



The New Zealand Kennel Club

Q How do you go about buying a pure bred dog?

1. Download a copy of the Code of Welfare For Dogs <http://www.nzcac.org.nz/> and read it thoroughly
2. Decide on the right breed for your lifestyle and situation
 - Breed selector on NZKC website: try NZ, American, British kennel club sites & compare answers
 - Contact a club for the breed/s that interest you and discuss your choices and options (Club details are on the NZKC web site)
 - Consider the ongoing costs – food, vets etc and be sure you're okay with them
3. Locate a breeder through NZKC office or web site, or the relevant breed club
 - First choice: NZKC Accredited breeder if available and has pups available
 - Next: NZKC member with a registered kennel

Q What steps can you take to be sure it's a pure bred dog?

1. Ask for NZKC papers....
 - For the pup if it is registered
 - For its parents if the pup is not yet registered

(Footnote: Note that the NZKC is the only NZ authority for pedigree and registration papers.

Beware of 'mail order' documents available from unofficial organisations offshore (The Continental Kennel Club, The United Kennel Club).

Q If people are claiming to be selling a pure bred, what steps can you take to check they're telling the truth?

1. As above when initially enquiring
2. Insist on papers with the pup at time of sale.
These should be offered at no additional cost

(Footnote: Some breeders prefer to withhold papers to prevent their pups being used to breed dogs that will then compete against them in the show ring. While this is a legitimate concern the same protection can be achieved by having the papers endorsed "Not for breeding or showing" at the time of sale or by desexing the pup before sale with the buyer's consent. Buyers can insist on papers and the NZKC encourages them to do so).

Q Where can you go and find this information?

NZKC will readily provide this information and encourages enquiries



Q Is it online and freely available?

1. Details of individual dogs are available on request.
2. General information about breeds is available.
3. Details of NZKC members who breed each breed are publicly available on NZKC web site

Q What kinds of memberships/associations with the KC should a dog breeder have, as a starting point for a customer to look for? Why?

1. NZKC membership (not associate membership) *and* their kennel must be registered: this is the minimum
 - NZKC accreditation indicates special breeder status, strict health checks, reliable support to buyers: look for the logo alongside their kennel details on the NZKC web site
 - A breeder will normally – but not necessarily – be involved with specialist clubs for his/her breed

Q How can you gain cover under the Consumer Guarantees Act, when buying a pure bred (as opposed to a private sale) Do reputable breeders sell as a business, or are they private sales?

1. Canine sport in New Zealand is amateur and no NZKC member is a commercial operator. All puppy sales are private transactions.
2. The NZKC strongly recommends the use of contracts and has specimen contracts available that it encourages its breeders to use. Buyers should insist on a contract.
3. Some breeders offer joint ownership arrangements that can involve breeder access to the pup for breeding or showing when it is older. The NZKC advises non-members against these arrangements which are best left to experienced dog showing enthusiasts who know each other personally.

(Footnote: Some are professional dog trainers or operate commercial boarding kennels. These are their businesses and are not within the NZKC ambit. Breeding is not a recognised professional activity and all breeders are considered hobbyists).

Q If people are buying online (ie trademe) what should they think about?

1. Favour sellers who are NZKC members
2. Download a copy of the Code of Welfare For Dogs <http://www.nzcac.org.nz/> and read it thoroughly
3. It is preferable to buy from a breeder you have met and whose premises you have visited
 - Check for cleanliness, health and behaviour of pup, parents, other dogs there
 - Make your own assessment of the seller's sincerity, integrity, knowledge
4. Seek evidence to support all sellers' claims (pure breed, vaccinations, health checks etc.)
5. Seek undertakings from the seller to assist with resolving health or behavioural problems that may emerge in the pup
6. If you have any doubt about the health or behaviour of a puppy do not buy it
7. Insist on a sales contract and check it carefully before signing
8. A reputable and knowledgeable breeder will not separate a pup from its mother before it is at least eight weeks old
9. A reputable and knowledgeable breeder will brief a buyer on the health of the puppy and on all known health issues particularly relevant to its breed or to which its breed is prone

Q What traps should they look out for?

1. False claims as to pedigree and/or health
2. Pups that display signs of physical or emotional ill health
3. Pups sold without vaccinations, health records
4. Sellers whose motives appear commercial vs breeding to improve dogs for showing or sport
5. Sellers reluctant to allow access to their premises
6. Sellers reluctant to commit to contracts or written undertakings
7. Sellers reluctant to promise after sales assistance
8. Conditions attached to the sale e.g. shared ownership, ongoing access to the pup for breeding or some other purpose

Q Do reputable breeders sell on trademe?

Yes. They will prefer to deal through personal contacts but often cannot find enough suitable buyers so they will use TradeMe. Remember if you are dealing with a good breeder you will not just be choosing a pup: the breeder will be choosing you and has the same right to withdraw the pup from sale as you have to decide not to buy it.