

Finding a Reputable Breeder

This is just MY opinion of how to find a reputable breeder. This is in NO way endorsed by any club mentioned or any other breeder. I am merely trying to give the puppy buyer a basic outline of where to start to find a quality puppy. These are only guidelines to follow. You can make your own decisions.

My recommendation to every person looking for a Newfoundland puppy is to visit at least three different breeders/kennels without your checkbook whether they have puppies or not to get an idea of how the dogs are cared for, what the adult dog type and temperament is, what sort of contracts and expectations are made of puppy purchasers... How do you know what is out there if you haven't comparison shopped? Some things that reputable breeders will do: ask as many questions about you as you ask about them, show you proof of all health clearances on their dogs (OFA numbers and certificates, veterinary clearances...), have a meaningful guarantee on a puppy (not a refund of money upon proof of euthanasia of the puppy), sell pet puppies with spay/neuter contracts or on limited registration or both, take their dog back at any point in it's lifetime if you can no longer keep it.

Common health clearances in the breed would include Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) clearances on hips AND elbows of all breeding stock (Dogs cannot be cleared by OFA until they are 2 years old. If the sire or dam of the litter isn't two, they don't have an OFA number.), certified clear of heart defects by a Board certified Cardiologist, and cystinuria clearances. If any breeder tells you that they don't have heart, hip or elbow problems in their lines, they are either lying or they aren't looking for the problems. Every breeder that has been breeding for a while has produced a problem. A breeder that is selling puppies of any breed before they are 8 weeks old is not reputable and is only interested in cash. Reputable Newfoundland breeders will have their puppies' hearts cleared by a veterinary cardiologist. Most cardiologists won't clear the puppies until they are 9-10 weeks old. The heart defect that is common in the breed can be very serious and fatal before the dog is a year old. While AKC registration is not the most critical reason for purchasing a puppy, beware of breeders that are offering puppies that aren't registered or registered with another registry such as the American Pet Dog Registry. Breeders that aren't registering their puppies with the AKC have either bred a dog that isn't AKC registered or was on an AKC Limited Registration (sold as a pet and not to be bred) or their records are such that the AKC won't register the dogs. Other registries that will register them don't particularly care who the parents of the puppy are or if they are even the dogs that the breeder claims them to be.

For more information on Newfoundlands, selecting a breeder and health issues in the breed please visit the following websites:

Newfoundland Club of America www.newfdogclub.org
AKC www.akc.org
OFA www.offa.org
Great Lakes Newfoundland Club www.glnewfdogclub.com

If you would like to visit with some Newfs and are in the Detroit Metro area, please feel free to call or email me to set up a time to see my dogs. You can also see our clubs upcoming events at www.glnewfdogclub.com. GLNC also welcomes persons without Newfoundlands as members. Members receive a monthly newsletter with information about Newfs and upcoming club events. An application for membership is also available on the GLNC website. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to call or email me.