

THINKING OF BUYING A PUPPY?

Find a Responsible Breeder

Taken from-AKC Press Center-Fact Sheets

- Visit the breeder's home or kennel and ask to see at least one of the puppy's parents. Get an idea of what the future holds for your dog in terms of temperament and appearance.
- Observe the premises. Is the house/kennel clean? Odor-free? Dogs and puppies should be clean, well fed, lively and friendly. Dogs housed appropriately for the season/weather? Please be aware of any breeder who will not let you come to their premises, especially upon pick up of your new puppy.
- Pay attention to how the dogs and puppies interact with their breeder. Does the breeder appear to genuinely care for the puppies and their adult dogs? Both dogs and puppies should not shy away from the breeder and should be outgoing with strangers.
- Find out about the health of your puppy and its parents. Breeders should be honest about the breed's strengths and weaknesses and knowledgeable about the genetic diseases that can affect their breed – including what's done to avoid them. Breeders should be willing to share proof of health screenings such as OFA and CERF certificates with potential buyers.
- Establish a good rapport with the breeder.
- A responsible breeder may ask you to sign a contract indicating that if specified conditions of care are not met or you become unable to keep the puppy, he/she will reclaim it.
- Breeders should be willing to answer any questions you have, as well as ask question of you.
- Don't leave the premises without the appropriate documentation of the dog's pedigree.
- AKC conducts thousands of its own kennel/home visits/inspections each year. Breeders who have major kennel deficiencies may lose AKC privileges, in some cases fines will be imposed, and privileges may be suspended and appropriate law enforcement authorities will be contacted.
- More information is available at www.akc.org.
- The Finnish Lapphund Club of America has adopted a Code of Ethics. Please review as part of your puppy search.