

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE.....

Dog Ownership Quiz

Buying a New Puppy	
The only place to buy a puppy is a Pet Store?	Of course you all got this one right....Puppy Stores are not the only ones who sell puppies....There are Professional Breeders, Amateur Breeders and many other outlets like shelters and rescue groups
Do you know where to go to find out the facts about different dog breeds to help you decide what breed will be the best fit for your families' life style?	Hopefully you could all answer yes to this one too. There are, of course, multiple places to go to find information about any particular breed. Places I would recommend include: The AKC website – www.akc.org Any bookstore – The AKC Book of Breeds gives you an overall look at all the breeds and then there are individual breed books for more in-depth information about any breed. Go to a dog show and talk to the breeders of a breed you think you may be interested in. When I was doing research to see what breed I was going to buy, my daughter had a few breeds she liked and when we talked to some breeders we found that the traits of those breeds would not fit with our likes (i.e. too barky, needed too much grooming, too destructive) The more “homework” you do, the more likely you will not be surprised as the puppy grows up and feel the need to try to find it another home or take it to a shelter.
Do you know what it means when you buy a puppy with ‘papers’?	Though this seems simple on the surface, it is now a complicated answer. Not too many years back, there was only one type of ‘papers’ so if somebody said the dog has ‘papers’ it meant they were AKC registered as AKC was the first and only dog registry in the US. As the AKC regulations for breeders and their kennel inspection program grew, many large commercial kennels could no longer register their dogs with the AKC, so other

	<p>registries started to be created. For some of these new registries, all you need to register your dog is to send them a picture of your dog – so in this case the dog now has ‘papers’ but they don’t really prove the parentage or heritage of the puppy as they did not have to prove the parents were registered and the grandparents, etc. Some of the other registries all you have to do is show them the dog is registered with the AKC and they will also register you, though again they do not have the original history of the family of the dogs – only AKC does. So...you need to be careful not to just be satisfied with a dog having ‘papers’ but you need to be sure they are papers that really show the history and heritage of the dog your considering buying.</p>
<p>Some dog breeds have a shorter life span than others?</p>	<p>This is, of course, true. Larger dogs tend to live a shorter life span than do Smaller dogs – Some small breeds can live up to 35 years, while most medium breeds live around 12 – 15 years, large breeds 10-12 and giant breed around 9 years. This is important information for planning purposes especially if you are looking to get a puppy later in life to make sure you are planning for what will happen to your dog if it outlives you</p>
<p>All dog breeds have the same known health issues?</p>	<p>This one you should have answered ‘no’. Though there are common types of issues that affect most or all dogs, some breeds have certain ailments that are more common for that breed than another breed. For example, most large breeds can be susceptible to hip dysphasia. Because of this possibility, good breeders perform hip testing before they breed any dog. This testing is performed when the dog is 2 years old and the results are certified by an independent organization called OFA – Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. This organization also certifies heart and thyroid and a few others. There is a similar group that certifies eye screening –</p>

	<p>Canine Eye Registration Foundation. Good breeders perform these tests and any others prevalent in their breeds to ensure the best health they can possibly provide to their puppies. More tests and genetic advances occur and we will continue to expand testing as it does.</p>
<p>Do you know what makes a dog ‘pure bred?’</p>	<p>I think this one is obvious....a pure bred dog means that its parents and its whole family tree show that the dog has been bred only to dogs of the same breed and not to dogs of other breeds. Most of the breeds in the AKC today have history that dates back to the 1600s, 1700s in their country of origin. When you hear about new breeds here being added to the AKC, that doesn’t mean somebody just decided to create one, it means this breed existed, most likely in another country, for many many years but has only been registered in the US with sufficient numbers to be tracked as a breed in the kennel club.</p>
<p>Do all breeds have the same personality?</p>	<p>This is another easy one....just as all people are individuals; each puppy is an individual and will develop different traits based on their training and genetics. There are some ‘traits’ that are seen very often throughout a breed but no too dogs that are exactly alike in a litter. Some of the things that can be breed specific are things like herding/hunting instincts.</p>
<p>Do you know what a breed rescue is?</p>	<p>Some of you may never have heard this term. Breed rescues are caring, giving, dedicated groups of people who save many pure bred dogs each year. Part of the reason you don’t see many pure bred dogs in animal shelters is that when they are turned in to a shelter, if there is a local breed rescue then the shelters contact that particular breed’s breed rescue and as long as the dog is adoptable (no temperament issues, for example) the dog is pulled, put into a foster home and a permanent home is found. These groups run completely on donations from the breed’s parent club,</p>

	breeders who are members of the parent club or local clubs near the rescue group and other good Samaritans.
Do you know what breeds can be found at a local animal shelter?	Again...this should be an easy one...all breeds can be found at an animal shelter. Some may be pure bred (turned in with papers to prove it), some may look like pure bred (turned in without proof), while many others are obvious 'mixes' of different breeds. Many mixes today are called 'designer dogs' and sold for as much or more than pure bred dogs.
Do you think you should ask puppy sellers what health testing they do on the parents of the puppies?	You bet. If you've done your research then you know what types of things might happen in that breed and should ask the breeder what testing has been done and what the results were.
Do you think you should be shown or given a copy of the results of health testing?	Sure....just like when buying anything 'certified', you'll want to see the certificate or test results to back up the breeder's claims. Many breeders prepare a packet of papers when you take your puppy home that includes the parent's pedigree, health certifications, puppy shot and worming record, do's and don'ts for that breed, helpful tips, and more...
Do you think you should ask to see the mother and/or the father of the puppies?	It is always a good idea to see the parents or at least one parent if possible. This way you can get a good idea of the temperament of the parent(s), see if they are happy and friendly a trait they will most likely pass on to their puppies.
Do you think you should visit the breeder and see the conditions they keep their dogs in?	Again...this is a great idea. See the conditions of the house or kennel the dogs and puppies are raised in will give you a good idea as to the health and general care of the dogs.
Do you think you should ask to see or be given a copy of the puppy's pedigree?	For sure...you'll want to see the puppy's pedigree to get an idea of the history of the puppy's family...for example do they have a history of being proven in the dog show ring or an obedience or herding or hunting activity
Do you know what the initials before and/or after the dog's registered name mean?	When looking at a dog's pedigree, you can tell if they have been active and proven in dog activities by looking at the initials

	<p>before and after the dogs name...here are some common examples to look for before the dog's name:</p> <p>CH – Champion BIS – Best In Show BISS – Best In Specialty Show CAN CH – Canadian Champion</p> <p>Here are some common examples to look for after the dog's name:</p> <p>CGC – Canine Good Citizen CD – Companion Dog CDX – Companion Dog Excellent TT – Temperament Tested RN - Rally Novice</p>
<p>Do you think all dog “Breeders” are the same?</p>	<p>This is an area where you should be able to say ‘No’ quite quickly too. There are a large number of differences in breeders and types of breeders. There are large commercial breeders – they have hundreds of dogs and mostly sell to large puppy operations like pet store chains. There are people in your neighborhood who have a dog or two and just want to see what its like to breed a litter of puppies. There are dog show folks who range from small house based operations to relatively small kennels....they breed a litter or 2 a year, perform health screening, and are breeding to improve their lines and since most litters produce more than one puppy end up with some quality puppies to sell to pet or other show homes.</p>
<p>Do you think it is rude for a dog breeder to ask you personal information about your home, yard, family, past and current pet ownership history, veterinary references?</p>	<p>We don't think so and here's why, unlike pet stores and people who are just breeding to see what its like, most show breeders try to make sure that your family if the right 'fit' for one of their puppies. We spend a lot of time and money breeding, health screening and loving our dogs and the puppies they produce. It is our goal to sell our puppies to home that are to the best of our ability to tell a perfect fit for the breed and any special challenges or needs of the</p>

	<p>breed. Some breeds should never be without a fenced yard because they love to run away, some do not do well with other dogs so a family with 5 dogs already would not be a great fit. Asking the questions we do let's us understand the situation the puppy would be sold into and educate the potential buyer of the types of problems that could arise based on their family make-up or property situation. Asking for veterinary references allows us to make sure that if you have had pets before or still have pets that your vet also feels you are a responsible owner.</p>
<p>All pure bred dogs have national breed clubs whose members sign a code of ethics stating how they will conduct themselves in breeding and selling puppies?</p>	<p>This is true. Each breed starts out with a parent club that works to put together the breed standard and organize the active show people of the breed. Part of membership includes the signing of a code of ethics that may differ slightly from club to club but mostly asks the breeder to be ethical in their dealings with breeding and selling of puppies.</p>
After the Sale	
<p>Do you think you should be able to contact the breeder after you buy the puppy?</p>	<p>Good breeders will not only welcome but encourage you to keep in touch with them to let them know how your puppy is progressing. Pictures, e-mails, phone calls to touch base are great as well as making sure there is an open line of communication so you'll feel comfortable calling anytime you have a question, problem or situation you need advice on.</p>
<p>Do you think the breeder should keep in touch with you after you buy the puppy?</p>	<p>This is pretty much as true as the question above. There should be an open line of communication to make sure that you are not struggling with any problems or waiting until a problem has gotten too bad and can't be fixed.</p>
<p>Do you think it is important to take a new puppy to formal training classes?</p>	<p>Most good breeders will insist or encourage you to take your puppy to at least one formal training class to get the puppy (and you) off to a good start in having a well behaved, obedient pet that will be a life long, loved companion.</p>
<p>Most dogs that end up in animal shelters are</p>	<p>This is very true. Behavior problems like</p>

<p>given up by their owners because of behavior problems that may have been fixed with training?</p>	<p>running away, jumping up, barking, and basically being under control can be avoided by beginning the training of a puppy very young and continuing that training for years to reinforce good behavior and make the best possible pet that will be your bud for its lifetime</p>
<p>Many dogs that end up in animal shelters are given up by their owners because they didn't realize what that cute puppy would be like when it grew up, for example how big it would be, how much food it would eat, how much it would shed?</p>	<p>This is also true. Knowledge is the power that binds a family to a good pet for life. All puppies are cute and adorable at 8 weeks old when they are able to go to be sold, but knowing what to expect from that puppy is the key to being able to live with that puppy for life. Different breeds have different traits, for example: some shed so if you don't mind a lot of vacuuming that that might not bother you but if a lot of vacuuming and hair on your clothes or furniture would drive you crazy, then you need to select a breed that does not shed. The trade off for not shedding is a dog that will require more grooming (combing/brushing/bathing). Knowing before that cute little ball of fur grows up what to expect is the key to planning how to include that pet into your life forever.</p>
<p>Having multiple pets is easy...they always get along</p>	<p>This is definitely false...just as not all people get along pets are no different. Some breeds are more able to live in 'packs' and get along with multiple dogs in the household and others can be good with other pets in the household with training and a strong family 'human' leader. As a rule of thumb, usually two pets of the opposite sex work best if you want multiple pets, each dog added from there on changes the group dynamics and can be problematic.</p>