



## Brief Explanation of Types of Dog Breeder

### Type of Breeder

### Explanation

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

- Free to join
- Breeders 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 ScottishSPCA 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

#### Kennel Club Assured Breeders Scheme (KC ABS)

- £25 on application, plus £60, and then £60 annually
- Breeders details listed on KC ABS online breed-specific list
- All dogs must be registered with the KC
- Breeders must comply with national Animal Welfare Law and

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#### Regulations for Dog Breeding

- ABS breeders must participate in breed health surveys
- Must comply with the health testing Requirements for the breed
- Ensure suitable buyer and home
- Puppy Contract (identical to AWF) but Puppy Information Pack (PIP) health results information optional
- Inspected by KC every three years
- Accolades awarded to ABS breeders but not for health standards
- May be large scale enough to be local authority licensed

#### 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

#### 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)
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- 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' ie 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
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**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

**Breeder who registers puppies with the Kennel Club (but not a member of a breed club)**

- Breeds pedigree dogs
- Puppies will have a pedigree certificate showing family background
- Health testing may or may not be carried out
- Genetic diversity may or not be taken into account
- Advised to follow the KC's Code of Ethics
- Will not have easy access to breed health information
- Standards of health, care and expertise will vary

**Local Authority Licensed Breeder, Lower Standard**

- These will include large scale commercial breeding establishments which fulfil the minimum requirements for health, welfare and socialisation
  - Some may be classed as 'puppy farms'
  - Should be inspected every year by a local authority inspector and vet
  - Will often try to deliver puppies to avoid puppy buyers seeing their premises
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### ADCH Registered Rescue Charities

- Homing Contract which covers welfare and owner responsibilities
- Dogs checked by a vet before rehoming
- Premises checked by ADCH assessors
- Socialisation and habituation carried out

### Non ADCH Registered Rescue Charities

#### Imported Puppies

- Puppy importations below the age of 6 months are no longer permitted
- Likely no information on health testing
- Likely no information on socialisation and habituation

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

