



# Buyer Beware

## Congratulations!

You have decided to add a dog into your household! Adding a dog to your family can bring joy and happiness. Did you know that some studies even suggest that people who own pets are healthier than non-pet owners? Aside from the practical aspect of getting exercise as a result of having to walk the family dog, research indicates that pets can be attributed to lower blood pressure and an improved sense of well being.



## Step One

Find out what type of dog will fit your lifestyle and family the best. There are many resources online that can help you decide – and talking to everyone you know will also give you some valuable insight into breed characteristics. Someone who is not active at all and prefers to spend their time indoors may not want the same type of dog as a person who spends their free time outdoors hiking in the woods. Pets are a lifelong commitment and researching before you make your decision will make a big difference.

Once you've selected a breed that you think is right for you and your family. There are many sources to obtain a new family member, including your local animal shelter or humane society or private rescue groups. Most list their pets at [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). Another way you can find a pet for your family is by finding a reputable/responsible breeder to purchase from.

## Reputable / Responsible Breeder

To find a reputable/responsible breeder to purchase a pet from, check with breed clubs or the CKC. It may take some time to track one down in your area. Reputable/responsible breeders do not typically need to advertise in the paper.



**CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB**

Reputable/responsible breeders often have waiting lists – they plan their litters very carefully and only breed when all the conditions are met and you may have to wait. They also health test the puppies for many common inherited genetics defects, as well as ones that are specific to the breed. A vet exam is not a health test!



For more information please visit [www.nopupmillsCanada.ca](http://www.nopupmillsCanada.ca)

## Laws

Here are some of the laws that breeders must follow:

- To call a dog purebred, the breeder must supply you with registration papers. It is the breeder's responsibility to register the pet, not yours, and they cannot charge you extra for the papers. They must provide you with a copy of the registration papers within 6 months of the purchase.
- According to the Animal Pedigree Act, only one official registry for each breed in Canada may exist, so if the breed is recognized and registered by the Canadian Kennel Club, no other Canadian registry is authorized to provide registration papers.
- Pets are subject to Provincial Sales Tax in most provinces – check with your provincial government to be sure.
- A reputable/responsible breeder will make you sign a contract and there will be a clause that states they will take back the dog at any point in its life with no questions asked.
- A reputable/responsible breeder will provide you with a bill of sale and a written guarantee- remember they have spent a lot of time, money, and effort into producing this puppy and having written guarantees and contracts protects both you as a consumer and them as the breeder.
- A dog must be permanently identified with a tattoo or microchip before leaving the breeder's premises. This is the law. It is also the responsibility of the breeder to pay for this identification.
- Make sure the breeder is a member in good standing of the CKC – by being a member, you are ensuring that the breeder will follow the Code of Ethics they must agree to when they become a member. This protects you! You can call the CKC in Toronto at 416-675-5511.

**Remember! A pet is a companion to you. Do your research and do not buy on impulse. This will ensure that all you need to be concerned with is "Do you throw the tennis ball or the rope toy?"**

