



Checklist

for Finding a Responsible Breeder

Use this checklist as a guide when evaluating a breeder and their program.
A truly responsible breeder will be transparent, knowledgeable, and committed
to the lifelong well-being of their dogs.



1. HEALTH TESTING & GENETICS

- ☐ Health testing is appropriate for the breed and up to date.
- ☐ Results can be independently verified (OFA, PennHIP, CHIC, etc.).
- ☐ Both parents have been tested for recommended conditions.
- ☐ The breeder understands and can explain the results.
- ☐ Testing results are used to make informed breeding decisions.



2. BREEDING PRACTICES

- ☐ The breeder is focused on health, temperament, and structure—not just color, size, or trends.
- ☐ Dogs are bred with a purpose and with consideration for the breed.
- ☐ The breeder plans litters thoughtfully, not frequently.
- ☐ Dogs are not bred excessively and are given time to rest.



3. TEMPERAMENT & SOCIALIZATION

- ☐ Puppies are raised in the home and exposed to everyday sights, sounds, and handling.
- ☐ The breeder focuses on developing confident, well-rounded puppies.
- ☐ The breeder evaluates temperament and matches puppies appropriately when possible.



4. CARE & ENVIRONMENT

- ☐ Dogs live in clean, safe, enriching environments.
- ☐ The breeder is knowledgeable about the breed and genetics.
- ☐ Puppies have access to proper veterinary care.
- ☐ The breeder feeds a high-quality diet and follows good husbandry practices.



5. TRANSPARENCY & COMMUNICATION

- ☐ The breeder is open, honest, and willing to answer questions.
- ☐ You can visit the dogs and see where puppies are raised.
- ☐ The breeder provides a written health guarantee.
- ☐ The breeder offers lifetime support and takes puppies back at any time.



6. CONTRACT & POLICIES

- ☐ There is a clear written contract.
- ☐ Spay/neuter expectations are clearly outlined.
- ☐ The breeder explains their policies and stands by them.
- ☐ The best interest of the dog always comes first.



DOWNLOAD & PRINT

Save or print this checklist to take with you
during your breeder search.

TETHERED TIPS



Do Your Homework

Learn about the breed, its health concerns, and what to expect.
A responsible breeder will appreciate
your informed questions.



Visit in Person

Seeing the environment, the parents,
and how puppies are raised tells
you more than any website or
social media post.



Trust Your Instincts

You should feel comfortable, informed,
and respected. If something feels off,
keep looking.



Remember the Big Picture

A responsible breeder is invested in
the future of their dogs, not just
the next litter.

The right breeder cares about
the dogs they produce for
their entire lives.



*Knowledge leads to good choices.
Good choices lead to a lifetime
of love.*



Responsible breeding isn't about producing dogs with perfect paperwork.
It's about using every available tool to make thoughtful decisions,
reduce preventable risk, and protect the dogs and families who come next.



*Our dogs are family.
Our choices leave a legacy.*

