

Before you decide to get a new puppy, please do some research on the breed that you are looking for. Have an idea of what you want before you start looking. This is important if you are also going to be a responsible buyer!

Ask Yourself:

1. What size dog do I want?
2. Do I want the dog as a companion or for protection?
3. What about the energy level of the dog. Do you want a dog that has high or low energy?
4. Does the breed get along well with other animals—both dogs and cats?
5. Do they shed?
6. How much grooming and maintenance is involved with the breed?
7. Are there health issues with the breed?
8. How much time can you or will you spend with the puppy/dog?
9. Will the puppy be crated while you are gone?
10. Do you want a puppy? Or an older dog from a “breed specific” rescue?

ALL PUPPIES ARE ADORABLE. ALL OF THEM BECOME ADULT DOGS. There are some wonderful books & websites to help you decide what type of dog, & what breed, is best for you. You will need to know what the size and temperament of the adult dog will be. You can find information on a particular breed at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) or check out individual breed club sites. There are also some excellent books available. One book that I really like is *The Perfect Match* by Walkowicz.

From the Breeder:

Please remember that buying a puppy is an investment—not only of money, but of time, love and affection. Finding a responsible breeder can mean the difference between finding the happiness in a “warm puppy” we all dream of, and a potential nightmare.

I have a set of standards, as a breeder, that I believe in. A breeder should not place a puppy merely to “make a sale”, but to complete the family with a loving, healthy, reliable companion.

Please research the breed that interests you to be certain the dog will be compatible with your lifestyle. For some breeds, you may have to be on a waiting list for up to a year. Other breeds are available almost anytime. Choose a breeder as carefully as you choose the puppy will pay off in the end.

Best wishes on your new puppy! May your puppy bring only love and joy in to your life!

“ALLN is an organization dedicated to helping animals and those who love and protect them. ALLN is also an educational resource center, providing information and support to those mourning the loss of an animal companion.”



[www.alln.org](http://www.alln.org)  
The Animal Love and Loss Network

This brochure has been prepared for you by Nancy Rodgers, Bedlington Terrier Dog Breeder and President of ALLN.

## Finding a Responsible Breeder

## Being a Responsible Buyer

**What is a responsible breeder?  
How do I know if I have found one?**



“Buying a puppy from a breeder is like buying a new car....You should never buy a car from a dealer who is pushy, rude and difficult to deal with” —Gene, dog breeder

### **A responsible breeder should:**

- Should have the health & well being of their dogs as their #1 concern.
- want to find out more about you & what type of care their puppies will receive in your home.
- Take the time to answer your questions, or put you in touch with someone who can.
- Make a long term commitment to their dogs, and to you, the buyer.

A responsible breeder will ask you some of the following questions:

- Have you ever had a dog before?
- What, if anything, do you know about this breed? (size, temperament, common hereditary problems etc.)
- Why have you selected this breed? Is the dog a family pet? Is the dog to be a companion or as protection? As a show dog? For breeding?
- Who will be caring for the dog?
- Will the dog be an inside or outside pet? Do you have a fence or enclosure? How do you plan to contain the dog?
- If you rent your home, does your lease allow for dogs of this size?
- Do you have other pets?
- Do you have children? (some breeders will not sell a puppy to a buyer who has, or is planning to have children.)
- Will you have the pet spayed or neutered? (Some breeders may require this, and ask that you provide a veterinarian's certificate when it is done.)
- If you are inquiring about a puppy as a gift for someone, the breeder may also ask if the intended recipient is aware of your plan. The breeder may also want to contact that person.

Questions to ask a breeder:

- How many females do you breed a year? How many litters do you have?
- Do you have only the one breed?
- Can I visit your kennel or home to see your female before she gives birth?
- Do you have photos of the mother, father, & previous litters I can see?
- Are your puppies & dogs raised in a kennel or in a home? How much human interaction do they get?
- May I contact any of your previous buyers?
- Do you have any health guarantees on your pups?
- Have the puppies been tested for any common hereditary disorders in the breed?
- Do you have a waiting list for your pups?
- Do you know any other breeders of this particular breed who have pups available at this time? What do they charge for a pup?
- If a problem develops with the puppy, can I return the pup to you?

*\*\*For breed-specific information on common hereditary problems in various breeds, breed standards, and tests for genetic factors, go to:*

*[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)*

If, for any reason, while you are talking to the breeder, you think that:

*The breeder is not being totally honest, or you feel that you are being lied to...*

*You do not feel comfortable, or you feel pressured...*

*The breeder tells you that no one else has the quality of pups they do, or that you will never find a better pup than theirs...*

**A RED FLAG SHOULD GO UP!**

Please, do not buy a puppy from that breeder!

In the long run, you will have more problems & disappointments than you can imagine.

REMEMBER: There are other, more responsible & reputable breeders out there. Even if it takes longer to get a puppy, it will be better for you, your family, and the puppy!

A list of breeders can be found on-line at:  
<http://www.akc.org/breeds/index.cfm>