

Finding Your Bulldog

When you have made your mind up you would like a bulldog you are then faced with the task of finding one, which, from the many phone calls we get, is difficult. The best and recommended way is to look for the secretary of your local bulldog club on this site www.bulldogbreedcouncil.co.uk; they may know of a litter belonging to one of their members. Enquire when their next shows are and go to see a show.

There are two main types of show where you may meet some breeders. Open shows where the atmosphere is very informal, and Championship Shows where the dogs have serious winning potential and these are very competitive. Once there you can watch the dogs and speak to the many breeders around some of whom may be expecting a litter or have one at home. Expect to be quizzed as most caring breeders are very particular to which homes their puppies are sold. Read all you can about the breed and try to buy from someone who comes highly recommended. Reputable breeders do not have to advertise so you will not find them in the pages of the local newspaper or bargain pages, you will probably have to travel and you will probably have to wait. You are purchasing a member of your family, hopefully for the next 9 years [average] so a few months wait for the right dog will be worth it. See the puppy with its mother and its litter mates. Remember although the sire may be a Champion or class winner at Crufts the mother has still 50% input, and your puppy may look just like her in the future, or it may be a mixture and look like neither of them.

Dog or Bitch?

Things to consider before you choose: If you are thinking of showing your pet it is wise to start with a very good pedigree bitch as there are no guarantees with this breed that at 9 weeks a future show winner can be picked, a sound healthy bitch can be bred from in the future if she doesn't quite make it as a show dog.

Bitches are not as impressive as dogs but if you purchase a dog and he doesn't make it in the show ring you can't move on from him without a further purchase. If, however, you want a pet, a dog can be the most faithful loving companion you could have. His typical bulldog head makes sure no one is in any doubt he's a BULLDOG our national breed. Bitches have seasons and this can be messy and if you have another male dog it can mean separating them for 3 weeks twice a year or spaying, this can be difficult. They carry on having seasons every 6 months for life. It is worth thinking carefully before you decide to buy a puppy. There should be no difference in the price of a dog or bitch unlike some other breeds which generally charge more for bitches.

Breeding Terms

Some breeders are selling bitches with breeding contracts, some of these may work out fine but if you agree to this there are proper legal forms from the Kennel Club where the terms and arrangements are laid out and signed for at the time of purchase. Do not enter into any verbal agreements not covered by these forms as in 15 months when the breeder will want you to breed your bitch you may have forgotten or disagree the terms. This can be a very stressful time and involve solicitors if you do not have the original agreement in writing. Many enemies are made in the dog world over this matter.

Paperwork

The pedigree is just the family tree; you need a Kennel Club registered document, make sure you see it. Ask if the puppy is being sold using a Breed Council Puppy Contract.

Vet Check

Take your new puppy to your own vet within 48 hours of purchasing it and have it health checked, inform the breeder immediately if there are any problems. It is advisable that your new puppy has already received its first vaccination before it leaves the breeder where it should have already been checked for general health. It should have been wormed at regular intervals, instructions on this and the puppy's diet sheet should be provided by the breeder at time of collection. Join your local Bulldog Club you will receive independent help and advice if you run



into problems and you will make new friends who share your love of this wonderful breedgood luck and enjoy your new friend.

Important Information When you buy a pedigree puppy you need and are entitled to be given the Kennel Club Registration Document by the seller which ensures the details of the puppies parents are verified at the Kennel Club. It is, at present, a green document with the Kennel Club insignia on it. The Pedigree on its own is NOT the dog's registration form, without the Kennel Club Registration Document you cannot breed or show your dog at KC licensed events. As a pet it may not seem important but cross bred puppies are often sold as pedigree, which really is only the 'Family Tree'

All pedigree breeds of dog have certain breed specific problems, responsible breeders are aware of these and will hopefully try to breed to minimise the problems by having their breeding stock checked by a veterinarian before breeding puppies. However with the best care possible sometimes things crop up from the ancestors so all we can do is our best with what we can see.

