

# Puppy Checklist

## Alyn says...

**Do** purchase your pup from a **reputable, licensed breeder** – plenty of breeders advertise online, but it's better to be safe than sorry.

**Do** put your detective skills to work and **search the phone number, breeder name and address**. If the breeder is dealing in multiple litters/breeds, they must have a licence and should be able to show it to you on request.

**Do** make sure you **inspect the puppy** before they're six weeks old and still with their mother. Pups can be reserved as young as 5 weeks.

**Don't** buy a puppy in a car park or let a seller deliver the puppy to your door! You want to take a good look at both the parents and the living conditions, so **insist on seeing the puppy at the breeder's home**. Are there food bowls and bedding? If the puppies look scared, they may not have been bred there.

**Do** check out the living conditions and ask a few questions about the **general health of the parents** and any hereditary conditions.

**Do** check **vaccination records**. They should be stamped by a veterinary practice – don't be shy about phoning the vet to confirm. If the vet is from outside the UK, this could be a sign your puppy has been smuggled under a false passport. Puppies should be wormed at 4, 6 and 8 weeks.

**Do** ask for the vaccination records, microchipping documents and any other **health certificates**. Get copies.

**Do** check if the puppy looks **healthy**. Sadly, smuggled puppies are often bred in poor conditions that can result in serious illnesses.

**Remember:** A responsible breeder will be happy to answer your questions; **don't be bullied out of asking for documents** and more information! Some animal welfare sites even offer puppy 'contracts' covering weight, diet and kennel club registration for you and the breeder to fill in and sign for extra peace of mind. After all, being a dog owner is serious business!

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