



## 6 Characteristics of a Reputable Dog Breeder

When looking for a puppy, it is important to purchase one from a reputable breeder. This ensures the health and quality of your dog. Reputable breeders are concerned for the happiness and well-being of the animals in their care.

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Unfortunately there are a lot of irresponsible back-yard breeders on the loose. So how can you tell if a certain breeder is reputable or not? Here are 6 questions that will help you find out:

- 1. Does the Breeder Conduct Health Screenings?**  
Many breeds are prone to genetic diseases. For example, Golden Retrievers are susceptible to Hip Dysplasia. Dalmatians are prone to deafness. A responsible breeder will conduct tests to be sure each puppy is completely healthy. Both of the puppy's parents should also be tested.
- 2. Does the Breeder Use a Contract?**  
When purchasing a puppy from a reputable breeder, they'll ask you to sign a contract or letter of agreement. The contract should require you to return the puppy to the breeder if you are no longer able to care for it. It should also stipulate that you spay or neuter the puppy. This helps preserve the quality of the breed. Conscientious breeders do not allow their pups to be bred unless certain criteria's are met.
- 3. Does the Breeder Sell Puppies on Limited Registries?**  
For all true-hearted breeders, keeping their dog's bloodlines pure is essential. That's why they sell puppies on limited registries. Dogs sold through these registries should not be bred and none of their puppies can be registered. This helps maintain excellent family lines. It is a safeguard to prevent substandard dogs from reproducing.
- 4. Is the Breeder Familiar with the Puppy's Family History?**  
Breeding high-quality dogs takes time, effort and research. Serious breeders do not haphazardly select their breeding stock. A responsible breeder will be extremely familiar with their dog's heritage. They will also have met several generations from that family. A breeder who is familiar with your puppy's family tree can offer invaluable insights. They can help you understand your dog's longevity, temperament and health.
- 5. Is the Breeder Involved in the Dog Community?**

Reputable breeders are enthusiastic about their dogs. Many breeders try to prove their dog's quality by competing in events. This may include obedience trials, field trials, herding trials, earth dog trials, tracking events, agility events and sled dog racing.

5. **Does the Breeder Push You to Close the Deal?**

We've all heard those hard-sell speeches. That incredible "buy-now," "this is your last chance," "limited supply" offer. You know the advertiser is just out to make a buck.

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A reputable breeder should not fall into this category. If they do, it's a screeching red flag. A responsible breeder has the best interest of the puppy and family in mind. If they feel a particular dog is not a good match for you, they'll be the first to say so. They never sell through an auction or to the highest bidder. For a true breeder, the most important thing is finding a home that suits the dog, and a dog that suits the family. Getting rid of the puppy, or making a fat profit should never be the first thing on their mind.