



DON'T BE THE VICTIM OF AN UNETHICAL BREEDER

Don't buy from a pet shop (puppy mill) or backyard breeder! Purchase your puppy from a responsible breeder.

An ethical breeder will provide a healthy, well-socialized puppy that will be a good fit for you and your family. The best way to protect yourself from an unethical breeder is by knowing the ethical standards of responsible dog breeders.

An ethical breeder:

- ☺ Helps educate novice buyers; answers all questions about the breed and her dogs.
- ☺ Carefully interviews prospective buyers. Has specific requirements prospective owners must meet; e.g., spaying and neutering pets, fenced yards.
- ☺ Tests breeding stock and records that testing with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals.
- ☺ Breeds to decrease the incidence of known hereditary diseases.
- ☺ Sells by contract with a health guarantee.
- ☺ Gives the buyer health certificates and test results on the sire and dam of the puppies.
- ☺ Does not breed more litters than she can keep well groomed, socialized and housed long term if needed.
- ☺ Does not overbreed any individual bitch.
- ☺ Provides for taking a dog back if the buyer can no longer keep the dog.
- ☺ Spends individual time with each dog in her care every day.
- ☺ Produces puppies with excellent temperaments as well as health.
- ☺ Wants to be informed of any health or temperament problems her puppies develop.
- ☺ Is available to help the buyer throughout the puppy's lifetime.

Red flags that might indicate an unethical Poodle breeder:

- ☹ Uses the buzz word terms "Royal," "Teacup" or "Hunting Poodle."
- ☹ Says it's too expensive to test her dogs or she cannot find the test results.
- ☹ Offers to ship a puppy without personal contact with, or references for, the buyer.
- ☹ Has puppies available in numerous colors and varieties, or breeds.
- ☹ Breeds too young. No Poodle should be bred before it has received the appropriate genetic testing recommended for its variety. In Standard and Miniature Poodles this may be obtained at 2 years of age, and in Toy Poodles at 1 year of age.

For more information about choosing a breeder, see the following Versatility in Poodles (VIP) educational materials at www.vipoodle.org:

- Buying a Poodle
- How to Evaluate a Breeder
- How to Evaluate the Web Site of a Poodle Breeder
- Questions to Ask a Breeder (by variety)

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