



# The Puppy Contract & Information Pack

To be completed by the breeder.

## ABOUT THE BREEDER

### 1. Contact details

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss etc): \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## ABOUT THE SELLER (if different)

### 2. Contact details

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss etc): \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## ABOUT THE PUPPY'S MOTHER

### 3. Date of birth

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### 4. What is the mother's microchip number? (15 digits)

5. Is the mother registered with a club or society?  Yes  No

State type of registration: (for example, Kennel Club, The Greyhound Studbook) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration number: \_\_\_\_\_

6. How many caesarean sections has the mother had, including this litter? \_\_\_\_\_

7. How many litters has the mother had, including this one? \_\_\_\_\_

8. How old was the mother when she had her first litter? \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months

Was it on her first season?  Yes  No

9. Is the mother up to date with UK vaccinations?  Yes  No

If yes, is her vaccination certificate available to view?  Yes  No

10. When was the mother last treated for worms and which worming product was used?

Product used: \_\_\_\_\_ Date used: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Has the mother had any surgery to correct features that could be inherited by the puppy?  Yes  No

If yes, please give details: \_\_\_\_\_

## ABOUT THE PUPPY'S FATHER

12. Owner's name and address

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss etc): \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Father's date of birth

/   /

14. What is the father's microchip number? (15 digits)

15. Is the father registered with a club or society?  Yes  No

State type of registration: (for example, Kennel Club, The Greyhound Studbook) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration number: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Has the father had any surgery to correct features that could be inherited by the puppy?  Yes  No

If yes, please give details: \_\_\_\_\_



## ABOUT THE PUPPY

### 17. Date of birth

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18. Sex:  Male  Female

### 19. Colour and distinguishing marks

Please describe the puppy's colour and distinguishing marks.

\_\_\_\_\_

20. Is the puppy a specific breed?  Yes  No

If yes, state the breed.

\_\_\_\_\_

21. Is the puppy a cross-breed?  Yes  No

State the breed (or breeds) for each parent, if known.

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Father: \_\_\_\_\_

22. Is the puppy registered with a club or society?  Yes  No

State type of registration: (for example, Kennel Club, The Greyhound Studbook)

\_\_\_\_\_

Registration number: \_\_\_\_\_

Puppy's registered name: \_\_\_\_\_

23. Is the puppy subject to any Kennel Club endorsements?  Yes  No

If yes, please list them.

\_\_\_\_\_

24. What is the puppy's microchip number? (15 digits)

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If the puppy can't be microchipped yet for veterinary reasons, a copy of the signed veterinary certificate should be attached.

25. Is the puppy covered by a breeder's insurance policy?  Yes  No

If yes, give the following details:

Insurance company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy number: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

26. Was the puppy born by caesarean section?  Yes  No

27. Will the puppy be vaccinated before he/she is sold?  Yes  No

If yes, attach the vaccination record and fill in the date the next vaccination is due.



**28. Give details of any worming treatments the puppy will have received.**

Product used:	Date used:

**29. Has the puppy's tail been docked?**  Yes  No

If yes, a signed docking certificate should be attached.  Yes  No

**30. If the puppy has had a health check or been treated by a vet for any reason please tick this box and give further details.**

Date of treatment or check: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of treatment or check (if you need more space use the extra space given at Question 44.)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**31. What is the puppy's current weight?**

\_\_\_\_\_ kilograms \_\_\_\_\_ grams                      Date weight recorded: \_\_\_\_\_

**32. What types of diet is the puppy currently being fed?**

Dry     Pouched or tinned     Frozen

How much is the puppy fed each day? \_\_\_\_\_ grams (If more than one type state how much of each.)

State approximate times of day when the puppy is fed: \_\_\_\_\_

**33. Will the buyer be given enough of the puppy's current food for at least one week?**  Yes  No

**34. Will toilet training be started before the puppy is sold?**  Yes  No

If yes, where will the puppy be trained to toilet (for example, outside on grass)? \_\_\_\_\_

**35. Where is the puppy kept for most of the time?**

In a kennel     In a quiet part of the house

In a part of the house where there is a lot of activity (for example, the kitchen)

Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_



**36. Before the sale, who will the puppy have interacted with?** (Tick whichever apply)

- Adult males                                       Adult females                                       Children under four years old  
 Children between four and 10 years old     Children over 10 years old

**37. Will the puppy have interacted with any of the following?** (Tick whichever apply)

- Other dogs of the same breed or type     Dogs of different breeds or types     Cats     Rabbits  
 Other animals (state which): \_\_\_\_\_

**38. Will the puppy have experienced any of the following?** (Tick whichever apply)

- Wearing a collar or harness  
 Being briefly separated from his or her mother and littermates in the company of people  
 Being in a restricted environment (for example, an indoor kennel)  
 Hearing household noises. For example, washing machine, vacuum cleaner (see box below).  
 Hearing real or recorded noises. For example, fireworks or traffic.

Describe these experiences (washing machine, traffic noise and so on):

**39. Before the sale, will the new owner have the chance to see and interact with any of the following?**

- The puppy's mother (this is a legal requirement for licensed breeders in England)  
 The puppy's father                                       Other puppies in the litter

**40. Is the puppy's pedigree known?**  Yes  No

If yes, is the puppy's pedigree certificate attached to this information pack?  Yes  No

**41. What is the relationship between the puppy's parents?**

- Unrelated                                       Distantly related (for example, second or third cousins)  
 Third degree relatives (first cousins)     Unknown

**42. How inbred is the puppy?** See guidance notes for help.

State COI or leave blank if unknown. \_\_\_\_\_

## INHERITED CONDITIONS AND SCREENING/DNA TESTS

### 43. Inherited conditions and screening/DNA tests

Fill in this section to note common or serious inherited conditions in the breed (or breeds) and to record any related screening or DNA tests carried out on the puppy and his/her parents.

Please see the guidance notes for where to find information on canine inherited disorders.

Information should be completed:

- For the mother if she is a specific breed or a cross between two specific breeds;
- For the father if he is a specific breed or a cross between two specific breeds
- If the puppy is a specific breed or cross between two breeds and tests are available.

#### Mother's breed or breeds

Common or serious inherited conditions in breed	Screening or DNA test available		Test carried out		Date of test	Results available		Results certificate given to buyer		If testing has been carried out and the results are not available or if testing does not apply please state why
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#### Father's breed or breeds

Common or serious inherited conditions in breed	Screening or DNA test available		Test carried out		Date of test	Results available		Results certificate given to buyer		If testing has been carried out and the results are not available or if testing does not apply please state why
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#### Puppy's breed or breeds

Common or serious inherited conditions in breed	Screening or DNA test available		Test carried out		Date of test	Results available		Results certificate given to buyer		If testing has been carried out and the results are not available or if testing does not apply please state why
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## EXTRA INFORMATION

44. Use this space to include any extra information about the puppy.

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# Guidance notes

## ABOUT THE BREEDER

### Q1 & Q2: About the breeder or seller

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It is strongly recommended that you do not buy a puppy from anyone other than the breeder so that you can see the puppy interacting with his/her mother and siblings in the place where he/she was born and reared.

## ABOUT THE PUPPY'S MOTHER

### Q4: What is the mother's microchip number?

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Microchipping is the best way for dogs and puppies to be identified and returned to their owners if they get lost or stolen. It is a legal requirement in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that all dogs over the age of eight weeks are microchipped.

### Q6: How many caesarean sections has the mother had, including this litter?

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A caesarean section is an operation to take the puppies out of the mother when she hasn't been able to give birth naturally. It is a major operation which can cause problems for the mother and puppies.

Some breeds and some individual mothers struggle to give birth naturally and may end up needing a caesarean every time. Vets feel that these dogs should not be bred from. So you should avoid buying puppies from mothers who have had more than one caesarean. This is especially important if the puppy is a female you want to breed from, otherwise she may have trouble giving birth herself.

In England, licensed breeders must not breed from a dog who has already had two caesarean sections.

### Q7: How many litters has the mother had, including this one?

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Pregnancy, birth and rearing puppies all take a lot of energy and work for any mother. She may have problems such as difficulty giving birth and poor body condition if her nutritional needs aren't met. Mothers should be allowed at least one season between litters. Avoid puppies from mothers that have had many litters, as this may be a sign that the breeder has expected too much from the mother and may also mean that the care and condition of the puppy might not be ideal either.

### Q 8: How old was the mother when she had her first litter and was it on her first season?

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Responsible breeders should not breed from their bitch's first season and should not breed from bitches under one year old. This makes sure the mother is fully grown, mature and is as capable as possible of coping with pregnancy and birth. Different breeds mature at different rates, so check with a vet for the appropriate age when breeding can start. Breeders who have ignored these laws or guidelines may not be very knowledgeable and caring about the mother, and as a result the puppy.

### Q9: Is the mother up to date with UK vaccinations?

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It is very important that the mother's routine vaccinations are up to date. She needs to be vaccinated to make sure her puppies are born with a good immunity to certain deadly diseases. This will keep the puppies healthy until they can be vaccinated themselves. Homeopathic vaccines should **not** have been used. Ask your vet if you are not sure what vaccines the mother should have had.

### Q10: When was the mother last treated for worms and which product was used?

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Regular worming of the mother, including during pregnancy, is important to make sure the puppies are not born infested with worms. Ask your vet about how effective the products listed are, and whether they are up to date. Avoid buying from breeders who do not vaccinate or worm their animals adequately.

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**Q11 and Q16: Has either parent had any surgery to correct features that could be inherited by the puppy?**

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Many breeds have been bred to emphasise certain features which over time have become more and more exaggerated. Although 'normal' for a breed, flat faces, heavy wrinkles and very floppy ears are just a few examples of features that may cause problems.

For example, dogs with short flat faces often have features that can cause breathing problems, such as narrow nostrils and tiny windpipes. They can suffer severe breathing difficulties and may even have difficulty enjoying a walk or playing. Folded or wrinkled skin may be itchy and painful, and infolding eyelids can scratch the eyeball. Some of these problems will require lifelong medication or sometimes surgery, both of which can be costly. These problems can cause significant health and welfare concerns for the dog and affect its quality of life, and can be very distressing for owners.

You should also be told if either parent has had surgery to fix a problem such as eyelids which rubbed on the eye, as this may no longer be obvious, but could still be inherited by the puppy.

It's important to know whether the parents are affected to give you an idea of how likely the puppy will be to get the same problems. Speak to your vet about any problems listed.

Before you buy a puppy find out which breeds are worst affected and try to avoid them. To find out more, talk to your vet or visit the following websites:

- Canine Inherited Disorders Database: [www.upei.ca/cidd](http://www.upei.ca/cidd)
- Get Puppy Smart: [www.getpuppysmart.com](http://www.getpuppysmart.com)
- Dog Breed Health: [www.dogbreedhealth.com/](http://www.dogbreedhealth.com/)

Breeders can also ask their vet and should use the websites above when listing the exaggerated features in their breed.

## **ABOUT THE PUPPY'S FATHER**

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**Q12: Contact details: owner of the puppy's father**

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This information can only be included if the owner has given permission for their contact details to be shared with a prospective owner.

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**Q14: What is the father's microchip number?**

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See Guidance to Q4 above.

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**Q16: Has the father had any surgery to correct features that could be inherited by the puppy?**

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See the Guidance for Q11 above.

## **ABOUT THE PUPPY**

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**Q17: Date of birth**

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The puppy should be at least 8 weeks old before they can leave their mum.

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**Q23: Is the puppy subject to any Kennel Club endorsements?**

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Before a puppy is sold the breeder can apply to the Kennel Club to place endorsements on his/her records (including the registration certificate). For example:

R – PROGENY NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION or  
X – EXPORT PEDIGREE NOT ALLOWED.

The breeder must explain what the endorsements mean before you agree to buy the puppy.

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**Q24: What is the puppy's microchip number?**

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Microchipping is the best way for dogs and puppies to be identified and returned to their owners if they get lost or stolen. It is a legal requirement in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that all puppies are microchipped by the time they are eight weeks old and **before** they go to their new homes.

It is also a legal requirement for the new owner to contact the relevant database to update their records with their contact details.

A puppy is only exempt from being microchipped for health reasons if a vet certifies it in writing. In this case you should ask for a copy of the certificate and speak to your vet about getting your puppy microchipped.

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**Q25: Is the puppy covered by a breeder's insurance policy?**

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Breeders often insure their litters. Some insurance policies provide free cover for new owners against a puppy's illness or injury for a limited period after the puppy has been bought. Check the details.

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**Q26: Was this puppy born by caesarean section?**

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See Guidance to Q6 about caesarean sections.

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**Q27: Will the puppy be vaccinated before being sold?**

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Vaccinations are very important to prevent certain deadly diseases such as parvovirus. If the mother was vaccinated properly the puppy should have resistance to these diseases for roughly the first 10 weeks of his/her life. If your puppy has been vaccinated, the breeder's vet will have given them a vaccination certificate which shows the vaccination date and the products used. Speak to your vet about whether the puppy needs any more vaccinations and when his/her first booster is due.

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**Q28: Details of worming treatments the puppy will have received**

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Regular worming is important for all puppies, whether the mother was wormed or not, for the health of puppies and humans. Ask your vet about any products listed and avoid buying from breeders who have not treated their dogs for worms at all.

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**Q29: Has the puppy's tail been docked?**

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The law bans tail docking in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland except under certain conditions and only when carried out by a vet. In Scotland there is a total ban.

Tail docking involves removing a puppy's tail either by cutting it off or using a tight rubber band to make it die. Many animal welfare and veterinary organisations are strongly opposed to the practice unless the tail is injured or diseased. It causes pain and even death in some puppies and can cause long-term health problems. It can also reduce how well dogs can communicate with each other.

A leaflet which explains the rules on tail docking in the UK can be downloaded from:

<https://www.animalwelfarefoundation.org.uk/animal-welfare-advice/guidance-for-vets/#tail-docking-dogs>

If the puppy has been docked legally you must be given a certificate signed by the vet who did the docking.

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**Q30: Has the puppy had a health check or been treated by a vet for any reason?**

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Many puppies don't need to see a vet before they leave their breeder. If your puppy has been checked or received any treatment, the breeder should give you details of anything abnormal that the vet noted. Talk to your vet if you are not sure about any of this information.

It's best to get your puppy examined by your vet as soon as you can, to make sure there are no problems and to get advice about things such as food, vaccination, worming, fleas, insurance, microchipping, neutering and socialisation.

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**Q31: What is the puppy's current weight?**

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There is no single correct weight for a puppy. However, it's really useful to know how much the puppy weighed when you got him so that your vet can see if he/she gains or loses weight.

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**Q32: Details of the puppy's diet**

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It is important that you know the type of food that the puppy is used to and how often and when he/she is used to being fed, so that these can all be kept as similar as possible when you take the puppy home. Puppies should be fed a weighed or measured amount of food at regular times.

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**Q33: Will the buyer be given enough of the puppy's current food for at least one week?**

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When you change to a new food, you should do this gradually over four to five days, with increasing amounts of the new food replacing the previous food each day. If you change the puppy's food too quickly, this can cause stomach upset or diarrhoea.

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**Q34: Will toilet training be started before the puppy is sold?**

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Puppies start to learn a preference at an early age for the surface that they toilet on. The more they use a particular surface, the stronger this preference becomes. You can then continue training the puppy in a similar way, or expect to be really patient and consistent if you want to change their preference.

Ask a professional trainer to help you with any further training of your puppy ([www.abtcouncil.org.uk](http://www.abtcouncil.org.uk))

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**Q35: Where is the puppy kept for most of the time?**

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A puppy's early social and physical environment strongly influences their behaviour as adults. A puppy that has lived in a home environment, particularly in a part of it where people come and go, is more likely to be prepared for life in a home. Where puppies have been kept in kennels, you need to check that they have experienced some aspects of a normal home environment at least some of the time.

When you visit the puppy ask to see where he/she has been kept. Although you may be introduced to the puppy in a house, he/she may not usually be kept there. Are there food bowls, bedding, pens and so on?

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**Q36: The puppy's experience of contact with people**

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The period from 3–14 weeks of age in a puppy's life are critical in determining how he/she will react to people and new situations. Lack of social contact during this period increases the risk of behaviours associated with fear and anxiety later in life.

Puppies need to have contact with men, women and children during this period. In general, the more people that puppies have interacted with the better.

Puppies which have had positive experience of lots of different types of people are less likely to be wary when you handle and approach them. Ask the breeder if you can take as many members of your family as possible on your second visit. Watch carefully how the puppy responds to adults and children who are acting normally and reasonably. Look for signs of the puppy withdrawing, struggling to get away, cowering, putting their tail between their legs or hiding.

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**Q37: The puppy's contact with adult dogs and other animals**

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Puppies need to meet a variety of other dogs in order to learn social skills and how different types of dog communicate. If the puppy is vaccinated, ask to see him/her interacting with adult dogs other than his/her mother so you can see if he/she is confident and happy to interact and play with another dog.

If puppies have experience of other animals, they will be more likely to adapt quickly to any other animals they have to live with in your home. If the puppy is very excited or nervous with other animals, he/she will be more likely to be like this with other animals when you take him home.

If possible see what other animals are in the environment where the puppy lives and watch how he/she reacts to them.

### **Q38: The puppy's other experiences**

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Early exposure to a range of experiences and noises prepares the puppy for encountering this later in life so he/she remains calm and is less likely to be afraid when you take him home.

Watch how the puppy responds to things that are happening during your visit. Ask the breeder to show you how the puppy reacts to household noises, wearing a collar, or being separated briefly from littermates. He/she should stay calm.

Do not expose him/her to sudden new noises that he/she has not experienced before, or expect the breeder to do so.

### **Q39: Before the sale will the new owner have the chance to interact with the puppy's parents and other puppies in the litter if there are any?**

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Licensed breeders in England must only show you a puppy with his/her biological mother. Regardless of the law where you're buying your puppy, it is very important that you see the puppy's mother and the other puppies in the litter. You should also try to see the father if possible, although this may be difficult in some circumstances.

Make sure you interact with the parents, handle them if safe to do so, and assess their reaction to you. Check they appear healthy, check the environment that the mother and puppies are in and check the temperament of the mother, father and the rest of the litter. The parents' characteristics can influence how the puppies develop and behave. In particular, look for signs of fear, such as withdrawal, cowering, urination, and tail between the legs. Also watch for signs of aggression such as growling, lunging and barking.

Unscrupulous breeders may try to show you another dog instead of the puppy's mother. To avoid this, make sure you see the mother and puppies together, and check for signs that the dog you see has given birth recently, such as enlarged nipples. They may also give excuses for why the mother isn't there, such as "she's at the vets" or "she's gone for a walk". These are not valid reasons so you should avoid these breeders/sellers.

If the breeder answers 'no' in these sections, ask why you cannot see the father or the rest of the litter.

### **Q40: If the puppy's pedigree is known and a pedigree certificate will be attached**

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The pedigree certificate shows the puppy's ancestry and may go back up to five generations, starting with the puppy's parents in the left column through to the great- great-great grandparents in the right column. The top half shows the puppy's ancestry through his/her father and the bottom half is the mother's pedigree.

### **Q41: What is the relationship between the puppy's parents?**

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If the puppy's parents are related to each other, the puppy is inbred. The degree of inbreeding depends on how closely related the parents are. If an ancestor's name is repeated in both the father's and the mother's halves of the pedigree certificate, there is inbreeding.

Inbreeding is not desirable as it increases the risk of inherited disease such as cancer and blindness. Avoid a puppy from matings between first- or second-degree relatives, for example:

- first degree – mother/son, father/daughter, brother/sister; or
- second degree – uncle niece, aunt/nephew, grandparent/grandchild.

### **Q42: How inbred is the puppy?**

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It's important to avoid buying puppies that are very inbred because they have a higher chance of having inherited diseases and being unwell later in life. A simple way to describe this is the coefficient of inbreeding (COI). This is a number where the higher the number, the more inbred the puppy.

For example, a very inbred puppy would come from a mother-to-son mating or a brother-to-sister, both having a COI of 25. A less inbred puppy might come from a mating between a great-grandfather and great-granddaughter, with a lower score of 6.25.

Inbreeding can also build up through generations, so if a pedigree goes back a long way there can be very high scores (over 25).

Avoid puppies with a COI of over 12.5 and above the average for their breed.

Puppies whose background is not known cannot have a score calculated and in these cases the box will be left blank.

You can find the COI for puppies (and their parents) registered with the Kennel Club using their Mate Select service:

[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/mateselect/](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/mateselect/)

You can also use Mate Select to find out the average COI for particular breeds.

## **INHERITED CONDITIONS AND SCREENING/DNA TESTS**

### **Q43: Inherited disorders and screening tests**

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#### **Inherited disorders**

Many breeds of dog are prone to a number of inherited disorders and some breeds have higher likelihoods of developing particular disorders. Crossbred dogs can also inherit disorders from their parents' breeds.

Some inherited conditions are very rare or cause only minor suffering, while others are extremely painful or life-threatening. Examples of inherited disorders are cancer, blindness, diabetes, heart disease, skin complaints, epilepsy, hip dysplasia and deafness.

It is important to be aware of these conditions as they could have been passed on to the puppy.

Talk to your vet before you buy, and check for information on inherited disorders on the following websites.

- Dog Breed Health: [www.dogbreedhealth.com](http://www.dogbreedhealth.com)
- University of Cambridge Inherited Diseases in Dogs Database: [www.vet.cam.ac.uk/idid](http://www.vet.cam.ac.uk/idid)
- Universities Federation for Animal Welfare: <https://www.ufaw.org.uk/dogs/dogs>
- Canine Inherited Disorders Database: [www.upei.ca/cidd](http://www.upei.ca/cidd)
- Canine Health Schemes: <https://www.bva.co.uk/Canine-Health-Schemes/>
- Some Breed Club websites also report common and important inherited conditions in the breed.

#### **DNA and health screening tests**

Several health screening tests can measure the risk that a dog will be affected by the disease, be a carrier (and able to pass it on to their offspring) or be unaffected.

The breeder should have listed important disorders, and where the disorder can be screened for in the puppy and his/her parents, attached copies of the results certificates for any tests carried out. If the puppy is a cross between two known breeds, the list should include conditions found in each of those breeds. If the breeder has stated that they have not done the tests or that the results are not available you should ask why – and avoid buying a puppy from them.

Do not be satisfied with word of mouth - make sure you see the test results. If you buy from a breeder who has tested their dogs and is breeding from those that have passed the health tests, you will be another step closer to a happy, healthy puppy.

The Canine Health Scheme from the British Veterinary Association and the Kennel Club can provide you with advice on how to interpret the results of any tests. <https://www.bva.co.uk/Canine-Health-Schemes/>

If the puppy's parents are Kennel Club registered you can use the registered name or number of the parents to find the test results from a CHS or a Kennel Club DNA testing scheme at:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/mateselect/test/Default.aspx>

You can find a list of all DNA tests for dogs available worldwide at:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/worldwide-dna-tests/>

Your vet can help you understand the results of DNA or health screening tests and give you advice on which tests are important for particular breeds.

## EXTRA INFORMATION

### Q44: Extra information

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Additional information about the puppy can be recorded in this space.

Disclaimer: The Puppy Contract and related documents are intended to provide a fair basis for the sale and purchase of a puppy with the primary aim of promoting animal welfare.

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# THE PUPPY CONTRACT

## Contract for the sale and purchase of a puppy

### 1. PUPPY DETAILS

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Colour: \_\_\_\_\_

Kennel Club registered name of dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Kennel Club registration number: \_\_\_\_\_

Microchip number:

This is to confirm that the sale of the dog described above (“the Puppy”) is between:

### 2. DETAILS OF PARTIES

Seller’s name: \_\_\_\_\_

Seller’s address: \_\_\_\_\_

Seller’s telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

and

Buyer’s name: \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer’s address: \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer’s telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

### DEFINITIONS

- **“Puppy Information Pack”** means the Puppy Information Pack that sets out the Dog Health Information and Future Health and Welfare Needs and forms part of this agreement.
- **“Dog Health Information”** means the information about the Puppy, its parent and grandparents, and these animals’ health and temperament.
- **“Good Health”** means a condition of health free of parasites and hereditary disorders and of reasonably sound physical condition and temperament.
- **“Future Health and Welfare Needs”** means the measure that should be taken to ensure that the Puppy is and remains in Good Health and is properly housed, fed, watered, trained, socialised and exercised and that it receives appropriate veterinary attention. “Seller” means the seller of the Puppy defined above, whether or not the breeder of the Puppy.

### 3. THE SELLER WARRANTS:

- 3.1 That if the Buyer has previously selected the Puppy from a litter or in any other circumstances, that the Puppy sold under this contract is the Puppy that the Buyer has previously selected.
- 3.2 That the genetic health checks and health screening set out in the Puppy Information Pack have been carried out on the Puppy's parents and explanation of what this means for the Puppy is provided in the Puppy Information Pack.
- 3.3 That the Puppy is not the result of a mating of two dogs related within two generations.
- 3.4 That the Puppy is in Good Health, other than as the Seller specifically informs the Buyer before the date of sale.
- 3.5 That he/she has supplied the Puppy Information Pack prior to the Buyer viewing the Puppy or a reasonable period in advance of the Buyer's decision to buy the Puppy and has communicated to the Buyer within the Puppy Information Pack:
  - a) the possible consequences of buying the Puppy given the Dog Health Information, the genetic health checks and health screening carried out under **clause 3.2** and the particular considerations that are likely to affect the Puppy given its breed;
  - b) the meaning of any Kennel Club endorsement;
  - c) the measures that should be taken, whether by neutering, contraception or otherwise, to guard against unwanted pregnancy; and
  - d) the Future Health and Welfare Needs of the Puppy.
- 3.6 That the information contained in the Puppy Information Pack supplied to the Buyer under clause 3.5 above is accurate and materially complete (to the best of the Seller's knowledge and belief where the information is supplied by a third party) and all diagnostic tests for the Puppy have been undertaken as recorded in the Dog Health Information and that reasonable care and skill is and/or will be used when explaining to the Buyer the Future Health and Welfare Needs of the Puppy and any advice or recommendations provided under clause 4.5 below.
- 3.7 That, if he/she is a member of the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme, he/she has adhered to the Standard and all requirements and recommendations under the Scheme as set out at <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/breeding/assured-breeder-scheme/> and/or as provided to the Buyer.
- 3.8 That he/she, having made reasonable enquiries of the Buyer, in good faith believes that the Buyer is able to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs.
- 3.9 That the Puppy is more than 8 weeks old at the date of sale.
- 3.10 That the Puppy has received adequate care and that the Seller has provided it with the opportunity to socialise with dogs, humans and other animals it is likely to come into contact with and it has experienced and become accustomed to the sounds and experiences of typical family life.
- 3.11 That any pedigree indicated for the Puppy is correct. Where appropriate, the Seller will provide the Buyer with all relevant registration papers and pedigree certificate within one month of the date of sale, or as soon as it is available.

**4. THE BUYER WARRANTS:**

- 4.1 That he/she has read and understands the information provided to him/her under **clauses 3.2-3.5** above and contained in the Puppy Information Pack.
- 4.2 That he/she in good faith believes that he/she will be able, and intends, to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs.
- 4.3 That neither he/she nor any member of his/her household has been cautioned for or convicted of any breach of animal welfare law such as neglect, cruelty or abandonment.
- 4.4 That he/she shall not breach the terms of any Kennel Club endorsement.
- 4.5 That in the event that he/she is no longer able or willing to provide a home for the Puppy or otherwise to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs he/she will contact the Seller and have regard to any advice and recommendations that the Seller provides, including return of the Puppy at the option of the Seller.
- 4.6 That he/she is purchasing the Puppy for himself/herself and not as agent for a third party.

**5. BOTH BUYER AND SELLER AGREE AND UNDERSTAND:**

- 5.1 That the Puppy is a living creature with interests independent of both Buyer and Seller.
- 5.2 That the Buyer may suffer distress and inconvenience as a result of the Puppy suffering pain or discomfort and one purpose of the Seller's warranties is to reduce or avoid such distress and inconvenience.
- 5.3 The Buyer shall be entitled to recover from the Seller his reasonable veterinary fees and costs to treat a serious disorder suffered by the Puppy that relates to a breach of any of the Seller's warranties.
- 5.4 Nothing in this contract affects the Buyer's statutory rights including any warranty of satisfactory quality of the Puppy implied by sale of goods legislation or other law.
- 5.5 The Buyer agrees to take the Puppy to their vet, soon after purchase, for a general health check and advice on inoculations and worming.

**6. DATE, DECLARATIONS AND SIGNATURES**

**Date of sale and purchase:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Purchase price received by Seller:** £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Buyer:** By signing this contract I agree and understand that I am entering into a legal and binding contract.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seller:** By signing this contract I agree and understand that I am entering into a legal and binding contract.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

