



## Getting a puppy:

Despite the recession we have seen an enormous amount of new very cute puppies, the latest trend however seems to be a term I haven't come across, called designer puppies.

These are cross breeds where the breed of both parents is known, both parents seem to have a pedigree and therefore a purebred. These pups go for quite a bit of money (some more than what I paid for my first car) and are sold mostly through the internet. Now I don't think the internet is a bad thing, otherwise I wouldn't be sitting here typing this! We bought our last car through the internet. But unfortunately it seems a lot of puppies are bought with less research and hindsight than most of us put into buying a new car. We took several months before we decided which car to buy for our growing family and long legs, we sat in about 10 different models, literally stopped people in the street and asked them about their car, we even knocked on a neighbours door to ask if we could sit in their car!

Try to see at least one parent

Check with some of the breed societies to see what diseases they are prone to (kind of like me checking on the Citroen C8 and finding out it had horrendous electronics hence a no buy)

Check that the breed fits you, I would love to own a Porsche but kids won't fit into it and my wallet seriously cannot afford it! Some breeds are just that little bit more costly as they are more disease prone than others.



Check if they had one vaccination and check on the vaccine record from the vet where the vet is (we had one puppy from Essex, from a "private" breeder but the vaccine was done in Wales, the vet had nobody under the breeders name on their record, careful exam of the vaccination document showed a second sticker over the blacked out owners address – the whole scenario screamed Puppy farm!). Ideally we want first vaccine at 8 weeks then second one at 10 weeks so your pup can go out asap at 12 weeks and get trained/ socialised.

Make sure you get a worming record that gives you info on what wormer was used when, ideally Panacur at 2,5 and 8 weeks of age (kind of like you getting a service record for your car).

If docked, the puppy needs to be chipped and have a certificate from the vet signed saying chip number and that it was docked, these pups are meant to go into working homes only.

Consider a rescue Centre, the Dogs Trust in Harefield is pretty good, a lot of our staff members have been getting pets from there.