



The Responsible Puppy Sourcing Checklist:

Congratulations on deciding to get a new puppy!

Before committing to any puppy, we recommend researching the right breed of dog for you and your lifestyle.

We've created this handy checklist to help you find a responsible breeder and source a healthy, happy puppy.

- Look for puppies advertised with plenty of information, photos and a breeder who is happy to answer questions
- Check if the puppy's breed is prone to any inherited (genetic) conditions. If they are, ask if the breeder has done any relevant health screening for the parents. If so, what did the results show?
- Make sure you can see the puppy with their mum and any siblings
- Make sure the puppy is being raised in a loving environment that will encourage them to start building good social skills
- Check that the puppy will be eight weeks old and microchipped by the time they can go to their new home (this is a legal requirement)
- Ask the breeder whether the puppy has been wormed.
- Ask if the puppy has been health checked by a vet. If so, were any concerns noted?
- Check if the breeder intends to start the puppy's vaccination course. Will they have had their first vaccine or their complete primary course by the time they go to their new home?
- Ask questions if the puppy already has a pet passport (the puppy may have had a long journey to be sold in the UK and there is often no way of guaranteeing what their early life has been like, or how this might affect their development going forwards).
- Ask whether you will receive a puppy pack with all the relevant information you'll need to know about your puppy. Some breeders will also provide a sample of the food and a comfort item that smells of the puppy's mum to help them settle into their new home.
- Avoid any breeders offering to handover a puppy in a public place or drop them off at your home, especially if they have had little or no contact with you previously.
- Check whether the breeder is happy to stay in touch and provide follow up advice.

Following this checklist will help you to responsibly source a puppy who has had the best start in life.

If you are ever unsure or need further advice, please reach out to your local veterinary practice for further support. It's also worth noting that rescue centres have puppies available from time to time.