

LOOKING FOR A PUPPY?

A dog can make a wonderful addition to a household, but there are some important considerations for potential dog owners. This FAQ provides guidance for people planning to rehome or buy a puppy or older dog.



Q1 How can I find a puppy from a safe and reputable source in Jersey?

Look at the advice provided by the RSPCA and Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF), both of whom have endorsed the Puppy Contract. You can also speak to a vet, the Animals' Shelter or the Kennel Club of Jersey (KCJ).

Q2 If I don't want to buy from a local breeder in Jersey, what other options do I have?

The options are limited. There aren't many puppies for sale locally. You may see adverts for puppies that appear legitimate but be aware there are unscrupulous gangs and individuals selling pups as a commodity. These dogs may have been sourced from a puppy farm where dogs are bred continuously for financial gain. Due to the poor living conditions, many of the puppies suffer from ill health. Many people have unknowingly bought a dog from these puppy farms and are upset to find that their new dog or puppy has behavioural or health problems, or is a breed or cross which is unsuitable as a family pet.

CHECKLIST

- Search www.rspca.org.uk for the *Puppy Information Pack and Puppy Contract*
- Check if the seller is who they say they are – visit if possible
- Trustworthy breeders will complete the puppy contract

Q3 What are the risks of buying animals from someone I don't know?

Firstly, importers may not stick to the import rules and you could end up with a puppy that has been imported illegally; without the right inoculations or papers. Your animal could be put into quarantine – an unhappy start for a small puppy and you, as the owner,

would have to meet the costs of several hundred pounds. The second risk is that while your pet may have had the right injections and look healthy, it could still be carrying a disease that Jersey doesn't have. It could become ill and infect others. Also, bear in mind that some dog types that



have been bred for fighting can't enter Jersey without a licence (they may not look like fighting dogs).

Q4 What about buying a puppy from the UK or another country e.g. Ireland, France or Portugal? How can I find a reputable source?

Using information in the Puppy Contract as a guide, check what sellers are telling you. Some people will go to great lengths to give you the impression they are legitimate breeders. Sellers source puppies from a puppy farm and set up a convincing scene at a fake home, with fake parent dogs to persuade you to trust them.

Both AWF and the RSPCA recommend that you don't buy a puppy from anyone other than the breeder so that you can see where the puppy was born. If you buy a puppy from outside the UK it must be at least 15 weeks old before it can come to Jersey.

You should also be aware there are unscrupulous gangs and individuals selling pups as a commodity. A reputable breeder will agree to complete the detailed information required in the Puppy Information Pack and Puppy Contract.

Q5 There are a number of rescue services offering cats and dogs for rehoming in Jersey from abroad - what should I look out for?

You must travel to the country the pet is from and take ownership of that pet. If someone else is importing it for you, they have to get additional health certification and an import licence.

There is a risk that animals from abroad will pass official health checks for rabies and tapeworm, but may still be carrying other diseases.

Some sellers will try to fool people into thinking they're giving a home to a rescue animal when you're actually buying a farmed puppy. Furthermore, you could end up with a sick animal, or one without a legitimate microchip and passport.

MORE INFORMATION

- *Phone a Jersey veterinary practice and ask advice*
- *See www.gov.je*
- *See [Kennel Club of Jersey website](#)*
- *See [Kennel Club assured breeder scheme information](#)*
- *See [Puppy advice on British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Foundation website](#)*