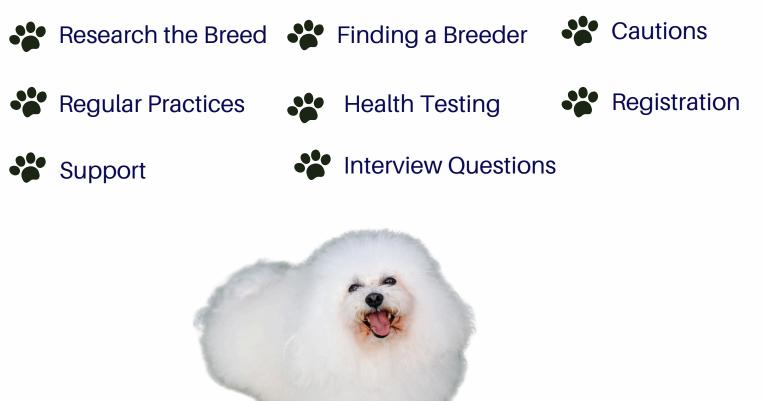
## Buying a Bolognese

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.



## 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

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.

#### Ethical Practices:

Ensure the breeder follows ethical breeding practices, such as not overbreeding their dogs, not selling puppies too young, and being transparent about their breeding program.

Finding a Breeder

### â 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.

## Buying a Bolognese

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.

#### **E**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.

# Buying a Bolognese

Finding a Breeder

## 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.

## $\sqrt{2} \neq$ Health Testing:

Ethical breeders prioritize the health of their dogs and puppies. They should conduct health screenings for genetic conditions relevant to the breed. Ask for documentation of health clearances for both the puppy's parents.

## Buying a Bolognese Cautions

## S 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.

**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 <u>written</u> 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.

## Buying a Bolognese

**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.

## √<sup>9</sup> Vet Exam:

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

**Regular Practices** 



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

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. Dogs with normal exam results will receive OFA eye certification numbers that are valid for one year. Eye certifications are an important part of the routine health screenings practiced by responsible dog breeders to produce healthy puppies.

#### 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.

## Buying a Bolognese

Health Testing Standards

Reputable breeders should be transparent and willing to share how they use the results for the following:

#### 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.

**CDDY Testing prior to breeding** Chondrodystrophy is a skeletal disorder identified by DNA testing.

\*The CDDY testing, while relatively new and still undergoing refinement, is recommended by the club prior to breeding.\*

## **Buying a Bolognese**

#### Registration

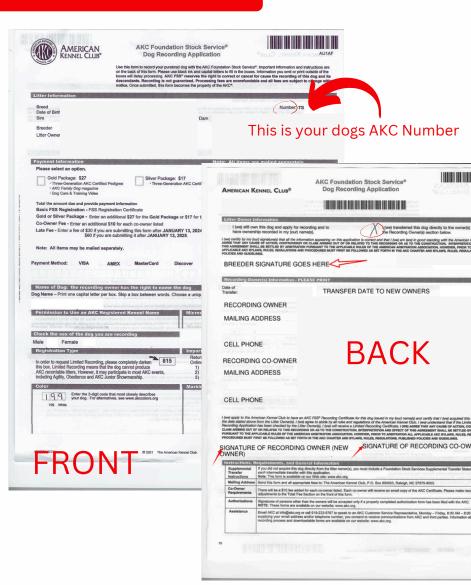
## Registration

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.



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.



## Buying a Bolognese

#### **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? Do you perform DNA health test? 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.)