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**Finding a Breeder**

**By Pixiedust Papillons and Phalenes**

**Finding a Breeder**

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If you are looking for a Papillon or Phalene puppy for sale

Much has been written on how to find a reputable breeder. All in an attempt to put a stop to pet mills and abandoned dogs. But too many prospective puppy buyers are just as irresponsible as some breeders. So now, serious, quality breeders, have taken steps to protect both their dogs and their privacy.

Times have changed a great deal, so have puppy buyers and breeders. More people live in apartments or have small yards. As the population ages and there are more 'empty nests', demands for companion pets have changed. Small dogs that are easy to keep inside and dogs that require less exercise room are becoming more desirable. So why should looking for a Papillon or Phalene puppy for sale be any different than looking for some of the more common, large breed dogs? Let's go step by step with an explanation from the breeder's point of view.

Pick of the litter. This comes from the large litters that big dogs can have. Large dogs can have 10 or more pups, while Papillons and Phalenes may have 1 to 4 puppies in a litter. Large litters usually have a couple of large puppies and maybe a smaller "runt". The smallest puppy in a Papillon or Phalene litter is usually small because of careful breeding, not the weakness usually thought of in "runts", These are also the most sought after. If the breeder has a waiting list, the best Papillon or Phalene puppy will go to someone wanting a show Papillon or Phalene. A person wanting a pet Papillon or Phalene and only paying pet price will not get to "pick" the show Papillon or Phalene puppy. A direct quote from Cornell University's DOG WATCH Newsletter, Vol.1, No. 8, Oct 97, states "No one has yet been able to find a direct correlation between a dog's behavior at seven weeks and at two years." Good breeders try to match the person with the puppy the buyer desires. Another quote from the same source states " good breeders who know their dogs and how to interview the prospective owners often can do a better job of picking the right pup than the prospective owners themselves."

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Seeing the parents. Many times only the mother of the Phalene or Papillon puppy is available for the buyer to see. Good breeders often go to someone with a superior male to improve the quality of their Phalenes and Papillons. Buyers should not be discouraged to see only one parent of the puppy. Buyers may not understand the toll that having puppies takes on the mother. If she is a long-haired breed, she may have been clipped by the owner for her comfort and for the good of the pups. She will not look ready for the show ring at the time the pups are ready to go. These things need to be considered when seeing the parents of a Phalene or Papillon puppy.

Viewing the kennel or home. This is where the greatest change is taking place today. Papillons and Phalenes are more popular than ever. A buyer usually does not realize the number of calls a breeder who has Phalene or Papillon puppies for sale can get every day from people who just want to see what Papillons or Phalenes look like, with no intention of buying a puppy. Directly related stories and personal experiences of breeders indicate that potential buyers and "window shoppers" abuse this piece of advice the most! Breeders have outside jobs, family obligations and , of course, the Papillons

and Phalenes. They are rarely sitting around for the sole convenience of visitors! Here are just a few ways that the words "kennel inspection" have been interpreted and abused by some claiming to be looking for Papillon puppies for sale:: they are on vacation and in your town. They phone and want to see your Phalene or Papillon puppies (in the next 15 minutes)----only because you happen to be nearby when they run out of sights to see! OR a family or friend are visiting for the weekend, so looking at your puppies would be a good way to pass the time. OR, the grandkids are visiting and it is time to take them out for a while!

None of these people called to make an appointment. None had any desire to buy a Papillon or Phalene. They used the "kennel inspection " excuse to treat the breeder like a free petting zoo, there to entertain them when they have nothing else to do. Now add to this the number of people who are truly doing their best to find the right Phalene or Papillon puppy for sale for them..

Breeders have other things to worry about in addition to inconsiderate, bored window shoppers. Puppy diseases are easily spread by even the most casual contact. The best breeders will not allow their puppies to be seen or handled until the puppy has had it's first shots, usually not before 5 weeks old. By this time, the breeder may have deposits on the Papillon or Phalene puppies from people who are more familiar with the breed and the breeder's pedigrees. This can be frustrating to the pet buyer who is taking the advice usually printed about finding a breeder with Phalene or Papillon puppies for sale.

Buyers should not be offended if the breeder suggests a first meeting at a dog show or other place. This gives the breeder time to meet the potential owner of one of their precious babies, and gives the buyer the chance to see other Papillons and Phalenes.

Unless the breeder is also a public groomer or boarding kennel, they may not carry the type of insurance that would protect them from minor lawsuits. This can be a problem when people insist on bringing a small child or their current dog to see the puppies. Children have been known to wander around the breeders home, peering into kitchen cabinets, pulling flowers and bulbs from the garden, and even attempting to enter bedrooms, basements and garages! Careless parents have handed small puppies to a child, only to have the child drop the puppy and break it's leg!

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Some adults are worse (because they should know better). They do not seem to understand that they are in a breeder's HOME, and do not respect the breeder's privacy. Some breeders do not allow others to see or handle puppies that have a deposit on them, as these puppies are now the property of others. This disturbs some buyers, but remember, the breeder will protect the puppy YOU buy from strangers. There are some people who do not know when to leave. The breeder may have to go to work, cook supper, answer the phone or any number of life's activities.

Then there is the breeder's nightmare—thieves! I am a member of a large, all-breed, show-sponsoring club. At our last show, flyers had to be posted warning owners to watch their dogs because of a recent rash of dog thefts. Papillons and Phalenes are popular, hard to get and easy to carry off! Breeders have had puppies stolen from their home when they went to answer the phone while the "prospective" buyers were looking at the puppies. Others have lost puppies after showing the puppies, only to have the "buyer" return when the owner was not home, to break in and steal all the puppies. Even more disturbing, some have had their home robbed of personal property several days after showing the puppies and allowing a "kennel inspection", even though they had NO kennel, just a spare room for the puppy nursery. All because they had a Papillon or Phalene puppy for sale.

There are some very dedicated breeders who live alone. In society today, they have to exercise even

more caution to insure their safety and peace of mind. They may not desire to have a stranger visit, but they may still be producing wonderful Phalene or Papillon puppies. To not consider one of these simply because you cannot go to their home may deprive you of the very Papillon or Phalene puppy you are searching for!

Some want to bring cameras and take pictures of the puppies and the home.

This is truly an invasion of privacy! Besides the obvious objection to this, the pictures may not be well taken. Many breeders go to great pains to have quality pictures taken of their dogs. If you want pictures, ask for some from the breeder, they will be happy to give you good ones. If you buy a Phalene or Papillon puppy, do not take photos at the breeder's home without permission. After all, the puppy will not change in the time it takes for you to get to your own home.

References. This is another area that needs to be re-considered. All the things that apply to the breeder also apply to those who own a puppy. They did not get a Phalene or Papillon puppy so that strangers can call or even attempt to visit to see a dog that they bought as a family pet. Add to this, that this is probably the most inaccurate way to determine a breeder's quality. Anyone can give you the phone number of a friend. Even Vets do not make good references, as many have no idea of the standard for the breed, although they should be knowledgeable on health matters.

A much better way to compare breeders who have Phalene or Papillon puppies for sale is to look at the guarantee that they offer. Do not expect every guarantee to be the same.

Breeding practices have changed because of buyer education. Now buying practices need to adjust to better serve the buying public and protect the breeder and puppies

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So what should you expect to do to get a great Phalene or Papillon puppy? First, know the breed. Do not expect the breeder to supply you with a library of information simply because you have a casual interest or are investigating several breeds.. Go to the library and read up on the breed if you know nothing about it. If you have never seen the breed, go to a dog show, It is not the breeder's job to put on a private show of all their dogs just because they may have Papillon or Phalene puppies for sale. You are not entitled to see all their Papillons and Phalenes—only the parents! Then you will be prepared to ask the breeder specific questions relating to their dogs and your desires.

Pixiedust is a premier breeder of papillon and phalene dogs for pet or show.

## **How To Spot A Great Pit Bull Breeder: 7 Signs Of A Good Dog Breeder**

**By Tim Amherst**

If you're searching for a Pit Bull terrier puppy but are unsure about where to look for one, this is an important article for you to read. Many people are afraid to ask questions when they speak with breeders and this is the first hurdle that you need to get over. It is vital for you to ask questions when you are speaking with different breeders. Below is a list that I've created of some very important things you should look for and ask of the Pit Bull terrier breeders you're considering doing business with.

1. Does the breeder breed several different types of dogs? This can often be a red flag and you should try to stick with breeders who only work with American Pit Bull Terriers.
2. A responsible Pit Bull breeder will be able to tell you the negative characteristics and health issues of his breeding line and also what he has done over the years to improve that aspect of his dogs.
3. Can the breeder thoroughly explain to you how he selects dogs for breeding and what characteristics they will most likely throw?
4. How often does the breeder have litters of puppies? Breeders who have many, many litters each year may not be a good choice.
5. Is the breeder involved with Pit Bulls on a larger scale than just breeding them?.
6. Does the breeder keep in touch with those who have purchased puppies from him? Breeders who sell pups and then have no idea where they end up should be avoided.
7. Where does the breeder keep his puppies at before they are sold? Are they well socialized?

There are many other things that you could ask the Pit Bull breeders that you speak with, however the above list will give you an excellent start and greatly improve the chances that you'll end up with an excellent Pit Bull terrier puppy.

To learn all about owning, raising, and caring for American Pit Bull Terriers, visit

today!

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