

Selecting your breeder

Take time selecting your puppy and visit as many breeders as you can. Take note of the cleanliness of premises, general health of both dogs and puppies, and the willingness of the breeder to answer questions, show photos, pedigrees and other relevant documents.

Responsible breeders will

- Openly discuss both positive and negative aspects of the breed
- Show you and allow you to handle dogs and puppies on the premises
- Have happy, healthy dogs in clean living quarters
- Allow you to make regular visits
- Ask *you* questions

Responsible breeders will provide

- ✓ Complete vaccination records
- ✓ Puppy care and diet sheet
- ✓ Further help and advice

Remember

- Talk to and visit as many breeders as possible
- Ask as many questions as you can think of
- Be prepared to have questions asked of you
- Talk to breed clubs and the CAWA

Responsible breeders will *care* about the future well-being of their puppies.

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For further assistance, contact:

THE CANINE ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

Cnr Ranford and Warton Roads, Southern River
Postal Address: P O Box 1404 Canning Vale WA 6970
Phone: 08 9455 1188 between 9am to 4pm
Fax: 08 9455 1190

Email: k9@cawa.asn.au
Visit our web site at www.cawa.asn.au

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FINDING THE RIGHT BREEDER

*The CAWA can help you
make an informed decision*



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***Promoting responsible dog
ownership***

Questions you should ask

Choosing a breeder and selecting your puppy takes time and thought. Remember to ask questions such as these before meeting your new family member.

- Can we visit before deciding on our breed?
- Why did you choose this breed and how long have you been involved with it?
- Do you have other breeds or other litters available?
- If we decide on your breed/litter, can we visit regularly before choosing our pup?
- Can we see the dam/sire or other family members?
- Can we see all the litter together?
- At what age can we take the puppy home?
- When are the puppies wormed and vaccinated?
- Are the puppies registered with the Canine Association of Western Australia?
- Are there any hereditary conditions in the breed?
If so, can we see certification of results/scoring?
- Can we have the puppy checked by our vet before we buy?
- If any unforeseen conditions arise, can the puppy be returned?

Take time making your selection as your puppy will grow into a *lifetime* responsibility and be with you for many years.

Finding the Right Breeder ... for you

Once you feel confident the breed you have chosen will suit your lifestyle and commitments, it's time to find a breeder, and hopefully a new addition to your family will be forthcoming in the near future.

No doubt you have already taken a considerable amount of time considering which breed is right for you, the amount of exercise and grooming required, the size of the adult dog and the cost to keep, the reasons for selecting your chosen breed and some of the activities in which you and your family would like to participate.

You may have attended dog shows to help choose your breed, but did you talk to breeders and exhibitors with the view to the actual purchase of your new family member? Breeders are always on hand at shows to answer questions. They are the best source for obtaining a healthy, well-raised and well-bred puppy.

Breeding quality dogs of sound mind and body is taken very seriously and many hours are spent comparing dogs and pedigrees before decisions are made regarding matings. Responsible breeders will always consider the advancement and improvement of the breed before breeding a litter.

Some people are purely motivated by profit and only breed to produce puppies for sale. Look for other litters on the premises of both your chosen breed and other breeds. Ask when the next litter is planned.

The responsible breeder will help you with your choice and selection of a puppy and will be willing to provide ongoing support and advice as your puppy matures. They will also answer more in-depth questions about the finer details of the breed.

Responsible breeders *care*. They raise happy and healthy puppies. This should also be reflected in the condition and temperament of the adults living on the premises. Their living quarters should be clean and all dogs should appear to be well cared for. The puppies should also be clean, well conditioned, lively and friendly.

Responsible breeders should proudly show you all the dogs on their premises, and allow you to handle all the puppies in a litter as soon as they have been weaned. The mother of the puppies should be in good condition, clean, happy and active. If the father lives elsewhere you could ask for the owner's contact details or to see photos of him.

Most breeds have some hereditary conditions. Ask about test results and scores of parents and other members of the family, and whether there are other potential health problems to be watched for. Be wary of those who deny any such conditions exist in their breed. Also ask whether the breeder is prepared to have the puppy checked by your own vet and whether you can return your puppy if any health problems eventuate.

Puppies should not leave their breeder until they are 8 weeks old. They should have been treated for worms from approximately 2-3 weeks of age, and have had their first vaccination at approximately 6-7 weeks of age.

Vaccination records, a copy of the pedigree, and a puppy care and diet sheet should be available to you when or before you collect your puppy.

Responsible breeders should ask *you* questions! After all, you are the potential owner of *their baby* who they have put so much time and effort into breeding, and raising.

They will want to know why you chose this breed, how you propose to care for your puppy, what facilities you have prepared for him to live in, whether your premises are secure, whether he will be required to spend time alone, how your children feel about your new family member, and more!

The Canine Association of Western Australia can provide you with details and dates of shows and events and contact details for breeders and breed clubs.

All CAWA members are bound to adhere to a member's Code of Ethics relating to the keeping, welfare, breeding and selling of dogs.