

Buying a Jack Russell Terrier Puppy



What to expect from a Breeder who puts Health, Welfare and Temperament First

The Kennel Club registers Jack Russell and Parson Russell Terriers as two separate breeds. However, there are many types of Russell Terriers, some of which are not KC registered, so that there is no single online breed health portal.

✓ Health Certificates (both parents)

Official Health Schemes

- BVA/KC screening for eye disease; full ophthalmological testing before breeding (includes checks for multiple inherited diseases, particularly primary lens luxation)

DNA tests relevant to breed

- LOA - Late Onset Ataxia
- PLL - Primary Lens Luxation
- SCA - Spinocerebellar Ataxia
- Laboratories offer DNA tests for other rare conditions that may affect this breed

Other tests

- BAER testing for congenital deafness
- Putnam scoring for patella luxation

Essential Documents

- ✓ Signed AWF Puppy Contract
- KC Registration Certificate (if applicable)
- Microchip Registration Certificate
- Temporary Pet Health Insurance
- Vaccination Certificate
- Copies of Health Certificates
- A good breeder will*
- have socialised and habituated the puppy
- provide a supply of food
- provide a blanket smelling of Mum
- follow the Code of Practice for Dog Breeding



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Brief explanations and other diseases that may be more common in the breed – if in doubt then consult your vet for guidance



Official Health Schemes

The **BVA/KC eye testing scheme** monitors for many inherited abnormalities that can cause progressive blindness or pain.

DNA tests relevant to breed

LOA - Late Onset Ataxia – progressive loss of balance in young adults (can be fatal)

PLL - Primary Lens Luxation – lens slips within the eye, causing pain and blindness

SCA - Spinocerebellar Ataxia – progressive loss of balance in puppies (can be fatal)

Other Diseases - no current health scheme or DNA test available

Congenital deafness (linked to white colour)

Bladder stones

Liver disease

Luxating patella - abnormal kneecap causing pain & lameness