



Buying a Chow Chow

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

Avoid a puppy from parents with excessively small, deep-set eyes, excessive coat or breathing difficulties. Extreme conformation (body shape) can be linked to disease.

✓ 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. DBRG recommends that all dogs should be visually examined by an ophthalmologist before breeding (includes checks for multiple inherited diseases).

DNA tests relevant to breed

Some genetic laboratories offer tests for rare inherited diseases in Chow Chows

Other tests

The Chow Chow Breed Council offers a health assessment scheme at bronze and silver levels. Bronze level consists of a veterinary clinical examination, and silver also includes certification under the official BVA/KC schemes for hips, elbows and eyes

<http://www.chowchowbreedcouncil.com/images/conservationplan.pdf>

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

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

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

The BVA/KC eye testing scheme checks for many inherited abnormalities that can cause progressive blindness or pain, including conformation issues such as entropion.

Other problems

Cancers (various)

Entropion – inturned eyelids that rub painfully on the eyeballs

GDV - Gastro dilatation/volvulus ('bloat') - stomach fills with air and twists, can be fatal

Heatstroke – increased risk of overheating in hot weather due to thick coats

Some breeders are now producing merle (mottled grey and black) Chow Chows, but this colour can be linked to problems with hearing and sight.