

Buying a Bolognese

Buying Advice from the ABC

Finding an ethical dog breeder is crucial to ensure you're supporting responsible breeding practices and getting a healthy and well-socialized puppy.



Research the Breed



Finding a Breeder



Cautions



Regular Practices



Health Testing



Registration



Support



Interview Questions



Buying a Bolognese

Research

Read About the Breed

Bolognese dogs are adorable, but they have special needs and may not fit into your lifestyle or family arrangement. It's important to read about breed characteristics and the costs involved before you fall in love with one. Have an honest conversation with the breeders you speak to about your lifestyle to ensure you're making the right choice.

Ready to learn about the breed? Visit: americanbolognese.com

Go to Looking for a Bolognese  About the Breed

Buying a Bolognese

Finding a Breeder

Reputation and References:

Seek out breeders with a good reputation within the dog community. Ask for references from past puppy buyers and consider checking online reviews or contacting local breed clubs for recommendations.

Interview Breeders:

During your phone call with the breeder, have a list of questions to ask. Ask your breeder if an in home visit is possible. If not, ask for videos of the puppies and their environment.

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Finding a Breeder



Responsible Placement:

Ethical breeders care about where their puppies go and will ask you questions to ensure you're a suitable owner for one of their dogs. Be prepared to answer questions about your lifestyle, experience with dogs, and living situation.



Breeding Goals:

Ethical breeders have a clear purpose for breeding beyond just producing puppies for profit. They aim to improve the breed and preserve its characteristics.

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Finding a Breeder



Lifetime Support:

A responsible breeder will offer support and guidance for the lifetime of the dog. They should be willing to answer any questions and provide advice on training, health, and behavior.



Contracts and Guarantees:

Look for a breeder who provides a written contract outlining responsibilities for both the buyer and the seller. This might include health guarantees and return policies.



Socialization and Environment:

A good breeder raises puppies in a clean and stimulating environment. Puppies should be exposed to various stimuli and experiences to help with their socialization.

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Finding a Breeder

Health Testing:

The Bolognese community was surveyed and found that the breed continues to be a generally a healthy breed with few known inherited conditions. Because the Bolognese is so healthy, breeder observation and phenotype testing (things like patella checks, eye exams, and other outward signs that can indicate overall health) remain the most valuable tools for guiding responsible decisions.

The ABC recognizes DNA testing as optional at this time. DNA testing can be a helpful tool, offering insight into long-term health trends without replacing the wisdom of hands-on experience.

Ethical breeders prioritize the health of their dogs and puppies. They should conduct health screenings for conditions relevant to the breed as seen on our health statement. You may ask for documentation of health clearances for both the puppy's parents.

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Health Testing Standards

The ABC suggests that each breeder test the sire and dam (puppy parents) for the following:

OFA CAER Exam

This is an ophthalmic examination performed by an American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologist (ACVO), to assess a dog for the presence of any observable hereditary eye disease.

Patella Exam

Sire and dam should have a passing patella score using the OFA evaluation standard form beginning at age one (1) through three (3) years of age.

PRA/prcd Testing prior to breeding

To ensure the health of your future puppy, ask the breeder if both parents have been tested for PRA/PRCD.

Buying a Bolognese

Cautions

Avoid Pet Stores and Puppy Mills

Often, puppy mills and unscrupulous breeders send their substandard dogs to pet stores. To ensure you're getting a healthy and ethically bred Bolognese, avoid purchasing from pet stores and always research the breeder's background.

Beware of Online Ads

Be cautious of online ads on sites like craigslist.com, puppyfinder.com, puppyfind.com, and nextdaypets.com that claim to sell Bolognese at prices lower than those of reputable breeders. Always verify the legitimacy of the seller.

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Regular Practices

Communication:

A reputable breeder will gladly answer all your questions, provide health test results, and share the pedigree/registry for both parents. They will also offer ongoing support before and after you bring your puppy home.

Vaccinations:

A written record of the vaccinations your puppy has received should be given to you and the protocol for further vaccinations for your puppy as recommended by your vet.

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Regular Practices



Puppy Placement Age:

The age of placement varies by breeder. Some breeders of toy breeds, such as the Bolognese, prefer to wait until the puppy is between 9 - 12 weeks.



Vet Exam:

Most breeders will require you to take the puppy to the vet within 3 days of bringing him home.

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Regular Practices



Puppy Pack:

Many breeders will send the puppy home with a puppy pack.

It should include:

- A small supply of food that your puppy has been eating
- Vaccination records of your puppy
- Basic puppy care instructions (feeding schedule, food information, puppy's daily routine, signs of an ill puppy, and "How to Get that Bolo Look" grooming guide)
- An item that has the mother and litter mates' scent (blanket, toy, etc.)

Buying a Bolognese

Registration

Registration

The breeder **will register the litter** with the American Kennel Club.

When you pick up your puppy, **your breeder will either give you a signed AKC FSS Dog Recording Application** (as shown here) to complete and mail to the AKC or have you sign it and the breeder will mail it.

Why does the dog need to be registered?

The registration certificate **verifies** the identity of your Bolognese, as well as helps the ABC keep accurate records of the Bolognese breed in the USA.

The image shows two AKC Foundation Stock Service Dog Recording Application forms. The left form is labeled 'FRONT' and the right form is labeled 'BACK'. A red arrow points to the 'Number TS' field on the left form, with the text 'This is your dogs AKC Number'.

FRONT

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®
AKC Foundation Stock Service®
Dog Recording Application

Use this form to record your purebred dog with the AKC Foundation Stock Service®. Important information and instructions are on the back of this form. Please use black ink and capital letters to fill in the boxes. Information you enter or print outside of the boxes will delay processing. AKC FSS® reserves the right to correct or cancel for cause the recording of this dog and its descendants. Recording is not guaranteed. Processing fees are nonrefundable and all fees are subject to change without notice. Once submitted, this form becomes the property of the AKC®.

Litter Information

Breed: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Sex: _____
Dam: _____
Breeder: _____
Litter Owner: _____

Payment Information

Please select an option.

☐ Gold Package: \$27
• Three-Generation AKC Certified Pedigree
• AKC Family Dog magazine
• Dog Care & Training Video

☐ Silver Package: \$17
• Three-Generation AKC Certified Pedigree
• AKC Family Dog magazine
• Dog Care & Training Video

Total the amount due and provide payment information:
Basic FSS Registration - FSS Registration Certificate
Gold or Silver Package - Enter an additional \$27 for the Gold Package or \$17 for the Silver Package.
Co-Owner Fee - Enter an additional \$10 for each co-owner listed.
Late Fee - Enter a fee of \$30 if you are submitting this form after JANUARY 13, 2024 \$60 if you are submitting it after JANUARY 13, 2025.

Note: All items may be mailed separately.

Payment Method: VISA AMEX MasterCard Discover

Name of Dog: the recording owner has the right to name the dog
Dog Name - Print one capital letter per box. Skip a box between words. Choose a unique name.

Permission to Use an AKC Registered Kennel Name: ☐ Microchip ☐ Microchip

Check the sex of the dog you are recording
Male ☐ Female ☐

Registration Type: ☐ Import ☐ Return ☐ 815
In order to request Limited Recording, please completely darken this box. Limited Recording means that the dog cannot produce AKC recordable litters. However, it may participate in most AKC events, including Agility, Obedience and AKC Junior Showmanship.

Color: ☐ 199 ☐ 199 White
Enter the 3-digit code that most closely describes your dog. For alternatives, see www.akccolors.org

BACK

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®
AKC Foundation Stock Service®
Dog Recording Application

Litter Owner Information

I (we) will own this dog and apply for recording and to have ownership recorded in my (our) name(s). I (we) transferred this dog directly to the owner(s) in the Recording Owner(s) section below.

I (we) certify by my (our) signature(s) that all the information appearing on this application is correct and that I (we) am (are) in good standing with the American Kennel Club. I (we) agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club. I (we) understand that if the Limited Recording Application has been checked by Litter Owner(s), I (we) will receive a Limited Recording Certificate. I (we) agree that any cause of action, claim arising out of or related to this recording or as to the construction, interpretation and effect of this agreement shall be settled by arbitration pursuant to the APPLICABLE RULES OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO ARBITRATION ALL APPLICABLE AKC BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES MUST FIRST BE FOLLOWED AS SET FORTH IN THE AKC CHARTER AND BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

BREEDER SIGNATURE GOES HERE

Recording Owner(s) Information - PLEASE PRINT

Date of Transfer: _____
TRANSFER DATE TO NEW OWNERS

RECORDING OWNER
MAILING ADDRESS
CELL PHONE

RECORDING CO-OWNER
MAILING ADDRESS
CELL PHONE

I (we) apply to the American Kennel Club to have an AKC FSS® Recording Certificate for this dog issued in my (our) name(s) and certify that I (we) acquired this dog as stated above from the Litter Owner(s). I (we) agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club. I (we) understand that if the Limited Recording Application has been checked by Litter Owner(s), I (we) will receive a Limited Recording Certificate. I (we) agree that any cause of action, claim arising out of or related to this recording or as to the construction, interpretation and effect of this agreement shall be settled by arbitration pursuant to the APPLICABLE RULES OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO ARBITRATION ALL APPLICABLE AKC BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES MUST FIRST BE FOLLOWED AS SET FORTH IN THE AKC CHARTER AND BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

SIGNATURE OF RECORDING OWNER (NEW OWNER) _____ SIGNATURE OF RECORDING CO-OWNER _____

Instructions, Requirements, and General Information

Supplemental Transfer
If you did not acquire this dog directly from the Litter Owner(s), you must include a Foundation Stock Service Supplemental Transfer Statement with this form. See www.akc.org for more information.

Co-Owner Requirements
There will be a \$10 fee added for each co-owner listed. Each co-owner will receive an email copy of the AKC Certificate. Please make no adjustments to the Total Fee Section on the front of this form.

Assistance
Email AKC at info@akc.org or call 919-233-8767 to speak to an AKC Customer Service Representative, Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM. For more information on AKC services and products, visit our website at www.akc.org.

Buying a Bolognese

Support

🤝 Lifelong Support

Bringing a dog into your life is a huge commitment since it could live 14-15 years or more.

Because of this, you want to be sure to choose a breeder with whom you can establish a relationship. The breeder will be your resource for the life of the dog.



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Interview Questions

? Questions to Ask Breeders:

- Are you a **breeder member** of the American Bolognese Club (AKC Parent Club)? Did you sign the ABC Breeder Code of Ethics? (Bolognese breeders should belong to the breed's parent club. There is a difference between Breeder members and Companion members.)
- Do you test the sire and dam (parents) according to the ABC's suggestions? May I **see** the written results for the parents?
- Do you have references? Do you mind if i call them?
- Ask the breeder to **show** you the pedigree and registry for both sire and dam (parents). (Make sure you're getting a purebred Bolognese.)
- Will you be available before and after the sale? How so?
- Do you register the litters with AKC? (This is crucial in order to preserve the Bolognese breed for future generations. Asking this question shows you if the breeder is concerned about the **future of this rare breed**.)
- At what age do you place puppies? (9-12 weeks is most common)
- Do the dogs and puppies have social time interacting with people? (Breeders should begin the process of socializing the puppies.)
- Where do you keep the puppies?
- Do you crossbreed Bolognese? (**This is a HUGE RED FLAG.**)