

# Buying a Flatcoated Retriever Puppy

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



### ✓ 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

### ✓ Health Certificates (both parents)

#### BVA/KC Health Schemes

- Hip dysplasia (HD)
- Elbow dysplasia (ED)
- Eye scheme - Glaucoma, Goniodysgenesis, Hereditary cataract
- Patellar luxation screening (Grade 0-4)

#### DNA Tests available

- Mast cell tumours C-Kit somatic mutation
- Invasive transitional cell carcinoma BRAF mutation

**Warning** - *very high incidence of cancer in this breed*

**Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP)**  
[www.flatcoated-retriever-society.org](http://www.flatcoated-retriever-society.org)  
[www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html](http://www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html)



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## Brief Disease Explanation

If in doubt ask your vet for guidance



### Health Schemes - testing available

**Hip dysplasia** - abnormal formation of the hip - pain & lameness

**Elbow dysplasia** - abnormalities of the elbow joint - pain & lameness

**Glaucoma** - build-up of fluid and pressure in the eye - painful

**Goniodysgenesis** - glaucoma leading to blindness

**Hereditary cataract** - clouding of the eye, leading to blindness

**Patella luxation** - abnormal joint in hind leg, pain & lameness

### DNA Tests - available

**Mast cell tumours** - cancer

**Transitional cell carcinoma** - cancer

### Other Diseases - no current health scheme or DNA test available

**Histiocytic sarcoma** - an aggressive form of cancer with high incidence in this breed

