



Buying a puppy checklist

Before buying a puppy

Have you considered:

- the financial costs and time needed?
- adopting a rescue dog instead of buying privately?

If you've decided to get a pedigree dog, have you:

- researched breeds and breeders?
- checked the Kennel Club's Assured Breeder scheme?

Pre-visit checks

Before you visit, find out as much as you can from the breeder.

About the puppy:

- age, and when they'll be ready to be rehomed (should be at least eight weeks old)
- health, worming and vaccination status
- pedigree registrations, if relevant
- current housing – ideally in a home environment
- what food the puppy has been eating
- whether they'll be introduced to different sights, sounds and people

About the mother:

- her age (she should be older than one but not very old)
- the number of litters she's had (should be fewer than six)

Other things to check:

- that the puppy will be microchipped (a legal requirement before sale)
- that you can view the puppy with their mother, and more than once
- if they're not an assured breeder, whether they'll use the Puppy Contract



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Meeting the breeder

Make sure you:

- meet the breeder and puppy in the place where the puppy lives

Check that:

- the environment looks safe and suitable
- the house feels like a home and not a place rented for the purpose (only relevant if it's a house, not kennels)
- the puppy looks active, healthy and has no signs of illness
- the puppy's mother is present and she seems healthy and content
- the puppy is interacting with their mother and littermates
- the puppy has been weaned (if not, they could be younger than claimed)
- all relevant paperwork is there: vaccination and vet records; pedigree registrations and documents (if relevant); microchipping documentation

Confirm with the breeder:

- that they'll give you a few days' worth of the puppy's current food
- that you can return the puppy if there are any health issues (we'd recommend using the [Puppy Contract](#))

If you decide to buy the puppy:

- arrange a date to pick them up - this should be from the breeder's premises
- book a vet health check for within 48 hours of that date
- agree when to complete the Puppy Contract if you're using it
- check that the puppy's paperwork will be ready to collect
- get everything prepared for your first few weeks with your new friend