



## QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEREVER YOU BUY YOUR PUPPY!

"PAWS-IBILITIES!"  
WITH DOGS!



**BREEDER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*REMEMBER: Puppies sold in NB must come with a Certificate of Health - ask for it!*

| QUESTIONS   | NOTES |
|---|-------|
| <p><b>1.) What were your goals for this litter?</b><br/>A good breeder plans litters ahead of time with clear goals in mind and will have carefully researched the choice of sire and dam. Know what you're looking for in a puppy – whether it be a show prospect, hunting companion or house pet – and choose a breeder of like mind. This question alone can give you great insight into the motivation for breeding.</p>  |       |
| <p><b>2.) Ask to meet the parents, and even to see 'Mom' interacting with the puppies. Yes!</b><br/>Meeting the puppy's parents will give you a better idea of what you can expect from your dog. How big are the parents? What do they look like? What kind of temperament do they have? These are all observations to take into consideration when meeting the parents to predict what your puppy will be like. It also assures you that the breeding pair are living in safe, healthy and ethical conditions.</p>  |       |
| <p><b>3.) Ask to see the sire's and dam's health clearances.</b><br/>A responsible breeder would never think of breeding a dog that hasn't passed the recommended health clearances. Routine tests vary according to breed – ask a veterinarian or check with the national club for the breed for what you should look for. You'll want to be sure that the breeder has tested the parents to be sure that they are healthy and have no genetic diseases common to the breed.<br/>IMPORTANT: This includes Is the dam current on her vaccines? Puppies receive their initial immunity directly from their mother. If her vaccines are not up to date, the puppies' ability to resist disease will be compromised.</p> |       |
| <p><b>4. Ask to see where the puppies, and 'Mom &amp; Dad', are being housed.</b><br/>The best way to raise puppies is in a home environment where they receive lots of handling and human contact. No amount of love and attention early in their formative weeks, can ever make up for a lack of early socialization.</p>   |       |

| QUESTIONS   | NOTES |
|---|-------|
| <p><b>5.) Ask how long have they been breeding and what is their experience with this breed.</b> You'll want to know what experience the breeder has with breeding and their specific breed. They should be knowledgeable about the breed's strengths and weaknesses and any genetic diseases that might affect the breed. Along these lines, you might want to ask the breeder if they are involved in any breed clubs, organizations, or canine sports.</p>   |       |
| <p><b>6.) Ask how do they socialize your puppies.</b><br/>Ask if the breeder is doing Early Neurological Stimulation (ENS). Is the breeding providing novel sounds, surfaces, sights, smells and positive experiences for the puppies during critical early socialization? It is very important that puppies are properly socialized so they become well-adjusted dogs. You should find out if the puppies have been around people and dogs, and if they are comfortable with a household environment. The puppies and other dogs should not be unusually shy or scared. Early socialization will help the puppy better adjust to new surroundings and life with you after you bring them home.</p> |       |
| <p><b>7.) Ask if the the puppies been examined by a vet for breed specific problems, &amp; are the puppies up-to-date on deworming &amp; vaccinations?</b><br/>Examinations are important for health and wellness, as well as early exams for genetic diseases/problems. Ask for the vet clearance paperwork. You should be sure that the breeder has taken the puppy to a veterinarian and knows where they are on their shot-schedule. This will also help you, so that you have the proper medical information when you bring the puppy home and you will know what shots they will need next.</p>   |       |
| <p><b>8.) Ask if the breeder provides a health guarantee and a contract?</b> Good breeders offer a health guarantee on their puppies, and you should consider the terms carefully. It is important to find out what kind of guarantee the breeder provides with their puppies. What happens if you find the puppy has a serious health condition? If you can no longer care for the puppy, will the breeder reclaim it? Reputable breeders are invested in the long term life of their puppies, and will be available to be contacted, and will help you or provide some resources if problems arise.</p>   |       |
| <p><b>9.) Ask when will you be expected to take the puppy home?</b><br/>The breeder should tell you not to expect to bring home the puppy until it is 8 to 12 weeks of age. 10 weeks can be optimum. Puppies need ample time to mature and socialize with their mother and litter mates. Taking a puppy away from this initial social network, can be detrimental to it's overall social &amp; behavior development.</p>  |       |

