



## HOW TO EVALUATE A POODLE BREEDER'S WEB SITE

Many dog owners begin their search for a pet on the Internet. Completing a purchase over the Internet is ill advised; you have no way to verify information posted and little recourse if problems arise. However, the Internet might be a fun and informative way to begin searching for a new dog.

Many reputable breeders now have web sites, and a number of organizations including VIP ( <http://www.vipoodle.org/> ) provide valuable information to help in searching for your next dog.

How does one identify reputable breeders to contact and interview?

### GOOD SIGNS

1. Health testing to be cross-referenced with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) site (<http://www.offa.org/>). If not listed on the OFA website, breeder **MUST** be willing to show you documentation of ALL test results. Testing must be appropriate for age and variety. See [http://www.vipoodle.org/docs/VIP\\_education.html](http://www.vipoodle.org/docs/VIP_education.html) and click on VIP Recommended Health Tests.
2. Titles (conformation, companion, or working) on dogs the breeder owns. This shows the breeder is currently active in the sport of purebred dogs, indicating that he or she is:
  - a. Proving their breeding stock.
  - b. Spending time and money on their dogs.
  - c. Actively in contact with the dog show world, where one can hear the scuttlebutt about problems in lines and obtain other valuable information.
3. Membership in a dog club, preferably an AKC (American Kennel Club), UKC (United Kennel Club) or CKC (Canadian Kennel Club) club.

## RED FLAGS

1. A breeder having numerous varieties or breeds.
2. A breeder using any of the newest “marketing buzz phrases” like Hunting Poodles, Royal Poodles or Teacup Poodles.
3. Breeder advertises that puppies are always available.
4. Breeding young (too young for proper health clearances). Standards and Miniatures should be 2 years old, and Toys 1 year old, before breeding.
5. No health testing or only partial health testing.
6. Breeder willing to sell and ship without personal contact.

If the breeder is still of interest to you after checking for “Good Signs” and “Red Flags,” look for referrals, as many as possible. The breeder referral contact for a local PCA affiliate club is a good place to start; see [http://www.vipoodle.org/docs/VIP\\_Breeders.html](http://www.vipoodle.org/docs/VIP_Breeders.html).

A reputable/responsible breeder will refer to another breeder they trust. For additional information on finding a new Poodle dog, puppy or older rescue, see: <http://www.vipoodle.org/docs/poodleclubs.html>.

*The information contained in this document is current at the time of this writing and is accurate to the best of VIP's knowledge.*

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For more information about VIP, you may contact VIP officers at <http://www.vipoodle.org/docs/aboutvip.html>.

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