

# Checklist for visiting a Newfoundland breeder

Name of Breeder ..... Date of visit .....

Questions/Observations	Notes
<p>Ask general questions about the breeders experience with Newfoundlands, do they seem knowledgeable? What activities do they take part in? Do they give you a balanced view regarding the breed – for example do they tell you about the pros and the cons?</p> <p><i>Be wary of anyone who only tells you about the positive aspects.</i></p>	
<p>How many Newfoundlands do they own? Were you able to meet them all? Did you see where they were kept and were the premises reasonably clean?</p> <p><i>Note: when there are a large number of dogs living in a house it is reasonable to expect a doggy odour and a certain amount of dog hair and dust! Large amounts of dog faeces and very dirty dogs with large amounts of tangles in their coats is not acceptable.</i></p>	
<p>Did you meet the mother of the puppies (or planned puppies)?</p> <p><i>There is no acceptable reason for you not to be able to meet the mother of a puppy you are going to buy!</i></p>	
<p>Did the breeder have other breeds of dogs/litters of puppies?</p> <p><i>Some Newfoundland breeders do have an interest in other breeds as well, however be cautious of the motives of a breeder who has several breeds of dogs and several litters of puppies available at the same time. Are you happy with their motives for breeding?</i></p>	
<p>Was the breeder interested in you and your family? Did they ask about your house and how long the puppy would be left on its own? Did they question you about your motives for wanting a Newfoundland? Did they explain that they may want to arrange for someone to visit your home before letting you have a puppy?</p> <p><i>Be wary of any breeder who appears disinterested in where a puppy is going to spend the rest of its life. Responsible breeders care about the homes their puppies go to!</i></p>	

<p>If you saw a litter of Newfoundland puppies on your visit:  Were the puppies kept in a clean environment with minimum soiling to their bedding?  Were the coats of the puppies reasonably clean?</p> <p><i>Note it is normal for young pups to have puppy food in their coats as they tend to stand in it at the weaning stage!</i></p> <p>Were the puppies fairly confident/happy to be petted? Did the puppies have an environment that allowed them to have an enriched start to their lives, for example exposure to people, toys to play with, and exposure to household noise?</p> <p><i>Be wary of puppies that are shut away in a dark outbuilding or who are nervous about being handled!!</i></p>	
<p>Ask about the Health Test results of both parents of the puppies, this should include Heart Testing performed by a Veterinary Cardiologist with a Diploma in Cardiology (or equivalent if performed overseas), Hip Score, Elbow Score and Cystinuria Test results. Documentary evidence should be available for you to view.</p> <p><i>There is no legitimate reason why either parents should not have any of these tests results – if they have not been tested then you are strongly advised not to buy a puppy.</i></p>	
<p>Ask the breeder if there will be a Sales Contract with the puppy and what it includes. A full explanation of any clauses should be given.</p> <p><i>A contract should be available for you to read thoroughly before you purchase or collect your puppy.</i></p>	
<p>Ask what you will receive with your puppy such as a supply of food, information pack, toys, blanket, etc..</p> <p><i>A responsible breeder will want to ensure you are prepared for a new arrival and a familiar blanket and toy will help your new puppy settle in more easily.</i></p>	

<p>Ask what inoculations the puppy will have received prior to purchase and whether the puppy will have been checked by a Vet.</p> <p><i>Some vets will give puppies a first vaccination at 6 weeks, some don't. There is no right or wrong inoculation regime – it depends upon the vaccine the vet prefers to use. All puppies should be checked by a Vet prior to leaving for their new home – this is to ensure there is no serious heart defect or other hereditary problem such as cleft palate.</i></p>	
<p>Did the breeder make you feel pressured into agreeing to buy a puppy and or paying a deposit?</p> <p><i>A responsible breeder will understand that you need to be sure you are doing the right thing and may need time to think before committing. A Newfoundland should be a life time commitment and you should be very wary if you feel pressured to make decision.</i></p>	
<p>Other questions and issues that are important to you. Take time to think about these before you visit and jot them down so that you don't forget them.</p>	