FINDING AN ACCOUNTABLE BREEDER

Adding a new puppy to your family can be very exciting, but deciding on what breed best suits you and your family is only part of the process. Just as much time should be spent on selecting your breeder. 

Ensure the breeder is committed to educating and supporting their puppy families. 

Ask the breeder if they perform health and genetic testing on their breeding dogs. 

Be Prepared to Wait. Most accountable breeders spend several months or a year or more to bring home a puppy. 

Research if the breeder is active in their canine communities through membership in a national kennel club like the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC), as well as breed and performance clubs. 

Don’t forget! Selling a dog as a purebred must be registered with a registry body incorporated under the Animal Protection Act; the date of sale unless contractually delayed based on the timing of spaying or neutering the dog. 

Double Check Your Sources. Common signs that might indicate your puppy is not coming from an accountable breeder include: 

The price of the puppies seems “too good to be true.” The price of transportation for puppies coming from other countries may be significantly lower than the total price of the puppy, including the transportation. 

The price of the puppy seems “too low” to buy. 

The seller doesn’t have an up-to-date website. 

The seller doesn’t have a public profile, contact information, or a blog to be followed. 

Schedule a visit with the breeder and puppies before you purchase your puppy. Whether in the breeder’s home or at a kennel, the space should be clean and comfortable for the puppy and people. 

Ask the breeder if your puppy will be checked by a veterinarian and microchipped before they are sent home. 

Understand the breeder’s application and selling process. A contract outlining your rights and responsibilities as a dog owner is an important detail that should be negotiated with a breeder. An accountable breeder will do what is necessary to ensure your puppy is healthy and well socialized prior to leaving their home as well as your lifestyle so they can transition smoothly to their new family. 

Find a CKC member breeder by contacting the National Breed Club for your selected breed by province at ckc.ca. You may also visit the CKC Puppy List, where you can search for available puppies from CKC Member Breeders by breed and province. 

Schedule a visit with the breeder and puppies at the breeder’s home or at a kennel. 

Smile (Check Your Reaction). The breeder’s facial expressions, body language, and overall demeanor should be positive towards the puppies. 

The breeder should not be rushed or hurried. 

The breeder should be open to answering all your questions and allowing you to spend time with the puppies. 

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