

# Buying a Shih Tzu 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)

#### BVA/KC Health Schemes

- **Eye scheme: Progressive retinal atrophy; Brachycephalic ocular syndrome; Glaucoma; Cataract** - annual testing
- **Patella luxation - Putnam patella test**
- **BOAS test (Brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome)**

#### DNA Tests available

- Degenerative myelopathy (DM)
- Prekallikrein deficiency
- Chondrodysplasia (Type 1 IVDD)

**Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP)**  
[www.theshihtzuclub.co.uk](http://www.theshihtzuclub.co.uk)  
[www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html](http://www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html)





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## Brief Disease Explanation

If in doubt ask your vet for guidance

### Health Schemes - testing available

**Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA)** gradual loss of sight

**Brachcephalic ocular syndrome** - problems due to forward facing eyes, ulcers

**Patella luxation** - abnormal joint in hind leg, pain & lameness

**BOAS** - breathing difficulties due to shortened head

### DNA Tests - available

**Degenerative myelopathy (DM)** - hind leg weakness and paralysis

**Prekallikrein deficiency** - blood clotting disorder

**Chondrodysplasia (type 1 IVDD)** - difficulty walking and pain

### Other Diseases - no current health scheme or DNA test available

**Distichiasis & Entropion** - eyelashes brush against the eyeball, pain & irritation

**Dental problems due to overcrowded teeth** - caused by miniature mouth

**Immune mediated thrombocytopaenia** - low blood platelets, lethargy and other symptoms

**Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (dry eye)** - painful eye disease

**Allergies & dietary intolerances** - unable to digest some foods

**Renal dysplasia** - kidney disease

**Diabetes mellitus** - too little insulin produced

**Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)** - painful bowel disease

**Autoimmune haemolytic anaemia** - lethargy, tiredness