**QUESTIONS TO ASK A BREEDER?**

**How often are the puppies handled? Are the puppies socialized with different people and pets?**

**Can I meet the parents?**

**Do parents have health clearances?**

**Are puppies registered with the American Kennel Club?**

**Do you have references from past puppy buyers and veterinarian?**

**Can I meet you, tour your kennels, and see where parents live and puppies have spent the first 8 weeks of their lives?**

**Do you show your dogs in conformation and/or performance events?**

**Do you belong to your breed club? Local training club? Breed Rescue?**

**How long have you been breeding?**

**If I have questions in the future, can I contact you?**

**SIGNS OF A REPUTABLE BREEDER**

**The dogs and puppies are relaxed around people and happily greet you.**

**The place is clean, with little or no odor.**

**The breeder asks you to sign a spay/neuter contract, and will have a written health guarantee.**

**The breeder doesn’t specialize in sizes or colors that are unusual for the breed.**

**The breeder is up-front about the breed’s drawbacks, any temperament, or health issues that are common with their breed.**

**The breeder wants to meet the whole family and welcomes you to visit and tour the facility with an appointment. PLEASE do not show up unannounced.**

**The breeder asks *you* lots of questions. This shows she wants to know exactly what kind of home her puppies are going to.**

**The breeder is willing to answer your questions, and take the time to talk to you. Please keep in mind most breeders have families and jobs and are often very busy and might take a bit to get back with you.**

**The breeder will take the dog back, at any stage of the dog’s life, if you’re unable to care for her. A good breeder will insist on this.**

**The breeder won’t let you take the puppy home before it is at least eight weeks old.**

**RED FLAGS IN A BREEDER**

**More than two or three different breeds.**

**Breeder does not allow visits. Offers to meet you half way. Only allows you to only see part of the facility, or meet some of the dogs owned.**

**Does not ask you questions.**

**Does not tell you about the breed weak points.**

**Dogs are not registered with the American Kennel Club.**

**Selling dogs for cheap or discounted prices.**

**Demands untraceable payment, such as money grams.**

**Bottom line: Don’t buy from websites that are too good to be true and claim the puppies are raised by families on the farm.  Remember, most puppy mills in Ohio and Pa. are run by Amish families.**

**Don’t buy from someone who takes your money without asking you any questions.**

**Don’t buy from someone who will meet you somewhere with the puppy or ship a puppy to you no questions asked.**

**PLEASE beware, do lots of research, and ask lots of questions.  There are a lot of puppy mills and puppy scams out there, and they are VERY good at knowing what to say and con you out of your money.**

**Also, please remember buying that puppy from a pet store or puppy mill is NOT saving him! You are enabling the breeder who is abusing and mistreating animals. There are lots of reputable rescues with plenty of deserving dogs that need to be adopted all the time. Do NOT support and encourage Pet Stores and Puppy Mills.**

**!!Ohio is number TWO in the United States for number of puppy mills!!**

**AKC papers do NOT mean a breeder is reputable. Lots of puppy mill puppies come with AKC papers. USDA inspected does NOT mean a breeder is reputable.  Most puppy mills are USDA inspected!!**