



Are You Thinking About Purchasing A Bulldog?



Never buy on impulse and really think through the decision to get a dog. A dog is a lifetime commitment and will rely on its guardian for all of its needs.

Buying a Bulldog Puppy

So, you have fallen in love with that cute, little, squishy, flat faced, wrinkly, sweet bulldog puppy. You are probably surfing the internet searching for that 'perfect puppy' from a 'reputable' breeder. You see a picture of the pup of your dreams and you want it NOW!

Only buy from an ethical breeder with a good reputation. The breeder should be willing to mentor you as the puppy matures.

No responsible breeder should have difficulty complying with any following:

Always visit the kennel before buying the dog. Let your eyes, ears and nose be the judge.

Warning Signs:

- The breeder suggests that a visit to their kennel is not essential.
- The breeder offers to sell the puppy sight unseen.
- If upon visiting a kennel you are restricted from full access.

When you buy your puppy you should get a sales contract and receipt for payment, a copy of the puppy's 3 generation pedigree, medical records to date of sale, and the breeder must supply you with the registration certificate within six months of sale.

Your receipt should be dated and signed by the breeder and it should include, at the very least, a verification that the dog is purebred, the breed of the dog, your name and the name of the breeder, the identification number of the dog, a verification that you will be provided with registration papers and the total price of the dog, including all costs of registration. Never pay for a purebred dog, in whole or in part, without first being provided with a proper bill of sale containing all of the above.

If the dog is purebred it must be identified prior to leaving the breeder's premises in order for it to be eligible to be registered with CKC. This is the law. It is the responsibility of the breeder to pay for the identification. Two forms of identification are acceptable: a Canadian Standard microchip transponder or a tattoo.

The puppy should be at least 8 weeks old and weaned, wormed and have at least its first set of immunization shots.

It is not uncommon for a breeder to sell a "pet puppy" with a non-breeding contract. With a statement that the puppy be spay/neutered.

Plan a visit with a vet knowledgeable with the bulldog breed to insure your new pup is healthy.

Bulldog puppies are expensive. It is very costly to breed and raise a litter of bulldog pups. Stud fees, AI fees, progesterone testing, cesarean section, ultrasounds, care of mother and pups, several visits to the veterinary and immunizations are all some of the costs incurred by the breeder.

Temperament

The bulldog is short in stature with broad shoulders and a wide chest. The dog has a short, broad muzzle and is covered with folds of loose skin that cause wrinkling at the tail and legs and around the face. These dogs are extremely intelligent and possess quirky personalities.

The disposition should be equable and kind, resolute and courageous (not vicious or aggressive).

They react very positively to good humor and crave the attention of their owners. Bulldogs love people and the attention people give them. A Bulldog thrives best in a loving environment, free from fear and neglect.

They are absolutely wonderful with children and the elderly. Bulldogs are brave to the extreme and will guard and defend their owner if they think he/she is being threatened.

Bulldogs can be stubborn and difficult to train, as they are easily bored with traditional dog behaviors. They crave to simply be a companion animal and are not impressed by overzealous training. Attending puppy training classes will help your pup become socialized and have good manners.

Crate training is a good option when a pup must be left alone. It is a source of security and protection and should be used for short periods of time. A crate can also prove useful when potty-training a pup through the night.

Bulldog Health

As with other short nosed breeds, it is necessary to keep a watchful eye on your bulldog in not weather or in any stressful situation, making sure he has shade and clean water.

Bulldogs need to be taken on a daily walk. Walk, do not run. Do not be deceived by your bully's strong build or desire to play as a puppy. They have short legs, carry a good deal of weight and are prone to respiratory issues; having them run too much can cause them to overheat and/or go into respiratory distress. Bulldogs who are in good shape are capable of moving very quickly for short periods of time.

Bulldogs may be prone to a variety of genetic predispositions, such as: elongated soft palate, small trachea, entropion, cherry eye, stenotic nares, patella luxation and hip dysplasia. Before you buy a puppy, ask the breeder about health conditions in his bloodlines. Many breeders test for known genetic issues, however, even though both parents are healthy, a puppy can develop any one or more common health problems from several generations back. Buying a bulldog puppy should be done with care and researching the breed, and not be done at the spur of the moment.

Buyer Beware

There is a real and significant issue with Bulldogs today, who are marketed as "rare". They are CKC registered 'black', 'tri', or 'blue' among other colours and patterns. Also, they may have green eyes, blue eyes, grey or chocolate noses. They are being sold as 'RARE' and these breeders are charging excessive amounts for them. They are rare, but they are rare because reputable breeders would never breed these dogs. These colors are considered undesirable in our purebred bulldogs written standard. The 'written standard' is like a blueprint for breeders to follow to keep the unique characteristics of our breed consistent. Breeders who intentionally breed these colors are not acting in the best interest of the breed. They are however lining their pocketbooks by charging excessive amounts for these puppies. These breeders are not welcome members of the BCO as they do not follow the outlined ethics requirements of this club.

Other types of bulldogs you need to concern yourself with are mini bulldogs. These are not bulldogs!!! These are some type of cross breeding. When two different breeds are crossed there is no way to predict the potential health risks that may arise from a breeding like this. Beware!

Another risky puppy buying venture is the puppy that was imported from another country. Brokers import puppies from other countries at a discounted price and sell them for profit. There is a great risk to shipping puppies and many show up sick. It is almost impossible to enforce a health guarantee or have any support for your new puppy when dealing with these situations. A reputable breeder is careful who their pups are placed with, a broker does not.

I have heard many times from pet buyers they are not interested in papers because they do not intend to show. A bulldog does require registration papers to show but papers offer an assurance that this puppy is a purebred bulldog. Papers include not only a registration with the CKC but more importantly link your dog to a pedigree showing a family history. This information is your insurance of truly owning a purebred bulldog and offers quite a bit of information. If you want to know what your pup will grow up to be like, or the health of the pup, the answer most often will lie in a 5 generation pedigree.

Buying a bulldog puppy is a decision that warrants using your head not your heart. Once you have done all the research and it appears to be a logical choice go ahead and let your heart give that bulldog puppy all the love it deserves!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SECRETARY@BULLDOGCLUBOFONTARIO.COM

This flyer only acts as a guide to inform you about some of the unique requirements of the bulldog breed, it is to increase your awareness of what is required. It is not intended to, nor can it have all the answers.

