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PUPPY BUYER CHECKLIST

Use this checklist when visiting or speaking with breeders. A good breeder will welcome your questions and ask you plenty in return.

1. About the breeder & parents

Can I meet the puppy with their mum (and ideally see them together)?

Can you show me photos and details of dad (health, temperament, reason for pairing)?

How many litters has the mum had and when was the last one? (Aim 4 litters; at least 12 months between)

How are the puppies being raised? (In a home environment with everyday noises, people, handling)

Why did you choose this mating? (temperament, health, type)

Do you follow the Kennel Club's Health & Welfare Standards (Health Standard for tests, Welfare for raising)?

2. Health testing & veterinary care

What health tests have BOTH parents had? (see breed-specific list in the article)

Can I see copies of the certificates/report numbers? (hip/elbow scores, eye test dates, DNA results)

Have puppies been vet-checked, microchipped and started vaccinations? (ask for paperwork)

What parasite control have puppies had? (worming products/dates)

Is there a contract of sale and are you happy to use the Puppy Contract?

3. Socialisation & temperament

What socialisation have the puppies had so far? (noises, surfaces, car, gentle visitors)

How do you match puppies to homes? (temperament observations, not first come first served)

What support do you offer after sale? (lifetime advice, take-back policy)

4. Practicalities & red flags

What age can the pup leave? (Legal minimum is 8 weeks; many good breeders keep to ~8 10 weeks)

Will you deliver without me visiting? (Avoid: insist on meeting pup with mum at the breeder s home)

Are there multiple breeds/large numbers of litters on site? (red flag)

Pressure to pay a deposit before viewing or only one left urgency? (red flag)

Refusal to show ID, vet details, or health paperwork? (red flag)

For your records

Breeder's full name, address and licence number (if applicable):

Puppy's microchip number and registered veterinary practice

Copies/photos of all test certificates and the sales contract