

# **BUYING A PUPPY**

## **BEFORE PURCHASING A PUPPY – ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

WHO AM I BUYING THIS DOG FOR? THE KIDS, FOR MYSELF, TO REPLACE ONE ETC?

DOES EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY (INCLUDING MOM) REALLY WANT THIS DOG?

WILL THIS DOG FIT INTO MY LIFESTYLE-CONSIDER SIZE, LEVEL OF ACTIVITY, GROOMING, WILL THE DOG BE LEFT ON ITS OWN FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

WILL THIS DOG BE TOO EXPENSIVE TO MAINTAIN, FOOD BILLS, GROOMING NEEDS, VET BILLS ETC.

HAVE I RESEARCHED THE BREED THOROUGHLY THROUGH LIBRARIES, DOG SHOW, LOCAL BREEDERS, LOCAL CLUBS, ETC. TO KNOW WHETHER I WILL BE HAPPY WITH HIM AND HE WITH ME

DO I KNOW ALL THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT COME WITH BEING A GOOD DOG OWNER-LICENSE FEES, LOCAL BY-LAWS, GOOD NEIGHBOR, PROPER NUTRITION AND GROOMING NEEDS, PROPER VET CARE.

### **NOW, IF YOU STILL FEEL THAT YOU WANT A PUPPY/DOG**

OBTAIN A LIST OF BREEDERS THROUGH THE BREED CLUB.

INQUIRE ABOUT PRICE, AVAILABILITY ETC. AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO VIEW THE PUPPIES. DON'T BE AFRAID TO DO SOME COMPARISON SHOPPING

BE SURE TO VISIT THE KENNELS WHERE THE PUPPIES WERE RAISED – CHECK FOR CLEANLINESS AND THE CONDITION OF THE OTHER DOGS IN THE KENNEL.

ASK TO MEET THE MOTHER (AND FATHER IF POSSIBLE); NOTE HER TEMPERAMENT AND GENERAL HEALTH.

INQUIRE AS TO WHAT COMMON HEREDITARY DEFECTS ARE COMMON TO THE BREED, AND IF ANY ARE PRESENT IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE PARENTS.

DO NOT BUY A PUPPY BECAUSE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR IT. LOOK FOR A HEALTHY, HAPPY, WELL-ADJUSTED PUPPY THAT IS OF AVERAGE SIZE AND

HAS NO APPARENT PROBLEMS.

7 INQUIRE ABOUT FEEDING, VACCINATIONS, WORMING, AND GENERAL CARE AND ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS NON-BREEDING CONTRACTS, GUARANTEES, AND SPAY/NEUTER AGREEMENTS.

A WRITTEN AGREEMENT SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH THE PUPPY, ALONG WITH INFORMATION PERTAINING TO FEEDING, VACCINATION, PEDIGREE AND OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CARE OF YOUR NEW PUPPY

9 TRY AND OBTAIN BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS TO ASSIST YOU OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

### **ONCE THE PUPPY IS HOME**

FIRST AND FOREMOST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR VET FOR A COMPLETE HEALTH CHECK AND TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON WORMING, VACCINATIONS ETC.

GIVE THE PUP A PLACE OF HIS OWN (A CRATE IS A GOOD PLACE) AND PROVIDE HIM WITH PROPER FEEDING, UTENSILS. (AVOID PLASTIC)

DISCIPLINE STARTS THE MINUTE HE GETS HOME. DO NOT YELL OR HIT YOUR PUPPY. LET HIM KNOW FIRMLY WHAT IS AND WHAT ISN'T ALLOWED.

START HOUSEBREAKING IMMEDIATELY. LOTS OF PRAISE WILL PRODUCE THE DESIRED RESULT. TAKE THE PUPPY OUT IMMEDIATELY WHEN HE AWAKES AND 15 – 20 MINUTES AFTER EATING. ACCIDENTS ARE THE OWNER'S FAULT, NOT THE PUPPIES.

A PUPPY 8-14 WEEKS IS NOT TOO YOUNG TO START TRAINING. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DOG CLUB FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PUPPY TRAINING CLASSES

A LITTLE EFFORT AND MONEY WILL MAKE YOUR PUPPY A PLEASANT AND WELCOME ADDITION TO YOUR FAMILY CIRCLE.