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# How to Spot an Ethical Bolognese Breeder

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**By the American Bolognese Club, AKC Breed Parent Club**

For additional information visit:

[americanbologneseclub.com](http://americanbologneseclub.com)

Looking for a Bolognese → Buyer Information





# Things to You Should Know

→**Read about the breed.** While adorable, Bolognese have special needs and may not fit into your lifestyle or family arrangement. Please take the time to read about breed characteristics and the costs involved before you fall in love with one. There's nothing worse than picking out a dog and then finding out that you don't have the ability (financial, emotional or environmental) to provide the best home for the breed. There are always exceptions, so be sure to have an honest conversation with your breeder about your lifestyle.

→**Do not buy from a pet store or puppy mill.** Often puppy mills and unscrupulous breeders send their substandard dogs to pet stores.

→**Beware of online ads** (craigslist.com, puppyfinder.com, puppyfind.com and nextdaypets.com.) that claim to sell Bolognese under the current market price of a reputable breeder.

→**There is often a waiting list for purebred Bolognese.**





# Why is finding an ethical breeder important?

Bringing a dog into your life is a big commitment, both of your time and finances. Buying a Bolognese also brings a commitment to be a conscientious and responsible buyer. A Bolognese could live 14 to 15 years or more, so this is a big investment of your time and affection.



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# What is an ethical breeder?

An ethical breeder adheres to the Breed Standards set by the AKC Parent Club and does DNA health testing to assure that only the healthiest dogs are produced.

Ethical breeders realize that this breed is rare and should be treasured. **Crossbreeding is never done by an ethical breeder.**



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# A reputable breeder is active in the Parent Club for the breed and wants the best interest of the breed.

## Why should a breeder be a member of the breed's Parent Club?

- The Parent Club's first concern is the health of the breed.
- As the Parent Club, the ABC vets breeders before accepting membership of breeders.
- The Parent Club tries to establish a relationship with the breeders.
- The Parent Club sets standards for the breed.
- The Parent Club requires each breeder to sign a Breeder Code of Ethics.
- The Parent Club has Health Testing Standards.
- The Parent Club has Health and General Care Standards.



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# Ethical Breeder Practices

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## Application and deposit

Breeders often ask prospective buyers to complete an application to assist them in finding the best dog for your life and family. Often a breeder will ask for a deposit to hold a puppy.



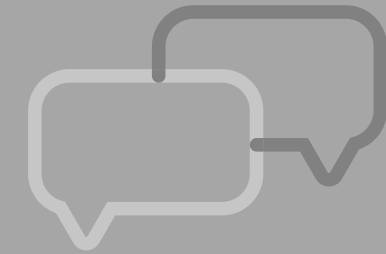
## Contract

The breeder may require a signed contract which includes a first right of refusal if for any reason the owner can not keep their dog. This application will also assist the breeder in finding the best dog for your life and family. Obtain a receipt of all transactions and make a copy of the contract.



## DNA Health Testing

A prudent breeder will DNA health test their breeding stock and have a health guarantee in their contract.



## Communication

The breeder should be happy to answer all of your questions.

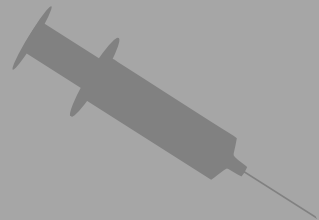
A breeder should be willing to show you health test results and the pedigree/registry for both sire and dam (parents). A breeder should offer support before and after the sale/delivery of the puppy.



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# Ethical Breeder Practices

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## Vaccinations

A written record of the vaccinations your puppy has been given and the protocol for further vaccinations as recommended by your breeder.



## Puppy placement age.

Age of placement varies by breeder. Some breeders of toy breeds, such as the Bolognese, prefer to wait until the puppy is 8, 10 or 11 weeks old.

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



## Food

Most breeders will give you the food the puppy has been eating. Ask your breeder the name of the food. If you are changing foods, be sure to do so slowly.



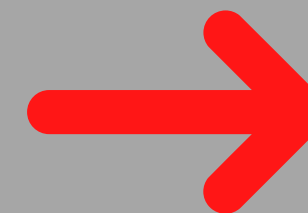
## Registration of puppy

The breeder should register the litter with the American Kennel Club and give you an individual dog or puppy application which you must mail in to register your dog.

The registration certificate verifies the identity of your Bolognese, as well as helps us keep accurate records of the Bolognese Breed in the USA.



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# ***Choose the right breeder by asking the right questions.***



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- **Are you a *breeder* member of the American Bolognese Club (AKC Parent Club)?**  
**Did you sign the ABC Breeder Code of Ethics?**
- Do you **DNA health test**? May I see the results?
- 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). Will you be available before and after the sale? How so?
- What was the age of the Dam (mother) at breeding? (With small dogs, many breeders wait until at least 18 months to breed the female.)
- **Do you register the litters with AKC?** This is crucial in order to preserve the Bolognese breed for future generations.
- At what age do you place puppies?
- Do the dogs and puppies have social time interacting with people? Where do you keep the puppies?
- How many different breeds are you currently breeding?



# Trust your gut.

Yes, you want a Bolognese puppy as soon as you can get one, but you don't want to deal with health issues. If your intuition tells you something isn't "right", waiting for a breeder that has the best interests of the breed and puppy is worth the wait.

**Unethical breeders stay in business because they continue to have customers.** If your gut is telling you it isn't right, find another breeder.

**You want to choose a breeder that you can establish a relationship with.** This breeder will be your resource for the life of the dog.



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# We know how hard it is to wait...

But it will be worth it!

Do the research. Ask the questions. Get a purebred  
Bolognese from an ethical breeder.



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