

Buying a Dobermann Puppy

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



In some countries, Dobermann puppies have their ears cropped (surgically cut to make them stand erect) and their tails docked (cut short). These practices are illegal in the UK. Please do not buy a cropped or docked puppy.

✓ Essential Documents

- Signed AWF Puppy Contract
 - KC Registration Certificate (if applicable)
 - Microchip Registration Certificate
 - 5 Weeks Pet 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 and Grandparents)

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)**. Litters can be screened for persistent hyperplastic primary vitreous (PHPV)

DNA tests relevant to breed

- von Willebrand's disease (vWD 1)
- **Some laboratories offer tests for other rare inherited diseases and coat colours in Dobermanns**

Other tests

- Yearly screening for **dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM)** – recommended by veterinary cardiologists

www.thedobermannclub.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

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. Dogs with PHPV are born with abnormalities in the lens of the eye, causing impaired vision or blindness.

DNA tests relevant to breed

von Willebrand's disease (vWD 1) – abnormal clotting of the blood

Other Problems - no current health scheme available

Albinism (white colour) – linked to problems with vision, hearing and skin cancer

Cancers (various)

Colour dilution alopecia (progressive hair loss in 'blue' or 'isabella/lilac' (grey) dogs)

DCM - Dilated cardiomyopathy – progressive enlargement of heart, often fatal

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

Hepatitis – liver inflammation

Hypothyroidism - underactive thyroid gland, causing weight gain and lethargy

Wobbler syndrome (CSM - cervical spondylomyelopathy) - malformation of bones in neck, causing wobbling gait, neck pain, possible paralysis