

Buying a Shih Tzu Puppy

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



Avoid dogs with extreme brachycephalic conformation (very short faces or very protruding eyes), as these features are frequently associated with serious health problems

✓ 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)

Official Health Schemes

- BVA/KC eye scheme - DBRG recommends that all dogs should be visually examined for inherited eye disease before breeding

DNA tests relevant to breed

- Chondrodystrophy (Type 1 IVDD)

Other tests

- Putnam scoring for patella luxation

<http://www.theshihtzuclub.co.uk/>

www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html



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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 is available for all breeds, and checks for many inherited abnormalities that can cause progressive blindness or pain

DNA tests relevant to breed

Chondrodystrophy (Type 1 IVDD) –

higher risk of intervertebral disc disease, causing pain or paralysis

Other Diseases - no current health scheme or DNA test available

Bladder stones

Brachycephaly (shortened face, narrowed nostrils) –

can cause difficulty breathing and cooling

Dental problems – *caused by overcrowded teeth in shortened face*

Distichiasis – *ingrowing eyelashes – more likely in dogs with profuse hair*

Ear infections – *more likely in dogs with long, hairy ears*

Eye ulcers – *more likely in large eyes with shallow sockets*

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (dry eye) – *lack of normal tear production*

Patella luxation – *abnormal kneecap causing pain & lameness*