



## Brief Explanation of Types of Dog Breeders

### Type of Breeder

### Explanation

#### Scottish Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) Assured Puppy Scheme

- Free to join
- Breeder details on website: [www.saynotopuppydealers.co.uk](http://www.saynotopuppydealers.co.uk)
- AWF Puppy Contract and Puppy Information Pack (PIP) (includes relationship and COI of puppies' parents and which specific health tests have been carried out on both parents)
- Inspected by Scottish SPCA prior to acceptance on Scheme
- Regular inspections both announced and unannounced
- Certificate of Membership
- Notify SSPCA about every litter produced
- Details of sire and sire's owner
- Breeders encouraged to make use of Canine Health Schemes
- Four weeks free insurance

#### Local Authority Licensed Breeder, Higher Standard

- Breed three or more litters per year, must have a LA licence
- Details of mother and father given to buyer, including any inherited diseases both parents' breed is prone to
- No mating if tests results indicate risk of inherited disease
- No more than four litters per mother
- Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI) and health test results required
- No breeding allowed if COI of puppies exceeds 12.5%
- Puppy Contract includes warranties for health and socialisation
- Minimum one unannounced inspection every 36 months by LA inspector and vet

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### Breed Club Member

- Members of a KC affiliated breed club have access to
- information about breed health, including the Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP)
- Should follow the Kennel Club's Code of Ethics
- Some breed clubs may recommend or require certain health tests
- Annual membership fee (variable)
- Must register puppies with the Kennel Club (£16 per puppy) and confirm pedigree (family tree)
- Usually 'show breeders' i.e. attend KC run dog shows, exhibit their 'best' dogs and compete for prizes
- Access to KC online tools, such as Mate Select and Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs)
- Puppy buyer pays the KC £16 to re-register the puppy in their name

### Unlicensed breeder (including hobby breeder, family dog breeder, backyard breeder)

- May or may not breed purebred dogs
- May or may not register puppies with the Kennel Club
- Should breed only one or two litters per year
- May or may not health test parents
- May or not take into account genetic diversity
- Standards of care and expertise vary
- Selection for temperament may or may not be considered
- Socialisation and habituation may or may not be done well

### Home Breeders Association (HBA) Breeder (politically active group which aims to protect its members from the 'intrusive bureaucracy' required by the 2018 Regulations).

- Includes licensed and unlicensed breeders
- Has a Code of Practice which all breeders must agree to
- Should carry out health tests 'recommended by a vet'
- No Puppy Contract
- Includes breeders of other species

Type of Breeder	Explanation
Breeder who registers puppies with the Kennel Club (but not a member of a breed club)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breeds pedigree dogs</li> <li>• Puppies will have a pedigree certificate showing family background</li> <li>• Health testing may or may not be carried out</li> <li>• Genetic diversity may or not be taken into account</li> <li>• Advised to follow the KC's Code of Ethics</li> <li>• Will not have easy access to breed health information</li> <li>• Standards of health, care and expertise will vary</li> </ul>
Local Authority Licensed Breeder, Lower Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These will include large scale commercial breeding establishments which fulfil the minimum requirements for health, welfare and socialisation</li> <li>• Some may be classed as 'puppy farms'</li> <li>• Should be inspected every year by a local authority inspector and vet</li> <li>• Will often try to deliver puppies to avoid puppy buyers seeing their premises</li> </ul>
ADCH Registered Rescue Charities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homing Contract which covers welfare and owner responsibilities</li> <li>• Dogs checked by a vet before rehoming</li> <li>• Premises checked by ADCH assessors</li> <li>• Socialisation and habituation carried out</li> </ul>
Non ADCH Registered Rescue Charities	
Imported Puppies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puppy importations below the age of 6 months are no longer permitted</li> <li>• Likely no information on health testing</li> <li>• Likely no information on socialisation and habituation</li> </ul>

**Key Message: Always see a litter of puppies with their mother. If possible, see the father of the puppies as well.**