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## Choosing A Good Dog Breeder

By Luke Cameron

Are you planning on getting a dog? If you are, then you really need to read this. There are things

you need to consider before getting a dog. Of course, you don't want a sickly and ill-tempered dog, right? You want one that you will enjoy and will enjoy your company in return. You want a loving, loyal and happy pet. A healthy dog is a happy dog, don't forget that. That is why it is very important to find a dog breeder who has good breeding ethics and produces a kennel of healthy dogs.

There are so many dog breeders these days and they fall into different categories. Breeders in the first category are responsible and careful. They work hard to maintain the breed standards and make sure that their dogs are in excellent condition. These breeders make it a point to know the common genetic diseases of the breed and make sure that the dogs in their kennel are safe from such diseases. They strive to breed a new line of champions that will entail that the dogs in the kennel are nothing less than the best. The puppies from these breeders may be expensive, but you will be comforted to know that proper care has been given to the puppies to make sure that you will be given a great pet and companion.

The next category is the backyard breeders. These breeders very rarely show dogs, or not at all. They are not usually inclined to make money from breeding. Of course they earn from breeding their dogs, but they are not die-hard breeders. Usually they breed their dogs to be able to give to other people who would like to have a dog just like theirs. However, backyard breeders rarely take the time out to check their puppies for diseases and maintain the breed standard. However, some of their puppies can be healthy and are quite nice, too.

The final category of dog breeders is called puppy mill breeders. They are just in it for the money. They don't care about the well-being of the dogs at all. Most of the dogs in their kennel may not be properly cared for or not even been checked by a veterinarian at all! Puppies from this kind of breeders usually have poor health that may be genetic or acquired. The most common health problem of puppies from such mills is called Kennel Cough.

Now that you are aware of what kinds of dog breeders there are, it is time for you to find a good one and look for a dog to keep you company. Good breeders are not very easy to locate. The easiest way

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to find a good dog breeder is to attend dog shows, from there you can ask around and get suggestions on where to locate a dog breeder.

However there are still other ways to tell if a breeder is a good one.

First, you should take a look at how the breeder advertises his kennel. Breeders who advertise in newspapers are not exactly unethical. But be careful if the advertisement consists of several different breeds in their kennel. They just might be puppy mills.

Once you have contacted a breeder, ask if you can stop by their kennel to have a look at the puppies. Sometimes, breeders may not allow visits to their kennels for security reasons. But keep in mind that it may also be because the kennel is unhygienic and the dogs are in a miserable state.

Ask the breeder if the puppies have been checked by a veterinarian or if they have already been given vaccines. Ask if the breeder gives health guarantees.

Another thing you can do to ensure that you are buying from a good dog breeder is to ask for references. You can contact their previous clients and ask for information on how their puppies have turned out. If their responses are satisfactory, call the breeder's veterinarian and verify if the puppies have really been given primary health care.

If you are satisfied with your research on the dog breeder, you are prepared to bring home your beautiful little fluffy bundle of joy!

Luke Cameron is owner of Animals Booth – an online magazine offering news, tips and articles on pet related topics. His website can be found at:

<http://www.animalsbooth.com>

### **Finding A Dog Breeder**

**By Kirsten Hawkins**

If you're in the market for a purebred dog, you'll need to find a breeder from which to purchase the animal. This can often be as easy as opening the classified advertising section of your local newspaper, but you'll want to be sure that the breeder you've chosen is reputable. There are several ways to help ensure that the breeder you've found knows his stuff and is reliable, professional, and trustworthy.

Ask for References

Any good breeder will be able to provide you references of clients he has worked with in the past. These will be people who have purchased a puppy or utilized stud services and will be happy to share

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their experiences with you. Choosing a breeder that was used by someone you know is a good choice as well. If your friend or family member was happy with the service and treatment he or she received from the breeder, the odds are good that you will be as well.

### Prepare to be Asked Questions

A good breeder will have as many questions for you as you have for him, perhaps more. Good breeders work to ensure that the dogs they breed are placed with the correct people. They may ask whether you have children, what size home or yard you have, and numerous other questions to help them let you know whether the dog you're seeking is right for you and your family. A breeder that doesn't ask these types of questions may be looking just for the money from the sale of the dog and is probably not the sort of breeder you want to do business with. A good breeder always has the best interest of both the dog and the clients in mind.

### Guarantees

A good breeder will have had the puppies checked for potential health risks before ever selling the animal. Some problems, however, simply are not detectable until later in life. If you purchase a golden retriever pup, for example, and six months later discover that it has hip dysplasia (a genetic defect in the animal's hip joints, it is often nearly undetectable until the animal is several months old), a good breeder will issue a refund to you, no questions asked. Genetic defects like this are avoided by the use of selective breeding (hip dysplasia in dogs has between a 25% and 85% chance that it is genetic in origin), but sometimes a pup will display the disorder even if there is no trace of it in either parent's history.

### Other Sources

Aside from looking in the newspaper or on the internet for a dog breeder, breeders can be found through veterinarian's offices, pet supply stores, and at dog shows. Dog shows are a very good choice since the breeders that attend these events are often showing one of their dogs or are there to see the performance of one that they bred and sold in the past.

Kirsten Hawkins is a dog lover and animal expert from Nashville, TN. Visit

<http://www.doghealth411.com/>

for more information on dog health, the care of dogs, and dog travel.



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