

Buying a German Shepherd Dog 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)

Official Health Schemes

- BVA/KC scheme for hip dysplasia (HD)
- BVA/KC scheme for elbow dysplasia (ED)
- BVA/KC screening for eye disease; full ophthalmological testing before breeding (includes checks for multiple inherited diseases)

DNA tests relevant to breed

- Degenerative myelopathy (DM/CDRM)
- FVIIID (Haemophilia)
- MDR1(Multidrug resistance)
- Pituitary dwarfism

Some testing panels will also include other rare genetic diseases

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Brief explanation and other diseases that may be more common in the breed - if in doubt ask your vet for guidance

Official Health Schemes

Hip dysplasia - abnormal formation of the hip - pain and lameness

Elbow dysplasia - abnormal formation of the elbow joint - pain and lameness

Eye disease - various abnormalities - blindness and pain

DNA tests relevant to breed

Degenerative myelopathy (DM/CDRM) - progressive weakness of back legs

RVIID (Haemophilia) - abnormal blood clotting

MDR1 (Multidrug resistance) - adverse reactions to certain medications

Pituitary dwarfism - failure to grow normally due to hormonal problem

Other Diseases

Allergic skin disease

Anal furunculosis - deep infection in the skin around the anus

Bloat/GDV (gastric dilation and volvulus) - where the stomach inflates with air and twists, sometimes fatally

Cancer, particularly haemangiosarcoma in the spleen

Diarrhoea - caused by problems with the intestines or pancreas

Epilepsy

Patent ductus arteriosus - congenital heart abnormality in puppies, can be fatal if not treated

Lumbo-sacral stenosis - pain and weakness caused by abnormalities of the lower spine

