

ASSURED PUPPY BREEDERS SCHEME



SCOTTISH SPCA
ASSURED PUPPY BREEDER

WELCOME PACK

03000 999 999
scottishspca.org/assuredpup

Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals | Scottish Charity No. SC 006467



SCOTTISH SPCA
Scotland's Animal Welfare Charity



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WHY SHOULD PUPPY BREEDERS CHOOSE TO BECOME A 'SCOTTISH SPCA ASSURED PUPPY BREEDER'?

The Scottish SPCA together with many other organisations are campaigning to ensure members of the public buy puppies from reputable breeders and don't fall into the trap of buying from a puppy farm or illegal puppy dealer.
















The #SayNoToPuppyDealers campaign has resulted in a website being formed as a way of informing the general public on the do's and don'ts of buying a puppy. As part of this campaign it was decided that we would launch a 'Scottish SPCA Assured Puppy Breeder' Scheme to add that extra endorsement for good, reputable breeders. Those wishing to join the scheme will benefit in the following ways:

- 🐾 It's a FREE scheme to join.
- 🐾 Once registered as a 'Scottish SPCA Assured Puppy Breeder' the individual's details will be listed on the website www.saynotopuppydealers.co.uk as being a recognised and reputable Scottish breeder. There have been over a quarter of a million visits to this website since it went live.
- 🐾 All support materials with regards to advertising being an active member of the scheme will be provided by the Scottish SPCA.
- 🐾 The Scottish SPCA will provide a 'welcome to the scheme pack' to the breeder which includes lots of useful information for both breeders and buyers including a puppy contract. The puppy contract, developed by the Animal Welfare Foundation and RSPCA, must be completed between breeder and prospective owner when a puppy is set to move into its new forever home.
- 🐾 The reassurance that every breeder who has joined the scheme has been inspected and supported by their local Scottish SPCA Inspector and the Scottish SPCA has stamped their seal of approval.
- 🐾 Support will be available for both breeders and owners every day of the year.









STEPS A BREEDER SHOULD FOLLOW WHEN SELLING A PUP

An assured puppy breeder must:

-  Not sell puppies under the age of eight weeks old.
-  Only sell puppies at an age at which is appropriate to do so, taking in to account the breed and the vaccination requirements of the puppies and veterinary advice.
-  Notify the Scottish SPCA each time a litter has been produced and provide full registration details completing the Register a Litter tab on the Say No To Puppy Dealers Website. This would then be attached to the breeders file in the animal helpline.
-  Issue a 'Scottish SPCA welcome pack' to the owner of every puppy sold.
-  Must display an up to date certificate that demonstrates they are a member of the scheme.
-  Commit to rehome an animal if necessary for example if an owner deems they can no longer take care of the puppy they have bought.
-  Commit to the lifetime care for all non-breeding dogs on its premises which includes neutering of these dogs.
-  Notify the Scottish SPCA if at any time something has happened which would affect their membership of the Scheme or bring the Scheme or Scottish SPCA into disrepute.
-  Have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the buyer is able to provide a suitable home and provide an aftercare service within the first few weeks of that puppy leaving their care.
-  Allow buyers to view all facilities if requested.
-  Allow a buyer to view the puppies with their mother.
-  Allow the buyer to make contact with those who own the sire of the puppies if requested.
-  Allow the buyer to view all relevant paperwork such as licence details, microchipping details, vaccination records, worming and results for health screening where relevant.
-  Allow the buyer multiple visits to see the puppies if requested before the puppy is sold.
-  Meet all requirements listed in the Scottish SPCA's Assured Puppy Breeder Scheme - terms and conditions which can be downloaded from here <https://www.saynotopuppydealers.co.uk/become-a-scottish-sPCA-assured-puppy-breeder/>

WHAT MAKES A GOOD BREEDER?

A responsible breeder will:

-  Spend time chatting to you on the phone and will arrange a time for you to visit to meet their puppies, along with their mum and siblings, in the place where they were born and raised.
-  Be able to put you in touch with the owners of the sire (dad).
-  Be happy to have more than one meeting to ensure you and the puppy are compatible.
-  Be happy to answer all of your questions and ask you just as many to make sure their puppies are going to a good home.
-  Be happy to show you their local authority licence if they are breeding and selling pets as a business (to make a profit).
-  Provide genuine paperwork/certificates for puppy vaccinations, microchipping (which is a legal requirement), worming and results for health tests where relevant.

HELPING YOU TO BREED HEALTHY PUPPIES



*not affiliated with the Scottish SPCA

The Scottish SPCA Assured Puppy Breeder's Scheme works with the Canine Health Schemes to help you breed healthy puppies. At the Canine Health Schemes we are passionate about improving dog health and welfare, which is why we encourage all breeders to health screen their dogs before breeding from them.

What is dog health screening?

Health screening, otherwise known as health testing, checks for inherited diseases. The results are then used to help make sure that only healthy dogs are bred from, the outcome being healthy puppies. Responsible breeders should always carry out the relevant health tests for dogs they plan to use for breeding to help stop hereditary diseases being passed on.

About the Canine Health Schemes

We work with a team of expert vets to provide dog health screening schemes for a number of hereditary conditions to improve dog health and welfare. Using the schemes to health screen dogs will enable breeders to make informed and responsible breeding decisions. Scottish SPCA inspectors will be looking for evidence of screening tests that have been carried out as part of the inspection process.

The Canine Health Schemes

Hip Dysplasia Scheme

Hip dysplasia is a common inherited orthopaedic problem where abnormalities occur in the hip joints. The severity of hip dysplasia can vary from a poorly shaped hip joint with osteoarthritis (a common form of arthritis) to a very deformed hip joint with advanced and very painful osteoarthritis.

Common breeds at risk: Labrador Retriever, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever

Elbow Dysplasia Scheme

Elbow dysplasia is a common inherited orthopaedic problem in dogs where the elbow doesn't develop properly. Elbow dysplasia can lead to lameness (unable to walk correctly), osteoarthritis (a common form of arthritis), pain and serious effects on the health, behaviour and welfare of the dog.

Common breeds at risk: Rottweiler, Bernese Mountain Dog, Irish Water Spaniel

Eye Scheme

Many of the conditions we screen for can cause pain or blindness and may require surgery and on-going vet care. Certain conditions can develop as the dog gets older, which is why we recommend that all dogs used for breeding have annual eye tests.

Common breeds at risk: Cocker Spaniel, Miniature Schnauzer, Siberian Husky

Chiari Malformation/Syringomyelia Scheme

We work with expert vets to screen for chiari malformation and syringomyelia. Chiari malformation is a mismatch in size between the brain (which is too large) and the skull (which is too small). As a result, fluid filled cavities can develop within the spinal cord called syringomyelia. These conditions can cause extreme pain and have serious effects on a dog's health and welfare. The conditions are often found in the Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

Many other breeds are also at risk of all of these conditions including crossbreeds, for a full list and to find out more about screening your dog for these conditions, please visit www.bva.co.uk/Canine-Health-Schemes. You may also find further information at: www.dogbreedhealth.com.



Scottish SPCA Assured Puppy breeders receive a 15% discount when submitting to the Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Schemes online

4 WEEKS FREE INSURANCE FOR YOUR LITTER

Free pet insurance for new owners

The Scottish SPCA work in partnership with Petplan to help ensure puppies leaving your care have access to the veterinary treatment they need. There is no cost to you and no obligation for the new owner to provide their bank details or buy a full Petplan policy.

Petplan[®]

Summary of insurance cover

Duration of cover	4 weeks
Veterinary fee cover	Up to £4,000
Immediate cover for illness and injury	Starts the day puppies are collected by their new owners
Age limit	Valid for puppies aged eight weeks to 1 years old
Bank details required	No

Terms, conditions and excesses apply. No cover is provided for pre-existing conditions. Petplan is a trading name of Pet Plan Limited and Allianz Insurance plc.

JOIN THE PETPLAN BREEDER SCHEME



visit petplanbreeder.co.uk

or



call 0330 100 6981

please quote 'Scottish SPCA'

About Petplan

Over the last 40 years, Petplan has helped millions of pets through illness and injury. They have unrivalled experience in pet health and a breadth of insurance cover which is why they are able to pay 97% of all the claims receive and why thousands of vets choose to work in partnership with them.

Have a friend expecting a litter?

You can also earn reward credits for every free insurance policy you set up for the new owners. Credits can be exchanged for a range of high street vouchers such as Boots, Pets at Home and Amazon. Introduce a puppy or kitten breeder to the Petplan Breeder scheme and earn extra credits. When they activate their first free insurance policy, you'll both receive credits worth £10 each.









THE PUPPY CONTRACT

The Puppy Contract was developed by the Animal Welfare Foundation and the RSPCA has been designed as a free tool to encourage the responsible breeding and buying of puppies.

The principles that underpin The Puppy Contract are:

-  Every dog should be born with the best possible chance of living a healthy and happy life.
-  All those who breed dogs should prioritise health, welfare and temperament over appearance to protect the welfare of both the parents and offspring.
-  All those who benefit from dogs have a collective responsibility to work together to protect dog welfare.
-  Both the buyer and breeder have an obligation to protect the welfare of the animals in their care.

The following pages are editable and should be completed by breeder and buyer at point of sale and in person. Once completed this electronic pack should be saved and emailed directly to the buyer. Hard copies of this pack will be available.

puppycontract.org.uk





THE PUPPY CONTRACT

Information pack

To be completed by the breeder.

ABOUT THE BREEDER

1. Contact details

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss etc): _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

ABOUT THE SELLER (if different)

2. Contact details

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss etc): _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

ABOUT THE PUPPY'S MOTHER

3. Date of birth

/ / 2 0

4. What is the mother's microchip number? (15 digits)

5. Is the mother registered with a club or society? Yes No

State type of registration: (for example, Kennel Club, The Greyhound Studbook) _____

Registration number: _____

6. How many caesarean sections has the mother had, including this litter? _____

7. How many litters has the mother had, including this one? _____

8. How old was the mother when she had her first litter? _____ years _____ months

Was it on her first season? Yes No

9. Is the mother up to date with UK vaccinations? Yes No

If yes, is her vaccination certificate available to view? Yes No

10. When was the mother last treated for worms and which worming product was used?

Product used: _____ Date used: _____

11. Has the mother had any surgery to correct features that could be inherited by the puppy? Yes No

If yes, please give details: _____

ABOUT THE PUPPY'S FATHER

12. Owner's name and address

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss etc): _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

13. Father's date of birth

/ / 2 0

14. What is the father's microchip number? (15 digits)

15. Is the father registered with a club or society? Yes No

State type of registration: (for example, Kennel Club, The Greyhound Studbook) _____

Registration number: _____

16. Has the father had any surgery to correct features that could be inherited by the puppy? Yes No

If yes, please give details: _____



ABOUT THE PUPPY

17. Date of birth

		/			/	2	0		
--	--	---	--	--	---	---	---	--	--

18. Sex: Male Female

19. Colour and distinguishing marks

Please describe the puppy's

colour and distinguishing marks. _____

20. Is the puppy a specific breed? Yes No

If yes, state the breed. _____

21. Is the puppy a cross-breed? Yes No

State the breed (or breeds)

for each parent, if known.

Mother: _____

Father: _____

22. Is the puppy registered with a club or society? Yes No

State type of registration: (for example,
Kennel Club, The Greyhound Studbook) _____

Registration number: _____

Puppy's registered name: _____

23. Is the puppy subject to any Kennel Club endorsements? Yes No

If yes, please list them. _____

24. What is the puppy's microchip number? (15 digits)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

If the puppy can't be microchipped yet for veterinary reasons, a copy of the signed veterinary certificate should be attached.

25. Is the puppy covered by a breeder's insurance policy? Yes No

If yes, give the following details:

Insurance company: _____

Policy number: _____

Policy expiry date: _____

26. Was the puppy born by caesarean section? Yes No

27. Will the puppy be vaccinated before he/she is sold? Yes No

If yes, attach the vaccination record and fill in the date the next vaccination is due.



28. Give details of any worming treatments the puppy will have received.

Product used:	Date used:

29. Has the puppy's tail been docked? Yes No

If yes, a signed docking certificate should be attached. Yes No

30. If the puppy has had a health check or been treated by a vet for any reason please tick this box and give further details.

Date of treatment or check: _____

Type of treatment or check (if you need more space use the extra space given at Question 44.)

31. What is the puppy's current weight?

_____ kilograms _____ grams Date weight recorded: _____

32. What types of diet is the puppy currently being fed?

Dry Pouched or tinned Frozen

How much is the puppy fed each day? _____ grams (If more than one type state how much of each.)

State approximate times of day when the puppy is fed: _____

33. Will the buyer be given enough of the puppy's current food for at least one week? Yes No

34. Will toilet training be started before the puppy is sold? Yes No

If yes, where will the puppy be trained to toilet (for example, outside on grass)? _____

35. Where is the puppy kept for most of the time?

- In a kennel In a quiet part of the house
- In a part of the house where there is a lot of activity (for example, the kitchen)
- Other (please describe): _____



36. Before the sale, who will the puppy have interacted with? (Tick whichever apply)

- Adult males Adult females Children under four years old
 Children between four and 10 years old Children over 10 years old

37. Will the puppy have interacted with any of the following? (Tick whichever apply)

- Other dogs of the same breed or type Dogs of different breeds or types Cats Rabbits
 Other animals (state which): _____

38. Will the puppy have experienced any of the following? (Tick whichever apply)

- Wearing a collar or harness
 Being briefly separated from his or her mother and littermates in the company of people
 Being in a restricted environment (for example, an indoor kennel)
 Hearing household noises. For example, washing machine, vacuum cleaner (see box below).
 Hearing real or recorded noises. For example, fireworks or traffic.

Describe these experiences (washing machine, traffic noise and so on):

39. Before the sale, will the new owner have the chance to see and interact with any of the following?

- The puppy's mother (this is a legal requirement for licensed breeders in England)
 The puppy's father Other puppies in the litter

40. Is the puppy's pedigree known? Yes No

If yes, is the puppy's pedigree certificate attached to this information pack? Yes No

41. What is the relationship between the puppy's parents?

- Unrelated Distantly related (for example, second or third cousins)
 Third degree relatives (first cousins) Unknown

42. How inbred is the puppy? See guidance notes for help.

State COI or leave blank if unknown. _____



INHERITED CONDITIONS AND SCREENING/DNA TESTS

43. Inherited conditions and screening/DNA tests

Fill in this section to note common or serious inherited conditions in the breed (or breeds) and to record any related screening or DNA tests carried out on the puppy and his/her parents.

Please see the guidance notes for where to find information on canine inherited disorders.

Information should be completed:

- For the mother if she is a specific breed or a cross between two specific breeds;
- For the father if he is a specific breed or a cross between two specific breeds
- If the puppy is a specific breed or cross between two breeds and tests are available.

Mother's breed or breeds

Common or serious inherited conditions in breed	Screening or DNA test available		Test carried out		Date of test	Results available		Results certificate given to buyer		If testing has been carried out and the results are not available or if testing does not apply please state why
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Father's breed or breeds

Common or serious inherited conditions in breed	Screening or DNA test available		Test carried out		Date of test	Results available		Results certificate given to buyer		If testing has been carried out and the results are not available or if testing does not apply please state why
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Puppy's breed or breeds

Common or serious inherited conditions in breed	Screening or DNA test available		Test carried out		Date of test	Results available		Results certificate given to buyer		If testing has been carried out and the results are not available or if testing does not apply please state why
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

EXTRA INFORMATION

44. Use this space to include any extra information about the puppy.

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Guidance notes

ABOUT THE BREEDER

Q1 & Q2: About the breeder or seller

It is strongly recommended that you do not buy a puppy from anyone other than the breeder so that you can see the puppy interacting with his/her mother and siblings in the place where he/she was born and reared.

ABOUT THE PUPPY'S MOTHER

Q4: What is the mother's microchip number?

Microchipping is the best way for dogs and puppies to be identified and returned to their owners if they get lost or stolen. It is a legal requirement in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that all dogs over the age of eight weeks are microchipped.

Q6: How many caesarean sections has the mother had, including this litter?

A caesarean section is an operation to take the puppies out of the mother when she hasn't been able to give birth naturally. It is a major operation which can cause problems for the mother and puppies.

Some breeds and some individual mothers struggle to give birth naturally and may end up needing a caesarean every time. Vets feel that these dogs should not be bred from. So you should avoid buying puppies from mothers who have had more than one caesarean. This is especially important if the puppy is a female you want to breed from, otherwise she may have trouble giving birth herself.

In England, licensed breeders must not breed from a dog who has already had two caesarean sections.

Q7: How many litters has the mother had, including this one?

Pregnancy, birth and rearing puppies all take a lot of energy and work for any mother. She may have problems such as difficulty giving birth and poor body condition if her nutritional needs aren't met. Mothers should be allowed at least one season between litters. Avoid puppies from mothers that have had many litters, as this may be a sign that the breeder has expected too much from the mother and may also mean that the care and condition of the puppy might not be ideal either.

Q 8: How old was the mother when she had her first litter and was it on her first season?

Responsible breeders should not breed from their bitch's first season and should not breed from bitches under one year old. This makes sure the mother is fully grown, mature and is as capable as possible of coping with pregnancy and birth. Different breeds mature at different rates, so check with a vet for the appropriate age when breeding can start. Breeders who have ignored these laws or guidelines may not be very knowledgeable and caring about the mother, and as a result the puppy.

Q9: Is the mother up to date with UK vaccinations?

It is very important that the mother's routine vaccinations are up to date. She needs to be vaccinated to make sure her puppies are born with a good immunity to certain deadly diseases. This will keep the puppies healthy until they can be vaccinated themselves. Homeopathic vaccines should **not** have been used. Ask your vet if you are not sure what vaccines the mother should have had.

Q10: When was the mother last treated for worms and which product was used?

Regular worming of the mother, including during pregnancy, is important to make sure the puppies are not born infested with worms. Ask your vet about how effective the products listed are, and whether they are up to date. Avoid buying from breeders who do not vaccinate or worm their animals adequately.

Q11 and Q16: Has either parent had any surgery to correct features that could be inherited by the puppy?

Many breeds have been bred to emphasise certain features which over time have become more and more exaggerated. Although 'normal' for a breed, flat faces, heavy wrinkles and very floppy ears are just a few examples of features that may cause problems.

For example, dogs with short flat faces often have features that can cause breathing problems, such as narrow nostrils and tiny windpipes. They can suffer severe breathing difficulties and may even have difficulty enjoying a walk or playing. Folded or wrinkled skin may be itchy and painful, and infolding eyelids can scratch the eyeball. Some of these problems will require lifelong medication or sometimes surgery, both of which can be costly. These problems can cause significant health and welfare concerns for the dog and affect its quality of life, and can be very distressing for owners.

You should also be told if either parent has had surgery to fix a problem such as eyelids which rubbed on the eye, as this may no longer be obvious, but could still be inherited by the puppy.

It's important to know whether the parents are affected to give you an idea of how likely the puppy will be to get the same problems. Speak to your vet about any problems listed.

Before you buy a puppy find out which breeds are worst affected and try to avoid them. To find out more, talk to your vet or visit the following websites:

- Canine Inherited Disorders Database: www.upei.ca/cidd
- Get Puppy Smart: www.getpuppysmart.com
- Dog Breed Health: www.dogbreedhealth.com/

Breeders can also ask their vet and should use the websites above when listing the exaggerated features in their breed.

ABOUT THE PUPPY'S FATHER

Q12: Contact details: owner of the puppy's father

This information can only be included if the owner has given permission for their contact details to be shared with a prospective owner.

Q14: What is the father's microchip number?

See Guidance to Q4 above.

Q16: Has the father had any surgery to correct features that could be inherited by the puppy?

See the Guidance for Q11 above.

ABOUT THE PUPPY

Q17: Date of birth

The puppy should be at least 8 weeks old before they can leave their mum.

Q23: Is the puppy subject to any Kennel Club endorsements?

Before a puppy is sold the breeder can apply to the Kennel Club to place endorsements on his/her records (including the registration certificate). For example:

R – PROGENY NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION or
X – EXPORT PEDIGREE NOT ALLOWED.

The breeder must explain what the endorsements mean before you agree to buy the puppy.

Q24: What is the puppy's microchip number?

Microchipping is the best way for dogs and puppies to be identified and returned to their owners if they get lost or stolen. It is a legal requirement in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that all puppies are microchipped by the time they are eight weeks old and **before** they go to their new homes.

It is also a legal requirement for the new owner to contact the relevant database to update their records with their contact details.

A puppy is only exempt from being microchipped for health reasons if a vet certifies it in writing. In this case you should ask for a copy of the certificate and speak to your vet about getting your puppy microchipped.

Q25: Is the puppy covered by a breeder's insurance policy?

Breeders often insure their litters. Some insurance policies provide free cover for new owners against a puppy's illness or injury for a limited period after the puppy has been bought. Check the details.

Q26: Was this puppy born by caesarean section?

See Guidance to O6 about caesarean sections.

Q27: Will the puppy be vaccinated before being sold?

Vaccinations are very important to prevent certain deadly diseases such as parvovirus. If the mother was vaccinated properly the puppy should have resistance to these diseases for roughly the first 10 weeks of his/her life. If your puppy has been vaccinated, the breeder's vet will have given them a vaccination certificate which shows the vaccination date and the products used. Speak to your vet about whether the puppy needs any more vaccinations and when his/her first booster is due.

Q28: Details of worming treatments the puppy will have received

Regular worming is important for all puppies, whether the mother was wormed or not, for the health of puppies and humans. Ask your vet about any products listed and avoid buying from breeders who have not treated their dogs for worms at all.

Q29: Has the puppy's tail been docked?

The law bans tail docking in the UK except under certain conditions. In Scotland, a third of the tail may be removed in spaniels (of any breed or combination of breeds) or hunt point retrievers (of any breed or combination of breeds) if there is evidence that the dog is likely to be used for work in connection with the lawful shooting of animals. The procedure must be carried out by a vet, while the puppy is 5 days' old or less, in hygienic conditions, in such a way so as to minimise pain and suffering to the animal and in accordance with good industry practice. If the puppy has been docked legally you must be given a certificate signed by the vet who did the docking.

Tail docking involves removing a puppy's tail either by cutting it off or using a tight rubber band to make it die. Many animal welfare and veterinary organisations are strongly opposed to the practice unless the tail is injured or diseased. It causes pain and even death in some puppies and can cause long-term health problems. It can also reduce how well dogs can communicate with each other.

Q30: Has the puppy had a health check or been treated by a vet for any reason?

Many puppies don't need to see a vet before they leave their breeder. If your puppy has been checked or received any treatment, the breeder should give you details of anything abnormal that the vet noted. Talk to your vet if you are not sure about any of this information.

It's best to get your puppy examined by your vet as soon as you can, to make sure there are no problems and to get advice about things such as food, vaccination, worming, fleas, insurance, microchipping, neutering and socialisation.



Q31: What is the puppy's current weight?

There is no single correct weight for a puppy. However, it's really useful to know how much the puppy weighed when you got him so that your vet can see if he/she gains or loses weight.

Q32: Details of the puppy's diet

It is important that you know the type of food that the puppy is used to and how often and when he/she is used to being fed, so that these can all be kept as similar as possible when you take the puppy home. Puppies should be fed a weighed or measured amount of food at regular times.

Q33: Will the buyer be given enough of the puppy's current food for at least one week?

When you change to a new food, you should do this gradually over four to five days, with increasing amounts of the new food replacing the previous food each day. If you change the puppy's food too quickly, this can cause stomach upset or diarrhoea.

Q34: Will toilet training be started before the puppy is sold?

Puppies start to learn a preference at an early age for the surface that they toilet on. The more they use a particular surface, the stronger this preference becomes. You can then continue training the puppy in a similar way, or expect to be really patient and consistent if you want to change their preference.

Ask a professional trainer to help you with any further training of your puppy (www.abtcouncil.org.uk)

Q35: Where is the puppy kept for most of the time?

A puppy's early social and physical environment strongly influences their behaviour as adults. A puppy that has lived in a home environment, particularly in a part of it where people come and go, is more likely to be prepared for life in a home. Where puppies have been kept in kennels, you need to check that they have experienced some aspects of a normal home environment at least some of the time.

When you visit the puppy ask to see where he/she has been kept. Although you may be introduced to the puppy in a house, he/she may not usually be kept there. Are there food bowls, bedding, pens and so on?

Q36: The puppy's experience of contact with people

The period from 3–14 weeks of age in a puppy's life are critical in determining how he/she will react to people and new situations. Lack of social contact during this period increases the risk of behaviours associated with fear and anxiety later in life.

Puppies need to have contact with men, women and children during this period. In general, the more people that puppies have interacted with the better.

Puppies which have had positive experience of lots of different types of people are less likely to be wary when you handle and approach them. Ask the breeder if you can take as many members of your family as possible on your second visit. Watch carefully how the puppy responds to adults and children who are acting normally and reasonably. Look for signs of the puppy withdrawing, struggling to get away, cowering, putting their tail between their legs or hiding.

Q37: The puppy's contact with adult dogs and other animals

Puppies need to meet a variety of other dogs in order to learn social skills and how different types of dog communicate. If the puppy is vaccinated, ask to see him/her interacting with adult dogs other than his/her mother so you can see if he/she is confident and happy to interact and play with another dog.

If puppies have experience of other animals, they will be more likely to adapt quickly to any other animals they have to live with in your home. If the puppy is very excited or nervous with other animals, he/she will be more likely to be like this with other animals when you take him home.

If possible see what other animals are in the environment where the puppy lives and watch how he/she reacts to them.

Q38: The puppy's other experiences

Early exposure to a range of experiences and noises prepares the puppy for encountering this later in life so he/she remains calm and is less likely to be afraid when you take him home.

Watch how the puppy responds to things that are happening during your visit. Ask the breeder to show you how the puppy reacts to household noises, wearing a collar, or being separated briefly from littermates. He/she should stay calm.

Do not expose him/her to sudden new noises that he/she has not experienced before, or expect the breeder to do so.

Q39: Before the sale will the new owner have the chance to interact with the puppy's parents and other puppies in the litter if there are any?

Licensed breeders in England must only show you a puppy with his/her biological mother. Regardless of the law where you're buying your puppy, it is very important that you see the puppy's mother and the other puppies in the litter. You should also try to see the father if possible, although this may be difficult in some circumstances.

Make sure you interact with the parents, handle them if safe to do so, and assess their reaction to you. Check they appear healthy, check the environment that the mother and puppies are in and check the temperament of the mother, father and the rest of the litter. The parents' characteristics can influence how the puppies develop and behave. In particular, look for signs of fear, such as withdrawal, cowering, urination, and tail between the legs. Also watch for signs of aggression such as growling, lunging and barking.

Unscrupulous breeders may try to show you another dog instead of the puppy's mother. To avoid this, make sure you see the mother and puppies together, and check for signs that the dog you see has given birth recently, such as enlarged nipples. They may also give excuses for why the mother isn't there, such as "she's at the vets" or "she's gone for a walk". These are not valid reasons so you should avoid these breeders/sellers.

If the breeder answers 'no' in these sections, ask why you cannot see the father or the rest of the litter.

Q40: If the puppy's pedigree is known and a pedigree certificate will be attached

The pedigree certificate shows the puppy's ancestry and may go back up to five generations, starting with the puppy's parents in the left column through to the great- great-great grandparents in the right column. The top half shows the puppy's ancestry through his/her father and the bottom half is the mother's pedigree.

Q41: What is the relationship between the puppy's parents?

If the puppy's parents are related to each other, the puppy is inbred. The degree of inbreeding depends on how closely related the parents are. If an ancestor's name is repeated in both the father's and the mother's halves of the pedigree certificate, there is inbreeding.

Inbreeding is not desirable as it increases the risk of inherited disease such as cancer and blindness. Avoid a puppy from matings between first- or second-degree relatives, for example:

- first degree – mother/son, father/daughter, brother/sister; or
- second degree – uncle niece, aunt/nephew, grandparent/grandchild.

Q42: How inbred is the puppy?

It's important to avoid buying puppies that are very inbred because they have a higher chance of having inherited diseases and being unwell later in life. A simple way to describe this is the coefficient of inbreeding (COI). This is a number where the higher the number, the more inbred the puppy.

For example, a very inbred puppy would come from a mother-to-son mating or a brother-to-sister, both having a COI of 25. A less inbred puppy might come from a mating between a great-grandfather and great-granddaughter, with a lower score of 6.25.

Inbreeding can also build up through generations, so if a pedigree goes back a long way there can be very high scores (over 25).

Avoid puppies with a COI of over 12.5 and above the average for their breed.

Puppies whose background is not known cannot have a score calculated and in these cases the box will be left blank.

You can find the COI for puppies (and their parents) registered with the Kennel Club using their Mate Select service:

www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/mateselect/

You can also use Mate Select to find out the average COI for particular breeds.

INHERITED CONDITIONS AND SCREENING/DNA TESTS

Q43: Inherited disorders and screening tests

Inherited disorders

Many breeds of dog are prone to a number of inherited disorders and some breeds have higher likelihoods of developing particular disorders. Crossbred dogs can also inherit disorders from their parents' breeds.

Some inherited conditions are very rare or cause only minor suffering, while others are extremely painful or life-threatening. Examples of inherited disorders are cancer, blindness, diabetes, heart disease, skin complaints, epilepsy, hip dysplasia and deafness.

It is important to be aware of these conditions as they could have been passed on to the puppy.

Talk to your vet before you buy, and check for information on inherited disorders on the following websites.

- Dog Breed Health: www.dogbreedhealth.com
- University of Cambridge Inherited Diseases in Dogs Database: www.vet.cam.ac.uk/idid
- Universities Federation for Animal Welfare: <https://www.ufaw.org.uk/dogs/dogs>
- Canine Inherited Disorders Database: www.upei.ca/cidd
- Canine Health Schemes: <https://www.bva.co.uk/Canine-Health-Schemes/>
- Some Breed Club websites also report common and important inherited conditions in the breed.

DNA and health screening tests

Several health screening tests can measure the risk that a dog will be affected by the disease, be a carrier (and able to pass it on to their offspring) or be unaffected.

The breeder should have listed important disorders, and where the disorder can be screened for in the puppy and his/her parents, attached copies of the results certificates for any tests carried out. If the puppy is a cross between two known breeds, the list should include conditions found in each of those breeds. If the breeder has stated that they have not done the tests or that the results are not available you should ask why – and avoid buying a puppy from them.

Do not be satisfied with word of mouth - make sure you see the test results. If you buy from a breeder who has tested their dogs and is breeding from those that have passed the health tests, you will be another step closer to a happy, healthy puppy.

The Canine Health Scheme from the British Veterinary Association and the Kennel Club can provide you with advice on how to interpret the results of any tests. <https://www.bva.co.uk/Canine-Health-Schemes/>

If the puppy's parents are Kennel Club registered you can use the registered name or number of the parents to find the test results from a CHS or a Kennel Club DNA testing scheme at:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/mateselect/test/Default.aspx>



You can find a list of all DNA tests for dogs available worldwide at:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/worldwide-dna-tests/>

Your vet can help you understand the results of DNA or health screening tests and give you advice on which tests are important for particular breeds.

EXTRA INFORMATION

Q44: Extra information

Additional information about the puppy can be recorded in this space.

Disclaimer: The Puppy Contract and related documents are intended to provide a fair basis for the sale and purchase of a puppy with the primary aim of promoting animal welfare.

No warranties, representations or undertakings, express or implied, are made about the documents (including without limitation any as to quality, accuracy or fitness for any particular purpose). The AWF and RSPCA cannot accept liability for any loss, damage or cost arising out of or in connection with the use of these documents or any decisions that you make in relation to a sale or purchase. A suitably qualified lawyer should be consulted on any specific legal issue you have or the use of the documents in your particular circumstances.

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THE PUPPY CONTRACT

Contract for the sale and purchase of a puppy

1. PUPPY DETAILS

Breed: _____ Date of birth: _____ Sex: _____

Colour: _____

Kennel Club registered name of dog: _____

Kennel Club registration number: _____

Microchip number:

This is to confirm that the sale of the dog described above (“the Puppy”) is between:

2. DETAILS OF PARTIES

Seller’s name: _____

Seller’s address: _____

Seller’s telephone number: _____

and

Buyer’s name: _____

Buyer’s address: _____

Buyer’s telephone number: _____

DEFINITIONS

- **“Puppy Information Pack”** means the Puppy Information Pack that sets out the Dog Health Information and Future Health and Welfare Needs and forms part of this agreement.
- **“Dog Health Information”** means the information about the Puppy, its parent and grandparents, and these animals’ health and temperament.
- **“Good Health”** means a condition of health free of parasites and hereditary disorders and of reasonably sound physical condition and temperament.
- **“Future Health and Welfare Needs”** means the measure that should be taken to ensure that the Puppy is and remains in Good Health and is properly housed, fed, watered, trained, socialised and exercised and that it receives appropriate veterinary attention. “Seller” means the seller of the Puppy defined above, whether or not the breeder of the Puppy.

3. THE SELLER WARRANTS:

- 3.1 That if the Buyer has previously selected the Puppy from a litter or in any other circumstances, that the Puppy sold under this contract is the Puppy that the Buyer has previously selected.
- 3.2 That the genetic health checks and health screening set out in the Puppy Information Pack have been carried out on the Puppy's parents and explanation of what this means for the Puppy is provided in the Puppy Information Pack.
- 3.3 That the Puppy is not the result of a mating of two dogs related within two generations.
- 3.4 That the Puppy is in Good Health, other than as the Seller specifically informs the Buyer before the date of sale.
- 3.5 That he/she has supplied the Puppy Information Pack prior to the Buyer viewing the Puppy or a reasonable period in advance of the Buyer's decision to buy the Puppy and has communicated to the Buyer within the Puppy Information Pack:
 - a) the possible consequences of buying the Puppy given the Dog Health Information, the genetic health checks and health screening carried out under **clause 3.2** and the particular considerations that are likely to affect the Puppy given its breed;
 - b) the meaning of any Kennel Club endorsement;
 - c) the measures that should be taken, whether by neutering, contraception or otherwise, to guard against unwanted pregnancy; and
 - d) the Future Health and Welfare Needs of the Puppy.
- 3.6 That the information contained in the Puppy Information Pack supplied to the Buyer under clause 3.5 above is accurate and materially complete (to the best of the Seller's knowledge and belief where the information is supplied by a third party) and all diagnostic tests for the Puppy have been undertaken as recorded in the Dog Health Information and that reasonable care and skill is and/or will be used when explaining to the Buyer the Future Health and Welfare Needs of the Puppy and any advice or recommendations provided under clause 4.5 below.
- 3.7 That, if he/she is a member of the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme, he/she has adhered to the Standard and all requirements and recommendations under the Scheme as set out at <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/breeding/assured-breeder-scheme/> and/or as provided to the Buyer.
- 3.8 That he/she, having made reasonable enquiries of the Buyer, in good faith believes that the Buyer is able to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs.
- 3.9 That the Puppy is more than 8 weeks old at the date of sale.
- 3.10 That the Puppy has received adequate care and that the Seller has provided it with the opportunity to socialise with dogs, humans and other animals it is likely to come into contact with and it has experienced and become accustomed to the sounds and experiences of typical family life.
- 3.11 That any pedigree indicated for the Puppy is correct. Where appropriate, the Seller will provide the Buyer with all relevant registration papers and pedigree certificate within one month of the date of sale, or as soon as it is available.
- 3.12 That he/she has adhered to the Scottish Government's Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs, as amended from time to time.
- 3.13 That, if he/she is a member of the Scottish SPCA's Assured Puppy Breeders Scheme, he/she has adhered to the Scheme's terms and conditions (as amended from time to time) and all requirements and recommendations under the Scheme.

4. THE BUYER WARRANTS:

- 4.1 That he/she has read and understands the information provided to him/her under clauses 3.2-3.5 above and contained in the Puppy Information Pack.
- 4.2 That he/she in good faith believes that he/she will be able, and intends, to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs.
- 4.3 That neither he/she nor any member of his/her household has been cautioned for or convicted of any breach of animal welfare law such as neglect, cruelty or abandonment.
- 4.4 That he/she shall not breach the terms of any Kennel Club endorsement.
- 4.5 That in the event that he/she is no longer able or willing to provide a home for the Puppy or otherwise to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs he/she will contact the Seller and have regard to any advice and recommendations that the Seller provides, including return of the Puppy at the option of the Seller.
- 4.6 That he/she is purchasing the Puppy for himself/herself and not as agent for a third party.

5. BOTH BUYER AND SELLER AGREE AND UNDERSTAND:

- 5.1 That the Puppy is a living creature with interests independent of both Buyer and Seller.
- 5.2 That the Buyer may suffer distress and inconvenience as a result of the Puppy suffering pain or discomfort and one purpose of the Seller's warranties is to reduce or avoid such distress and inconvenience.
- 5.3 The Buyer shall be entitled to recover from the Seller his reasonable veterinary fees and costs to treat a serious disorder suffered by the Puppy that relates to a breach of any of the Seller's warranties.
- 5.4 Nothing in this contract affects the Buyer's statutory rights including any warranty of satisfactory quality of the Puppy implied by sale of goods legislation or other law.
- 5.5 The Buyer agrees to take the Puppy to their vet, soon after purchase, for a general health check and advice on inoculations and worming.

6. GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

This agreement and any dispute or claim (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of Scotland and the parties agree that the Scottish courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute or claim (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with this agreement

7. DATE, DECLARATIONS AND SIGNATURES

Date of sale and purchase: _____ Purchase price received by Seller: £ _____

Buyer: By signing this contract I agree and understand that I am entering into a legal and binding contract.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Seller: By signing this contract I agree and understand that I am entering into a legal and binding contract.









Signed: _____ Date: _____



ADVICE FOR NEW PUPPY OWNER

When you pick up your new puppy, take a comfortable dog carrier, a cosy blanket and some water and food – especially if you are travelling a long distance.

Don't worry if your puppy seems nervous. It is perfectly natural for your puppy to be anxious due to leaving its litter and living environment for the first time. There's lots of things you can do to help your new puppy relax:

-  Settle your puppy in a carrier.
-  Keep your puppy well ventilated.
-  Don't let anyone handle your puppy too much if it seems nervous.
-  If your puppy is distressed, sit with it and provide comfort.
-  Keep its new environment as quiet as possible until it has settled in and try to avoid any exposure to loud noises.
-  Give your puppy plenty of comfort breaks – a nervous or excitable pup is prone to wee!
-  Speak to your breeder to get guidance on puppy socialisation and stick to this training for a minimum of eight weeks. Use the Puppy Socialisation Chart on page 36 for guidance through this period.
-  Make sure you have asked your breeder what type of food your puppy has been eating so that you can continue feeding your puppy this food whilst they settle into their new home.

Compulsory Microchipping

Remember as well as buying your dog an identification tag it is now mandatory throughout the United Kingdom for all dog owners to have their dogs microchipped and recorded with a government compliant microchip database such as Petlog. You can find out more information by visiting: <https://www.mygov.scot/microchip-dog/>

New Owner - Puppy Socialisation (8-16 weeks)

You should discuss with your breeder as to what socialisation activities your puppy has experienced by recoding this on the Puppy Socialisation Chart on page 36.

You need to make sure you have created a designated sleeping and eating area to help them acclimatise to their new home. Always ensure they have fresh water available.

Choose wisely where your new puppy will sleep. It is important that he/she can see family life and is not in a draft with suitable dog bedding to sleep in.

Choosing a name for your puppy

Choosing a name for your new puppy can often be difficult and remember this should be a name that is easy to say and one that you are prepared to call for a number of years! A short, two-syllable name is best because it is brief and will not be confused with one-syllable commands such as "no" or "sit".

Be consistent. All family members should use the same name for the puppy.

Puppy training advice

Bringing your puppy home for the first time is naturally a happy and exciting occasion, but it can be a little daunting too – there is so much for both you and your puppy to learn! The information below should help you on your way to raising a happy and well trained dog right from the start.

Important training tips: Start as you mean to go on. If you are always consistent you will avoid confusing your puppy. Puppies have a very short attention span so train for short spells on a regular basis.

Keep it short and keep it simple, but most of all keep it fun. Puppies respond better to cheerful voice tones rather than to threatening orders. Gentle play builds trust and a strong bond between you and your puppy as well as making training fun. Patience is the KEY ingredient in dog training. If you try to rush things you will only get frustrated and confuse your puppy. Keep it interesting: cultivate a range of different rewards incorporating play, fuss, praise, treats and toys. This will stop both of you from getting bored.

TOILET TRAINING PUPPIES THE EASY WAY

Toilet training is obviously a crucial part of your puppy's early learning. Getting it right is relatively simple, and will make those first weeks so much more enjoyable for you both. However, like all things, bad habits learnt early on can lead to problems that may take weeks or even months to resolve.

Initially, you will have to build your daily routine around your puppy's needs. Fortunately, these are quite predictable when they are very young, and with careful supervision you should quickly establish when it is the right time to go outside and minimise any accidents.

Like babies, puppies have poor bladder control, and need to go to the toilet several times an hour when they are awake. They will also usually need to be taken outside first thing in the morning, last thing at night, after each meal, waking from a nap, and after any exercise, play or excitement. You may find it useful to keep a record of when your puppy

sleeps, eats and goes to the toilet so that you can identify any patterns. One tip is to use a food timer to remind you when it is time to take your puppy outside to relieve itself. If you find that your puppy needs to "go" every 20 minutes then set the alarm as soon as they have gone and take them outside the moment the alarm goes off.

Always go with your puppy into the garden and establish a regular spot. Puppies are creatures of habit, so as long as you introduce the garden to your puppy as its toilet area early on, you should be able to avoid most accidents. Decide on a cue word or phrase to use when your puppy is actually going to the toilet, so that your puppy will start to associate the word with the action and should learn to go on command. By accompanying your puppy into the garden each time, you will be there to attach cue words and praise to any successful actions.

Feeding

If you are concerned that your puppy is not eating properly, its faeces does not look normal or it is needing to go to the toilet during the night please ask yourself the following questions and speak to your vet.

- 🐾 Are you feeding your puppy too much?
- 🐾 Is the puppy food you are giving unsuitable or are you giving too much variety for a puppy of their age?
- 🐾 Are you feeding at regular times?
- 🐾 Are you feeding at the wrong times (which could mean your puppy needs to go to the toilet during the night). You are giving foods which are too salty, causing your puppy to drink more.

Training

Punishing your puppy for accidents indoors may make it scared of going to the toilet in front of you – even outside. Expecting your puppy to tell you when it needs to go to the toilet is unrealistic. It is far better to take your puppy outside at regular intervals. Leaving the back door or outside access open for your puppy to come and go as it pleases can cause confusion – particularly when that access is closed. Do not leave your puppy too long on its own so that it is forced to go indoors. Leaving your puppy alone in the garden means that you are not there to praise and reward, or to reinforce the idea that the garden is the correct place to go.

Try to avoid using the words "good boy/girl" when your puppy is going to the toilet - you don't want your puppy going to the toilet every time it is praised. Puppies can exhibit submissive or excitable urination when greeting you on your return home. Toning down greetings can help prevent your puppy from becoming overexcited. Young puppies will not be able to go through the night without needing to go to the toilet. If they do wake you up, it really is worth getting up to let them out.



Environment

When toilet training your puppy, being surrounded by lots of absorbent or grass-like surfaces, such as rugs and carpets, may confuse your puppy. Ammonia based cleaning products used around the house can smell like urine to your puppy, and lead to unwanted accidents. If your puppy does have an accident inside, the scent will still be apparent to the puppy for a long time afterwards, even if you have thoroughly disinfected the area. Specialist cleaning products specifically designed to mask the odour are available.

Beyond the garden, many owners can be disappointed that their young puppy does not initially toilet when first venturing out on walks. Often, your puppy will only relieve itself the second you get home. This is because the puppy has not yet associated going out for a walk as an opportunity to go to the toilet, so will wait until they return home to their

garden, which they know is a good place to go. To break this habit, get up a little earlier in the morning (when you have plenty of time) and take your puppy out on a walk before it has had a chance to visit its usual spot. Stay out with your puppy for a reasonable length of time until it has been to the toilet, and then give plenty of praise. If you are not successful, make sure the puppy is whisked into the garden to relieve itself or you will run the risk of a large puddle indoors!

Remember, patience and consistency is key. All puppies take different amounts of time to learn, so don't worry if your puppy seems to be taking longer to get the hang of things. Your patience will pay off and you will both get there in the end.

A TRAINED DOG IS A HAPPY DOG

Housetraining aside, every puppy also needs to be taught good manners and have constructive lessons in basic control and social interaction. This includes:

- 🐾 Responding to its name.
- 🐾 Learning how to greet and behave politely around other people and dogs.
- 🐾 To come back when called.
- 🐾 To walk nicely on the lead.
- 🐾 To sit down and stay on command.
- 🐾 To allow itself to be groomed and examined by you and your vet.

Dog training classes

Most owners can benefit from attending good training classes, and training in the company of other dogs is very useful, because of the realistic distractions it involves. Ideally, you should start your classes as soon as your puppy's vaccinations are complete, but classes can be invaluable for older dogs too, and continue throughout the dog's life.

There are lots of schools of thought on dog training and it is naturally important that you find a class and training

instructors with the right approach for you and your puppy. The trainer should only be using positive reinforcement methods of training. To help you find a training class you can visit the Association of Pet Dog Trainers: www.apdt.co.uk. Dog training can be lots of fun and very rewarding. After all, a trained dog is a happy dog, and a happy dog makes for a happy owner too.



YOUR PUPPY'S FIRST YEAR

The following guide to puppy care will help you give your friend the best start in life:

Up to 8 weeks – before you bring your puppy home



Wherever your puppy came from the previous owner should have done a few things including:

- 🐾 Organising their first puppy vaccination.
- 🐾 Started toilet training.
- 🐾 Begun the puppy's socialisation - positively introducing new situations and people.

Before bringing your puppy home you'll need to prepare by:

- 🐾 Providing time and space for your puppy to play, and toys to keep them stimulated.

- 🐾 Providing a crate, hiding places and/or cosy bed in a quiet, draft-free place where your puppy can rest undisturbed.
- 🐾 Taking a blanket from the puppy's first home away with you for familiarity and comfort.
- 🐾 Removing anything poisonous or that you don't want chewed.
- 🐾 Finding a vet, puppy classes and getting pet insurance.

8-12 weeks – bringing your puppy home



This is an important time for your puppy, what they learn and experience now will shape future behaviour. Your puppy isn't fully vaccinated yet but it's important to continue socialisation by exposing your puppy positively to experiences like:

- 🐾 Meeting other healthy, fully vaccinated dogs and cats.
- 🐾 Carrying them around outside to introduce them to new people, sights and sounds.
- 🐾 Gradually introducing them to the car, grooming, being handled and having their ears, eyes and other body parts checked.

You should also:

- 🐾 Begin to leave them alone for short periods to prevent separation related behaviour.
- 🐾 Establish a consistent routine and rules. Reward good behaviour and ignore bad behaviour.
- 🐾 Feed them the same puppy food as they had before and keep the same routine with small, regular meals.
- 🐾 Continue puppy toilet training by rewarding them when they go outside.

12 weeks onwards – training and socialisation



Your puppy can have their second vaccinations around now, also ask your vet about worming, flea treatment and neutering.

- 🐾 Once your puppy is fully vaccinated, you can socialise them outside.
- 🐾 Good puppy classes are a great way to boost their confidence and learn basic training.

- 🐾 Knowing what your puppy likes (favourite food or toys) can motivate them during training.
- 🐾 Growing and learning is tiring so let them rest regularly and keep training sessions short and fun.
- 🐾 If your puppy is crate trained let them use it as a safe haven.

6 months onwards – further dog training and neutering



Puppies are still learning so continue reward-based training and keep all experiences positive.

- 🐾 Speak to your vet if you have any concerns about your puppy.
- 🐾 If your puppy is ready, progress onto more advanced dog training classes.

- 🐾 Dietary needs will change and your puppy will need to gradually move to adult dog food.
- 🐾 If you haven't already, ask your vet about neutering.
- 🐾 By keeping experiences positive from day one, you'll help your puppy grow into a confident adult dog, making life more enjoyable for you both.

SOCIALISATION CHART

This is a great chart to help you keep track of all your puppies socialisation activities. Breeders should complete this before a puppy heads off to its new home and then owners can continue recording activities so make sure your puppy has the best socialisation experience possible.

People

Tick a box for each encounter



Men																			
Women																			
Babies																			
Young children																			
Teenagers																			
Elderly people																			
Disabled people																			
Loud, confident people																			
Shy, timid people																			
People in uniform																			
People wearing hats, crash helmets etc.																			
People with beards																			
People wearing glasses, sunglasses etc.																			
Delivery people e.g. postman, milkman																			
Visitors																			
Joggers																			

Around the home



Washing machine/tumble dryer																			
Vaccum cleaner																			
Lawn mower																			
Kitchen noise																			
TV/Radio																			

Animals



Friendly large dogs																			
Friendly small dogs																			
Domestic pets e.g. rabbits																			
Livestock																			
Cats																			
Horses																			

Outside the home



Traffic																			
Motorbikes																			
Bicycles																			
Buses																			
Trains																			
Crowds																			
Fireworks																			
Umbrellas																			
Car travel																			
Different surfaces (gravel, slippery floors, grass etc.)																			

Gentle handling



Head																			
Ears																			
Mouth																			
Tail																			
Paws and legs																			
Grooming (short periods)																			
Gentle restraint																			
By family and friends																			
By strangers																			

WORMING & FLEA AND TICK TREATMENT

Your puppy will need regular worming and treatment for fleas and ticks and your vet will be able to advise you on the most suitable treatments available. There are four common types of intestinal worms that can affect dogs in the UK. These are roundworm, tapeworms, hookworms and whipworms. The symptoms and how each dog can be affected can vary. When a puppy is born it is more at risk of contracting worms particularly from its mother. Signs to look out for if your puppy does have worms include a swollen abdomen, vomiting, diarrhoea and possibly weight loss. However some dogs may not show any signs of being ill which is why it is important to treat regularly as having a large worm burden can cause serious illnesses in puppies and again as dogs get older. There is also a risk that some worms such as tapeworm and roundworm can affect people if left untreated.

Fleas can be hard to spot but if your puppy starts scratching, develops sores or hair loss for example they could be infested with fleas. If your puppy picks up fleas it can affect their sleep and how they socialise and as fleas can jump it can also affect the whole household which includes other pets and any humans living in the house. Prevention is key and your vet will be able to advise you on the best flea treatment for your puppy. Many flea treatments also help prevent ticks from latching on to your puppies skin. Looking for any unusual lumps and bumps particularly around the head, neck and ears of your puppy could be a sign that it has a tick. Ticks are small parasites that will latch on to both animals and humans and can cause problems as they can transmit diseases between animals they feed from. If you suspect your puppy has a tick seek advice from a vet as it is important that you learn how to remove a tick properly otherwise infections can occur if only part of the body is removed.

Worming Record

Product	Dosage	Date	Next Due
		/ /	/ /
		/ /	/ /
		/ /	/ /
		/ /	/ /
		/ /	/ /
		/ /	/ /
		/ /	/ /



VACCINATIONS

Vaccinating your puppy is an important part of being a good owner as it helps protect your puppy from infectious diseases and also helps prevent them from passing diseases on to other animals. Your vet will advise on the best times to vaccinate your puppy but they should have had their first vaccination before they go into their new home and then the second vaccination at their check up with the vet depending

on what age they were when they left the breeder. They will then require booster vaccinations as recommended by your vet. Your vet will be able to advise you on all the types of vaccinations your puppy needs which is why it is so important to register with a vet as soon as you have bought your puppy.

Vaccination Record

Vaccine	Length of immunity	Immunisation Date	Veterinarian
		/ /	
		/ /	
		/ /	
		/ /	
		/ /	
		/ /	
		/ /	
		/ /	
		/ /	
		/ /	

FIND OUT MORE

There is lots of breed specific information available so please visit the following sites to ensure you get the best advice:





03000 999 999
scottishspca.org/assuredpup

Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals | Scottish Charity No. SC 006467



SCOTTISH SPCA
Scotland's Animal Welfare Charity