

How you can help?

When choosing a new puppy, expect the highest welfare standards from breeders. Research your puppy and breeder thoroughly.

Buy a puppy only from their breeder, never from a third party.

Use the **AWF Puppy Contract**.
<https://puppycontract.org.uk>



Only buy a puppy if you can see him/her with the mother and siblings. This will indicate that the puppies have been bred on site and that mum has been treated well. It will also help you to predict the future temperament of the puppies.

Always check which health tests are appropriate for a breed (or cross breed) before visiting the breeder. Ask to see the health test certificates for both parents.

Never purchase a puppy to rescue them from bad conditions. Sadly, this only encourages bad breeders to continue breeding.

Report the breeder to the appropriate local licensing authority if you feel the standards of welfare are poor.

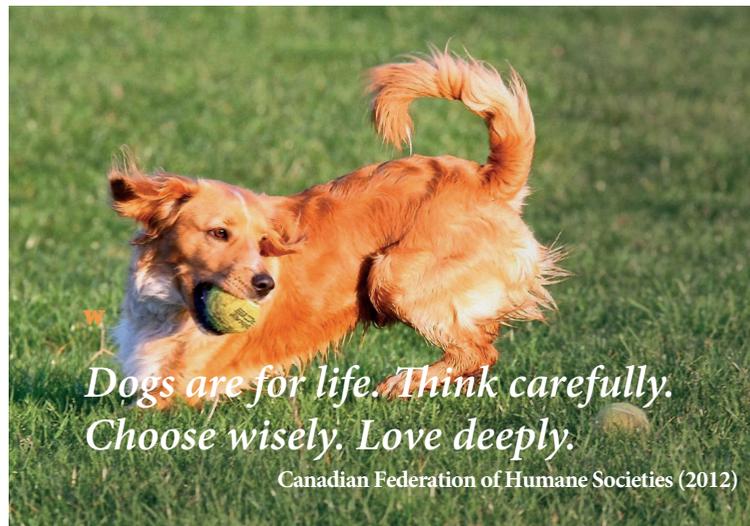
Never buy a puppy from someone who suggests delivery or meeting you halfway. This is often a cover for poor welfare at the breeding premises.

In the case of a Kennel Club registered puppy, inform the breeder, breed club and KC if your dog develops a breed-related genetic disease or problem linked to its body shape.



Please consider a small donation to DBRG Charitable Trust via our website. This will enable us to continue our work to improve dog breeding standards.

Thank you!



*Dogs are for life. Think carefully.
Choose wisely. Love deeply.*

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (2012)

United Kingdom Animal Welfare Legislation

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 lists an animal's needs. All owners must ensure that the following needs of their dog are met:

- The need for a suitable environment
- The need for a suitable diet
- The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour
- Any need a dog has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
- The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations and Guidance notes for conditions for breeding dogs 2018 (England)

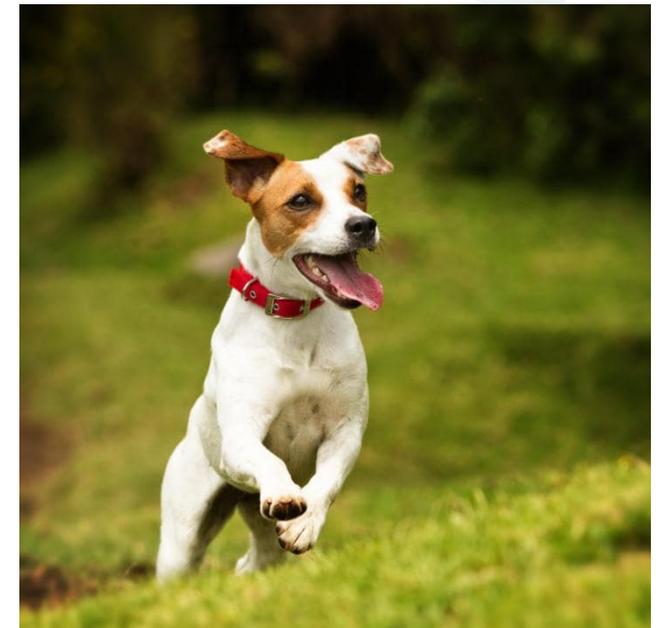
Lucy's Law (Ban on the Third Party Sale of Puppies and Kittens) 2020 (England)

(Note that animal welfare is devolved to national administrations [Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland] and there may be some minor differences)

www.dbrg.uk

DBRG 
Dog Breeding Reform Group

A Voice for Dogs™



Promoting higher standards for dog health and informed puppy buying

Email: info@dbrg.uk

   @DogBRG

Registered Charitable Trust No. 1176163

www.dbrg.uk

What are the problems?



Dog Breeding Regulations are currently inadequate and poorly enforced in the UK.

Many breeders pay little regard to the welfare needs of dogs used for breeding or their puppies.

Dogs are often bred together without prior testing for genetic diseases which may be passed on to their puppies.

Closely related dogs are bred to maintain 'breed purity'.

Unsound dogs may be bred with exaggerated physical features which compromise their health, welfare and dignity.

Dogs with flat faces (brachycephalic) have many health problems, including difficulty in breathing and other serious issues.

Puppies are marketed and sold irresponsibly on-line.

Buying a puppy is often done with insufficient research.

Buyers sometimes choose a breed which is unsuited to their location, home environment and lifestyle.

Some dog owners are unaware of the lifetime financial costs of caring for a dog, especially the cost of veterinary treatment.

Far too many dogs are surrendered to re-homing centres by owners who can no longer look after them

Many people are unaware of the **Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs** and **Code of Practice for Dog Breeding**.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-dogs>

<https://www.dbrg.uk/code-of-practice-for-dog-breeding.html>

Code of Practice for Dog Breeding



Our Objectives

Widespread use of the **AWF Puppy Contract**.

Further legislation to protect all dogs from irresponsible breeding and selling practices and better enforcement.

Enactment of a UK Animal Sentience Law.

Raise public awareness of key health and welfare problems associated with dog breeding.

Inclusion of animal welfare education within the school curriculum.

Regulation of all breeders, including 'hobby breeders'.

Breeders who breed one or two litters per year must be **registered** with the Local Authority.

Good training for local authority inspectors in dog health issues.

Appropriate health screening carried out before dogs are selected for breeding.

Improved genetic diversity for pedigree dogs including outcrossing where necessary.

Reduce the maximum number of litters per breeding bitch to four.

Standardisation of microchip databases including the retention of the breeder's and any previous owner's details.

*Note: Breeders who breed more than two litters per year are already required to be **licensed** by their local authority.*



How we aim to achieve those Objectives

Provide a website **Guide to Finding the Right Dog**.

Promote the **AWF Puppy Contract**.

Promote the **BVA/KC Canine Health Schemes**.

Organise regular **Canine Health Symposiums**.

Promote the **Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs, Code of Practice for Dog Breeding, and Guidelines on Extreme Conformation**.

Promote the **Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations 2018** and accompanying **Guidance Notes for Dog Breeding**.

Respond to official consultations, collaborate with other dog welfare groups and lobby politicians.

Raise awareness of Schedule 6, 2018 Dog Breeding Regulations: *'No dog may be kept for breeding if it can reasonably be expected on the basis of genotype, phenotype or state of health that breeding from it could have a detrimental effect on its health or welfare or that of its offspring.'*

Where to find more information about dog breed health

VetCompass Infographics – Disease prevalence data for UK pet dogs:

www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass/learn-zone/infographics/canine

Dog Breed Health - Information on breed-related genetic health and welfare:

<http://www.dogbreedhealth.com/>

