

Questions To Ask a Breeder...

In addition to breeding, do you engage in other dog-related activities, such as, conformation shows, field trials, agility, obedience, etc.? If they are involved in activities with their dogs, it is less likely that they are breeding solely to turn a profit and more likely that they value their dogs as thinking, working, and loving companions.

How many dogs do you own and how often do you breed them? They should not have so many dogs that they cannot give each one individual attention, and they most certainly should not be churning out puppies with no regard to the health and well-being of the dam.

Are they enthusiastic about meeting you and learning about how the pup/dog will live? In return are they willing to have you come to their facility, home, or kennel at some point? The first introduction with your new puppy/dog may take place at a decided mutual location. Once a rapport is established a home or kennel visit may take place. A breeder tends to be protective of what they have bred and their kennel or home surroundings. Remember, in many cases many people they do not know contact them and want to visit. Common sense in meeting new people is important for all involved. Once you work out a meeting note things like; is the facility clean and organized? Are the dogs healthy? In most cases you should try and meet either the sire or dam on the premises. Observe their behavior and physical condition. Breeder should also assist in determining the right fit for the dog and new owner/s.

Have the sire and dam (and puppies, in some instances) been health tested for any genetic diseases that are prevalent in that

particular breed? Are you shown or given the health certificates?

A discussion about what testing and traits run in their pedigree assists you in gaining knowledge about French Bulldog health. Certification is a source of pride for breeders. They will openly discuss the disorders (all breeds have them) common in their breed and what they are doing to prevent them. Education is key!

Will the breeder guarantee the health of the puppy to a

reasonable age? A guarantee against genetic and congenital defects is the norm. Not all disorders can be predicted and prevented, but a good breeder will stand behind the dogs they produce and offer assistance if a problem arises.

Will the breeder be available to answer any questions you may have throughout the lifetime of the dog?

In essence, when you purchase a puppy or dog from a responsible breeder, you should also be gaining an invaluable source of information. They should be there to answer your questions and help guide you through the trials of dog ownership.

Will they take back the dog in the event that you are no longer able to keep it?

All responsible breeders should have a take back or buy back policy which insists that you contact them at any time for any reason you are unable to care for the dog and they will assist with rehoming.

Do they use a sales contract to spell out the terms of the sale and allow each party to define their expectations of the

transaction? Ask for a copy of their contract and talk about the terms therein. A good contract can help you avoid misunderstandings, but remember that a contract is only as good as the two people that sign it.