Advice if buying a puppy

Date published: 03 December 2018

Thinking of buying a puppy? You can get information and advice on what you should and shouldn’t do. Make sure you’re ready to care for a dog for the whole of its life.

Tips and advice

There are things to consider when buying a puppy, including:

- dogs can live for up to 13 years and beyond, so it’s a long-term commitment
- do not buy a puppy from a roadside or meeting point
- the puppy must be more than eight weeks old
- see the puppy with its mother
- make sure the puppy is microchipped before buying
- ask for a veterinary record of initial vaccinations
- ask how the puppy has been socialised to make sure it is prepared for the world around it
- buy a dog licence from your local council (it’s an offence to keep a dog without having a licence to keep it)

Illegally-bred puppies often have health conditions, behaviour problems, and infections and diseases. This can result in huge vet bills, a short and miserable life for the puppy, and heartache for you and your family.

Also, beware unknowingly paying for one which has come from outside the UK and has not been properly vaccinated.

You can find out more on the following page:

Dog welfare

It’s an offence for anyone who’s responsible for a dog to fail to make sure that the needs of the dog are met.

The penalty for this offence is up to six months imprisonment and/ or a fine of up to £5,000.

More useful links

Share this page

Feedback

Would you like to leave feedback about this page? Send us your feedback