

Getting a Puppy from a Breeder

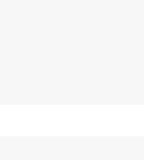


Find the right breeder.
Give your puppy the best start.

A puppy is a big commitment, and choosing where they come from matters just as much as choosing the right breed. A responsible breeder prioritises health, welfare and temperament, helping set you and your puppy up for a long, happy life.

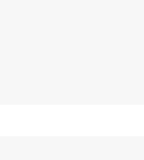
1 Find where to start

A good breeder can take some finding. Start in the right places:



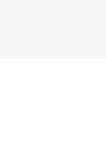
Breed Clubs

Breeder guidance + breed-specific health-test advice.



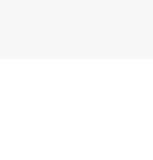
Royal Kennel Club

Find a Puppy + check registered parents' health information.



Discover Dogs

Meet breed representatives and owners at Crufts.



Local experts & owners

Ask vets, behaviourists, trainers and owners for recommendations. Be prepared to travel and wait for the right puppy.

2 Check. Good breeder or red flag?

Good signs



Parents appropriately health tested.



Puppies reared in the home.



Happy for you to visit and meet mum.



Puppies positively socialised.



Offers ongoing advice and support.



Takes lifelong responsibility for their puppies.

Red flags



Multiple breeds/litters constantly available.



You can't see the puppies with mum.



No health-test certificates or veterinary records.



"Rare colours", extreme pricing, discounts or two-for-one offers.



Dogs appear unhealthy, dirty, fearful or poorly cared for.



More interested in your money than your home.

3 Visit. Look beyond the cute puppy



4 Ask 10 questions before you choose & be ready for them to question you

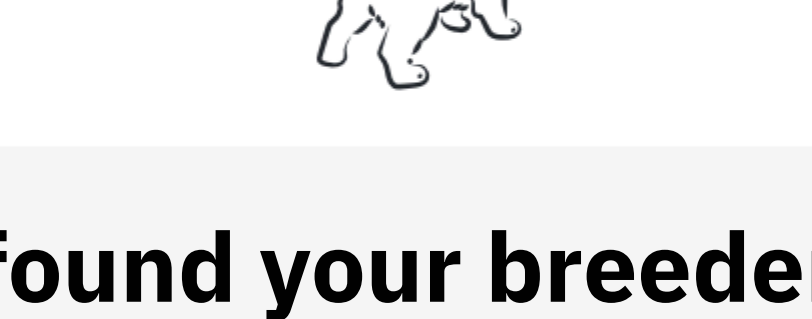
1. Parents health tested?
2. Where are puppies reared?
3. How are they socialised?
4. Can I meet mum?
5. Previous litters?
6. Health, vaccinations & microchip? What's the breed really like to live with?
7. Working or show lines?
8. What lifelong support do you provide?
9. Tell me about my puppy. What do they enjoy? What makes them feel safe? What makes them happy?
- 10.

Meet the dogs. Meet the breeder. See how they live together.

The breeder may ask about your time, experience, finances, home, exercise and how long the puppy will be alone.

Remember: They should be interviewing you as much as you interviewing them. e.g., "Convince me you'll be a good owner for one of my puppies."

A responsible breeder isn't just choosing buyers. They're choosing homes.



5 You've found your breeder. What happens next?



6 What should come with your puppy?

The essentials:

- Pedigree/registration if applicable
- Parent health-test certificates
- Vaccination & worming records
- Microchip details
- Food + feeding schedule
- Contract of sale

May also include:

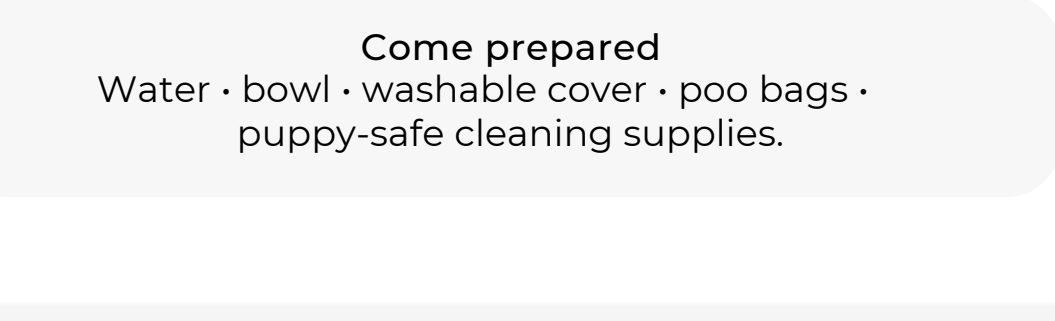


7 Bringing your puppy home

Bring someone with you
You can stay beside and reassure your puppy.

Travel securely
Use an appropriate secured crate/restraint.

Plan the journey
Quiet route, quieter time, stops if needed.



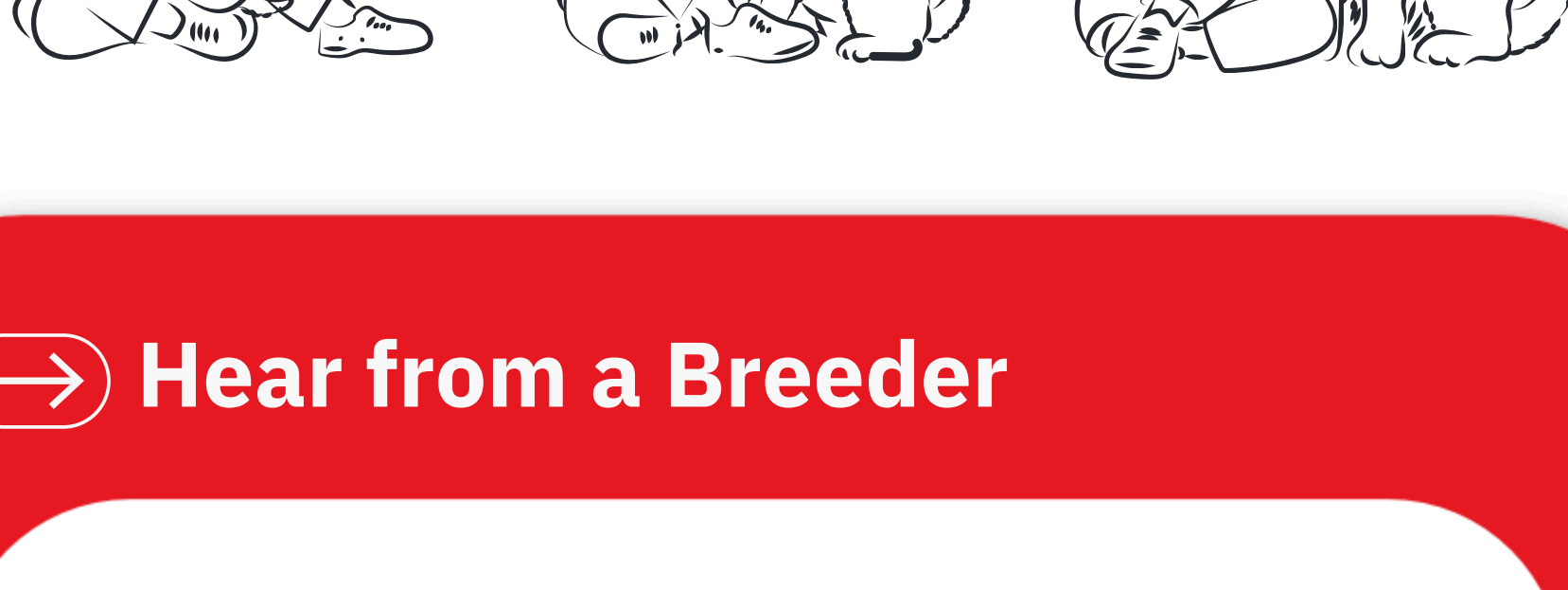
Come prepared
Water • bowl • washable cover • poo bags • puppy-safe cleaning supplies.

Keep them safe
your puppy may not yet be fully vaccinated, so avoid putting them on public ground unnecessarily.

8 Home. The start of the relationship

A good breeder can remain a source of advice throughout your dog's life and will often love receiving the occasional update.

Most puppies come home at around 8 weeks. Small/toy breeds may come home closer to 12.



→ Hear from a Breeder

PRO PLAN breeder

Heidi Allenby,

"Research the breed and make sure they suit your lifestyle and home. Check that the breeder is registered, and always meet them where the puppies are being raised."

See the dogs in their home environment, meet the parents where possible, and ask plenty of questions. Find out how the puppies are raised, what their temperaments are like and what they're being fed."

Heidi's nutrition choice
"We use PRO PLAN for all of our dogs, from puppies through to seniors."



NOT QUITE READY YET?



Which breed?



Need a name?



More puppy help?

Breed selector

Name generator

Puppy guides