What to think about when buying a new puppy
Always visit the puppy in the home in which it has been reared.

Get a sense of the surroundings and how the puppy interacts with its mother and any other litter mates. On illicit puppy farms, the mother is often kept in a small pen without natural light or contact with other dogs. Might this be the case with the mother of the puppy you are viewing?

Don’t be afraid to ask questions about your new pet.

Ask to see the puppy’s health records. These should detail any vaccinations, worming and flea treatments the puppy has undertaken. Remember that improper vaccination control and vaccination failure can lead to Canine Parvovirus (CPV), a devastating and highly contagious viral illness.

Be wary if the seller refuses or is reluctant to provide you with any information you ask for.

Any reputable breeder will be happy to provide you with the relevant paperwork.

Establish how old the puppy is and when it will be ready to come home with you.

Puppies from puppy farms often tend to be younger than their documentation claims. This means that the puppy may not have been vaccinated properly against rabies, which not only poses a risk to its own welfare, but also to you and your family.
Meet the breeder at home.

Do not agree to meet the breeder to view the puppy out with where it has been reared, even if this would be more convenient for you.

Remain cautious of accolades in relation to Kennel Club Registration.

Many puppies bred in puppy farms are indeed complete pedigrees, so KC Registration does not always assure quality.

Take your time and do your research when considering buying a new puppy.

Write down a list of questions you want to ask and make sure you are satisfied with the responses you are given.

Don’t be coerced into making a purchase.

If something doesn’t seem right, say that you need more time to think about it.

The conditions in which mothers and puppies are kept on puppy farms can be appalling, with the breeders prioritising profit over animal welfare.

Gudrun Ravetz,
President of the British Veterinary Association
What to do when something isn’t right

Take your puppy to the vet immediately if they begin to show signs of Canine Parvovirus (CPV). CPV is characterised by vomiting, diarrhoea, weight loss and lack of appetite.

Where to Find Trusted Information:

If you have concerns that your puppy may have been bred as a consequence of an unlicensed puppy farm or are aware of someone who may be involved in a puppy farm, contact Advice Direct Scotland’s consumer hotline on 0808 164 6000. They will provide advice and, if appropriate, will pass your complaint on to Trading Standards.

Get trusted information from:
- Your local vet
- Advice Direct Scotland
- The SSPCA
- The Puppy Contract
- Buy a Puppy Safely Campaign

www.tsscot.co.uk