



# Puppy Buyer Cheat Sheet

## Finding & Working with a Breeder

The PWDCA wants your puppy to have the best possible chance for a long and healthy life. Careful breeding reduces the risk of many significant health and temperament issues. These tasks will help you navigate your way through the puppy buying process to achieve the best possible outcome.

TASK	WHY IT'S IMPORTANT	WHAT YOU CAN DO	WHAT TO LOOK FOR
<p><b>BREEDER RESEARCH</b></p> <p>Do your homework. Feel confident that you are working with a breeder who cares about their dogs &amp; the future of the breed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PWD’s popularity has led to puppy mills &amp; unscrupulous breeders whose goals are to profit from innocent puppy buyers.</li> <li>• Scams abound, involving nonexistent purebred puppies where the supposed seller collects a deposit &amp; no puppy is actually available.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reputable breeders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stick to PWDCA Standard – don’t charge extra for rare colors of coats, markings or eyes.</li> <li>• Don’t accept online deposits without talking to you about your family.</li> <li>• Don’t send home a pup before 8 weeks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at credible sources for a breeder:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">PWDCA Referral List</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Regional Club Members &amp; Referral Lists (if avail)</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">PWDCA Rescue</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• While not all reputable breeders have websites (they rely on word of mouth &amp; referrals), many responsible breeders do publish websites that can assist you in your search. If a breeder isn’t planning a litter, they may be able to direct you to breeders that are.</li> <li>• All responsible breeders will either include on their website or provide:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sire &amp; Dam registration #s, full AKC registered names &amp; pedigrees</li> <li>○ Health test results</li> <li>○ Fairly extensive puppy owner questionnaire</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Talk with several breeders about pedigrees, health, temperament, price, AKC registration, timing, written guarantees &amp; contracts.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Responsible breeders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are active PWDCA &amp; regional club members.</li> <li>• Participate with their dogs in performance/ conformation.</li> <li>• Are knowledgeable about the history PWDs &amp; their dogs’ pedigrees.</li> <li>• Require at least one in-person meeting before puppy placement.</li> <li>• Don’t breed dogs under the age of 2 years old.</li> <li>• Provide proof of health tests so you can verify.</li> <li>• Begin the socialization process prior to sending pups home.</li> <li>• Select the best puppy for your family after evaluating for temperament &amp; conformation.</li> <li>• Are willing to take a puppy back for any reason. Those terms should be clear in your contract.</li> </ul>

## Puppy Buyer Cheat Sheet, continued

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<p><b>HEALTH TESTS</b></p> <p>Obtain proof of health tests completed on both sire &amp; dam, the parents of your puppy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can validate most health info provided by breeder at <a href="http://www.OFA.org">www.OFA.org</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>Breeders wishing to skip the expense of important health testing will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Falsify health certificates</li> <li>Post inaccurate results online</li> <li>Provide excuses why they are unable to provide.</li> </ul>	<p>Ask breeder to provide copies of health certificates on both the Sire &amp; Dam. Minimal <a href="#">PWDCA-recommended health tests</a> a breeder should perform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hip Dysplasia – OFA (Penn Hip is not required by the PWDCA)</li> <li>Eye Exam within 1 yr - CAER</li> <li>GM1 Storage Disease</li> <li>JDCM heart disorder</li> <li>PRA blindness</li> <li>EOPRA blindness</li> <li>Microphthalmia – blindness</li> <li>Verify that puppies will get Vet wellness checks &amp; ophthalmic eye exams prior to placement in their new homes.</li> <li>Verify pups receive microchips, be wormed &amp; given 1<sup>st</sup> set of vaccines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accept no excuses for lack of health tests on their dogs.</li> <li>At least 1 parent should be normal or non-carrier for GM1, JDCM, PRA, EOPRA &amp; Microphthalmia. Pups might be born carriers, but will not be affected with the disease as long as 1 parent is not a carrier.</li> <li>Ask about other potential PWD health conditions.</li> <li>Ask if you can contact the breeder regarding any health or behavioral issues over the dog's lifetime.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ASK MORE QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p>Any reputable breeder will answer these questions without hesitation.</p> <p><b>The more potential puppy owners who ask these questions &amp; insist on the above information, the more likely that puppy mills &amp; unscrupulous breeders will be forced to do their part to protect our breed.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are you a member of the PWDCA? If not, why not?</li> <li>Do you show your PWDs at AKC events?</li> <li>Do you participate in any performance activities, such as obedience, rally, agility, water work, nose/scent work?</li> <li>May I visit the puppies &amp; dam when it is safe for them?</li> <li>Who is the sire &amp; why did you select him for your female?</li> <li>Do you perform temperament testing to determine placement?</li> <li>How do you socialize your pups?</li> </ul>	<p>All responsible breeders will easily answer these questions directly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They'll happily provide their reasoning &amp; much detail.</li> <li>You'll learn so much about your future breed by asking these questions!</li> <li>In addition, the quality breeder will recognize that you care enough to ask.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>PURCHASE</b></p> <p>Ask for a copy or sample of the contract up front, prior to placing a deposit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know what is required &amp; question anything that seems questionable or that you don't understand.</li> <li>• Non-show puppies are placed on a spay/neuter contract and AKC Registration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the contract &amp; make sure you are willing to follow through with the requirements especially if health tests of your pup are required.</li> <li>• Don't place a deposit until you have thoroughly reviewed, understand &amp; agree with the contract.</li> <li>• Look up your state's "puppy lemon law" &amp; know your rights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify the registrations &amp; names of the Sire &amp; Dam are the same as the AKC &amp; health documentation you've already received.</li> <li>• If you are purchasing a pet puppy, look for the the contract to state that you agree to spay/neuter on a limited registration by a certain age. Be sure you will not be required to breed it.</li> <li>• You should receive AKC registration certificate from your breeder or AKC within 60 days.</li> <li>• The breeder should provide you with a microchip number &amp; tag.</li> </ul>