

Looking for a Puppy?

Caring, Nurturing, Ethical Puppy Breeders

Checklist





Things to help you spot an ethical puppy breeder

Finding the right puppy for you is an important decision so the right breeder is essential. Ideally, this person will be understanding, knowledgeable and cares for the puppies correctly. By being these things will help to ease any stress you'll have searching.

Unfortunately, there are some people out there who are really great at 'talking the talk' but don't have the puppies' nor your best interests at heart.

So that you're clued up – here are some useful tips on how to spot a decent, caring breeder:

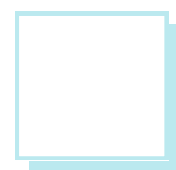
1 Qualified & Affiliations

They're likely to have taken qualifications and have a licence. It's law in the UK for dog breeders that have three or more puppy litters in a year to have an up-to-date licence. If they've got a website, this will be displayed somewhere prominent. If you can just see an advert – the licence will be displayed so that the licence terms are held; this applies to be both large breeding organisations and smaller breeders. The council have awarded our licence with 5 STARS - the licence number is: 24/03248/ALACRE. On our website you'll see some qualifications & accreditations listed on the [Qualifications page](#).



2 Don't necessarily consider themselves a 'breeder'

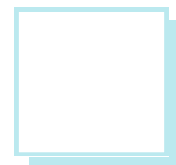
I think of myself as a guardian of the puppies, their caregiver and a nurturer. But the focus is all about how you see the word 'breeder'. So, it's relative. But I think it's important how the person caring for potentially your future dog views themselves because **it will likely give you an indication of how they raised the puppies.** The raising of the puppies massively impacts them for the rest of their lives so this is important for a companion dog who will live in a home with you.





3 Number of litters in a year..?

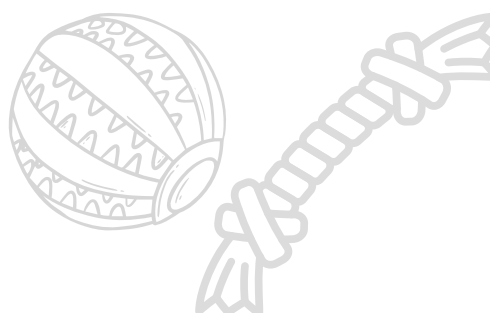
This may be important to you to know the breeder has a limited number of dogs and only breeds a certain number of litters a year & therefore is able to devote a considerable amount of time to each litter. Each female dog can only have a limited number of litters each so this is something to be aware of. My dogs are my family pets first & foremost so we have limited litters & I can devote care & attention to the tiny puppies and puppy families.



4 Contract & Paperwork

You should be aware of who puppy's parents are and possibly past generations. Health test certificates and any tests should be shown to you. When puppy comes home you should receive also a puppy pack containing important information like worming dates, microchip details, feeding plan, insurance for a few weeks, puppy's vaccination card, health check certificate, the parents (for Cavaliers) co-efficient of inbreeding (CoI), which is their degree of inbreeding (measured in % and the lower the score the better), your copy of the contract of sale, plus a receipt showing the amount you paid. This should be accompanied with 2 weeks of puppy food.

Elemental puppies are sent home with more than 2 weeks of puppy food, some treats, a special surprise present, a blanket (for the scent of here, litter, and Mum which puppy will find calming) and other useful items as discussed with families when they come to see & cuddle their puppy, plus all paperwork needed.





5 Will understand & be well-informed

Genuine and ethical breeders will keep themselves in the loop about the latest methods, keep learning within the industry, or show a certain level of commitment that perhaps others wouldn't. These breeders will understand about the developmental needs of the puppies, nutrition for Mum dog and all the seemingly little things that accompany this special time yet have a massive impact on outcomes. They may well belong to a breed club as a member and have numerous books on their chosen breed. If they can't answer any of your questions, they may well take their time to research the correct answer to get back to you with as-thorough-as-possible answer they can find. They will understand that finding the right puppy for you is important and will be there for you along the way answering questions, and adding key information when they can.



6 Their website & adverts look good enough & contain important information

Adverts and websites should contain enough information (including their licence number which is required by law in the UK), and look decent enough for you to not have a bad gut feeling. You should be able to read and see whether the person / people has/have taken time to present things clearly and well, even if it's a home-made website or advert so it's not perfect – you'll be able to see that they have tried and that within it they have tried to share knowledge and explain how they do things, and possibly why they chose to be a breeder or a little about themselves.



7 They won't accept everyone

This is a tough decision for any breeder. You have a litter of puppies coming (or arrived) and you're arranging homes for them. We look for people who can spend time with their puppy (or provide a caregiver who can) & those with space for puppy to run around outside. These things are flexible though - because every situation is different!





8 Contact / Waiting Lists

A good breeder may well have waiting list details of potential families of some kind. However, if you're joining a waiting list and paying, check first to find out whether that will be put towards the cost of your puppy later on & whether you will receive a receipt or some form of confirmation.



To join our waiting list first you will complete our puppy application form & then we contact you. We didn't used to charge any amount whatsoever to join our waiting list, but found some people were time-wasters & took up crucial places on the list - preventing genuine families from joining. This led to us asking for a non-refundable nominal amount of £50.00 to be added to our waiting list. This way helps us to weed out the families that are genuinely interested from those who really are just 'wait list surfing'. We email a receipt & this £50 goes towards your final payment of your puppy. Our waiting list is kept to a select number of families per year to avoid disappointment.

9 Asking Questions before waiting list

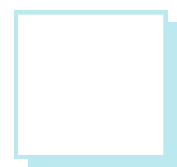
Decent breeders want the best possible future for the puppies they helped to raise and cared for from the start. They will ask many questions to see whether the puppies are likely to receive the sort of environment needed for their development. This isn't to say it's like a job interview - because it's not at all. But a genuine breeder will chat with you, possibly at great length to try & do their very best for the puppies they love.



10 Seeing puppy with Mum dog & litter

This is all-important so that you can see with your own eyes just how the puppies are being cared for and also their Mum. Seeing puppy with their litter and Mum is a legal requirement in the UK, so if a seemingly-good breeder can't show you your potential future puppy with his/her litter AND Mum - walk away. Even if they *seem kind*. Puppies have to stay with their litter and Mum for 8 weeks minimum (it's for their overall development which means this will impact how they behave later in life so this is important they remain for at least 8 weeks).

Elemental pups remain here for over 8 weeks, dependant on when people can come & where the weekends etc are placed, also in regards to worming, but over 8 weeks.



I will ask
you questions



11 Small / limited number of breeds of puppy

Some breeders love certain breeds – for their own specific reasons such as role, like companionship, or working dog etc. Some breeders mix one breed with another, such as Cavalier King Charles Spaniel with say a Poodle to have Cavapoo puppies. My focus is on Cavaliers and Cavapoo puppies. Best to check adverts etc if you like a certain puppy breeder & their online presence to give you an indication of whether they are being upfront with you.

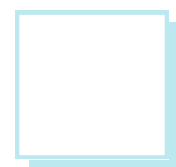


12 Socialisation & Training of the Puppies

Good breeders will socialise puppies and be able to demonstrate to you how they're informed and have knowledge to do this effectively.

Maybe to you it's an important thing for the breeder to have qualifications, keep-up-to-date with any changes with canine caregiving and training methods. Really good breeders will be able to talk to you at great length about how being a force-free professional is key to puppies gaining confidence in the long term. They will be able to show you how they help to train and build the foundations for each puppy's learning.

We have a bespoke, blended approach that means our puppies get the best start we can give them.



13 Support & any extras

Does the puppy breeder offer you support after taking puppy home? I offer my families support during puppy being with me and also after puppy has gone home. In terms of extras, I offer complimentary training sessions with families and their puppies before puppies go home (both education & bonding reasons, meaning puppy will be happier leaving and settle more quickly at home). Families with puppies with me will receive updates regularly throughout the week through photos and videos & can see more of us:



Rumble [@ElementalCavaliers](#)



[@elementalcavaliers](#)

