Member Breeders when they are selecting a dam and sire for a new litter of puppies. It allows them to review and screen prior generations of a specific dog’s bloodlines in order to introduce the best qualities and traits for their overall breeding programs. A 3 or 4 generation pedigree for your puppy can be purchased from the CKC and in many cases your breeder may provide a copy.

Your Dog’s Unique Identification

One of the distinguishing features of a purebred dog registered with the Canadian Kennel Club is that it must be uniquely identified prior to leaving the breeders premises with either a microchip which meets the Canadian Standard as set by the national Companion Animal Coalition (NCAC) or tattoo. A tattoo “series” is issued to individual breeders for their sole use and the numbers indicate the date of birth of each puppy and identify it as part of the total litter. Every dog registered with the CKC is automatically enrolled in the national Homesafe/RDOG program. This enrolment is provided to you by your CKC breeder and is vital in the event your dog should ever go missing. An identification tag is sent by the CKC directly to all new owners. Once received, you can use the tag number to access the Homesafe program and update and maintain your dogs information for recovery purposes. If you move, add a second pet or want to keep vet records you are able to do so with Homesafe.

Buyer Beware

A common misconception is that breeders are in some way "licensed" or “registered” by the CKC; this is not the case. A breeder may reserve a unique kennel name for the purpose of identifying their dogs’ origin but a registered kennel name is not a license. Beyond fulfilling the legal requirements of the Animal Pedigree Act for registration purposes, the CKC does not and cannot control breeding practices. The quality of any animal is, and always has been, in the hands of the individual breeder and many thousands of healthy, happy dogs are obtained from CKC member breeders every year.

Purchase and/or sale transactions, guarantees regarding health, temperament or any other issues are private undertakings agreed upon at the time of sale between buyer and seller. Please understand that the CKC does not refer or recommend individual breeders and is not a party to the purchase and/or sale of any individual purebred dog. Therefore, any and all issues arising from, but not limited to, the death or health/temperament concerns or any other concern excepting issues related to the registration of the dog must be addressed directly between buyer and seller. We recommend that prospective buyers visit a number of kennels and find a breeder that they are happy dealing with, who will provide full documentation and after sale advice.