

# Finding a Great Breeder

– What to look for and questions to ask



**TALK TO  
THE PAW**  
Dog Training and Behaviour

## What to look for in general

- Knowledge of the breed
- Genetic testing of common breed problems
- Clean, home enriched environment
- One breed only
- Able to see Dam (mum) and at least pictures and information about Sire (dad)
- Welcoming and make you feel like family
- Match you with the puppy rather than letting you choose





## How the puppies are raised



- Look for an enriched environment
- Indoors and outdoors
- Exposure to people, noises, household items, cars, other dogs and animals
- Handled every day
- Toilet training started
- Feeding separately with monitoring of food eaten and poops had
- Stress immunisation  
(one puppy isolated briefly)
- Stay with mum
- Weaned by Dam (not hand reared)



## Be prepared to be questioned on your

- Lifestyle and work
- Finances and insurance
- Accommodation and space
- Other animals
- Experience and ongoing plans
- Be prepared to sign a contract of no breeding
- Be prepared to sign a contract of return should your situation change



## Ask the breeder about

- Socialisation so far
- The individual behaviour traits of the line
- Health testing results
- Insurance
- Contract of return
- Weaning
- Feeding and toilet training
- Chipping and vaccinations
- Details of worming and flea treatments
- Ongoing contact



## **The Legal Bits (to protect you and your puppy)**

- Puppies must be chipped and vaccinated prior to leaving
- Puppies must have a vet record (including worming and flea treatment details)

## **Other ideal things to look for**

- A family tree
- Insurance
- Contract to say you will not breed
- Contract to say you will return your dog if your circumstances change
- Ongoing contact details and stay in touch





## Please walk away if

- You can't see the parents
- The environment is dirty or puppies are in a shed with lots of other litters
- The puppies look unhealthy
- They bring the puppies out to you
- You feel sorry for the puppy
- You do not feel welcome
- They try and get you to take another puppy at the same time

**And lastly, but importantly**

**BE PREPARED TO WAIT  
GOOD BREEDERS HAVE WAITING LISTS**

