

- 🐾 Check that the puppy's parents have been tested for hereditary diseases. If no certificates are available go to another breeder. If you need help understanding the results, ask your vet.
- 🐾 Ensure all the relevant paperwork is available for inspection when you visit the puppy. This should include a vaccination certificate, a health check report from a vet and a Pedigree or Kennel Club certificate. Remember, a Pedigree or Kennel Club certificate does not guarantee a perfect puppy – it's up to you to carry out the appropriate checks above. If your puppy appears unwell on collection, do not take it. Arrange with the breeder to return another day. If you have any doubts, choose another breeder.

Newspapers/internet adverts, pet shops and pet superstores – just don't go there!

Many dogs are bred for a quick profit by what is often referred to as a 'puppy farm'. They are raised without care or love and sold to unsuitable households. Many of these puppies are advertised through newspaper adverts or sold on the internet or at pet/puppy superstores and Dogs Trust strongly advises you do not buy your puppy from any of the above.

Be a responsible owner and neuter your dog – it's simply the best choice for you and your pet.

If you are interested in rehoming a dog, supporting Dogs Trust or for more information and factsheets about all aspects of dog ownership, please visit www.dogstrust.org.uk or contact:

**Dogs Trust
17 Wakley Street
London
EC1V 7RQ**

Tel: 020 7837 0006

**Reg. Charity Number: 227523
and SC037843**

Getting a Puppy



First step – think about it

Having a bouncy, happy, playful puppy is a very enjoyable experience. However it is also a big commitment, demanding in time, money and care. Remember, a puppy will grow into a dog and will be with you for many years to come.

Where to get your puppy

Why buy a puppy when there are thousands of lovely unwanted and abandoned dogs in need of homes at dog rescue centres all around the UK? Dogs Trust has 17 Rehoming Centres across the UK with thousands of dogs looking for new homes. If you adopt a puppy from Dogs Trust, we are there to offer help and advice for the rest of your dog's life should you need it. But if you still wish to buy a puppy from a breeder, ask your vet if they know of any reputable ones.

Take home a happy, healthy puppy

If you choose to get a puppy from a breeder, here are our top 10 tips to ensure you take home a happy and healthy puppy:

- 🐾 Make sure you see the puppy interacting with the rest of the litter and its mother. A puppy is not ready to leave its mother before it is 8 weeks old.
- 🐾 Ensure you see the puppy with the rest of the litter. The breeder should allow you to handle the puppies.
- 🐾 Visit the breeder at least twice before making the final collection. The breeder should allow you to handle the puppies each time you visit.
- 🐾 Check that the puppies have regular access to human contact – it is better that the puppies are being raised in a home environment, rather than a kennel, so that they become familiar with everyday sights, smells and sounds.
- 🐾 Check whether the facilities appear clean and the puppy seems alert and healthy.

- 🐾 There should be no discharge from its eyes or nose or any sores, bald patches or scabs on the skin. The puppy should be alert and show no obvious signs of illness such as coughing.
- 🐾 Find out whether the puppy has been wormed and vaccinated – some breeders will vaccinate puppies at 8 weeks of age before releasing them to their new owners.
- 🐾 If possible, request a written agreement that the purchase is subject to a satisfactory examination by your vet within 48 hours of purchase. Ask if the puppy will be covered by insurance for any illness during the first few weeks in your care – most good breeders subscribe to this scheme.

