

# 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)

### 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, to include gonioscopy (includes checks for multiple inherited diseases).

### DNA tests relevant to breed

There are currently no DNA tests for major problems in this breed

### Other tests

Flatcoated Retriever Society scheme for patellar luxation

[www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html](http://www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html)  
<https://www.flatcoated-retriever-society.org/health-information/>



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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

**Gonioscopy tests for goniodysgenesis /PLA (pectinate ligament abnormality)** which assesses a predisposition for primary glaucoma, a painful progressive eye disease leading to blindness. The BVA recommend gonioscopy is carried out every three years to assess for progression of PLA.

## DNA tests relevant to breed

Researchers are currently investigating genetic markers for **cancer** in Flatcoats, which may lead to a DNA test in the future

## Other Diseases

**Arthritis**

**Cancers** - especially various sarcomas (tumours of soft tissue and bone)

**Patellar luxation** – slipping kneecap, increased risk of injury