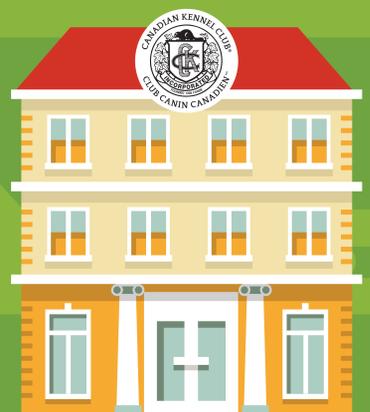


FINDING AN ACCOUNTABLE BREEDER

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.

Choosing an accountable breeder who will be a good fit for you and your family, can seem challenging, so we've compiled a list of key tips to help you find the right breeder!

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.



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 • Membership in CKC and national breed clubs demonstrates the breeder's commitment to following best practices as set out by the clubs. Most accountable breeders are entrenched in activities revolving around their dogs and their breeds, demonstrating how passionate they are.



Don't forget! Canadian law requires that any breeder selling a dog as a purebred must register the dog with a registry body incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act, such as CKC, and provide the new owner with the registration certificate within six months of the date of sale unless contractually delayed based on the timing of spaying or neutering the dog.



Ensure the breeder is committed to educating and supporting their puppy families • Confirm the breeder's involvement by asking for references of other families who currently own a dog from the breeder. Accountable breeders take the time to support their puppy families with guidance on breed-specific requirements related to health, grooming, instinctive behaviors and temperament.

Ask the breeder if they perform health and genetic testing on their breeding dogs • Before you purchase your puppy, ask to see the results of health tests for both the dam and the sire of your potential puppy's litter, as well as for previous generations. One of a breeder's primary goals should be to breed healthy, balanced and sound puppies.



Ask the breeder if your puppy will be checked by a veterinarian and microchipped before they are sent home • At a minimum, your puppy should come home with their first set of vaccinations, vet records and a unique identifier such as a microchip.



Schedule a visit with the breeder and puppies before you purchase your puppy • Whether in the breeder's home or in a kennel, the space should be clean with adequate room for the dogs, puppies and people.



Understand the breeder's application and selling process • A contract outlining your rights and responsibilities as a dog owner is an important detail that shouldn't be skipped by a breeder. An accountable breeder cares deeply about where and with whom their dogs will live for the rest of their lives and their questions help them get to know you and your family as well as your lifestyle so they can thoroughly confirm the fit.



Be Prepared to Wait • Most accountable breeders have waiting lists so you may be required to wait several months or a year or more to bring home a puppy.



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

- The seller doesn't have an up to date website, Facebook page, profile, or other publicly available source of information about themselves and/or their kennel
- The seller will not provide a documented receipt, including their full name, contact details, and address, for proof of deposit or purchase
- The price of the puppies seems "too good to be true"
- The seller has not asked many questions to evaluate the family's fit and has puppies available to go home "immediately" upon receipt of payments
- The advertisement uses terms like "rare" and/or the price of the puppy varies depending on genetic characteristics like coat colour or type, eye colour or body size
- You aren't allowed to pick up your own puppy to bring home and must use a "courier" or "pet delivery service" for transport but the seller won't specify the company they will use
- The seller only accepts payment through services like Western Union or MoneyGram
- The price of transportation for puppies coming from out of country is exceptionally low OR the seller claims to have unexpected extra costs arise

