



Puppy Checklist

IPAAG always recommends you adopt from your local rescue. However, if you do choose to look for a puppy online, make sure to do your research.

While there is no way to be absolutely certain a puppy advertised online comes from a good breeder, here are some warning signs to look out for.

Ensure the website is signed up to the IPAAG Minimum Standards. If the advert contains any red flags click away and don't respond.

- 🐾 Is the puppy's age advertised as 8 weeks or older?** Yes No
Puppies cannot leave their mothers before 8 weeks of age 🚩
- 🐾 Does the advert include a photograph of the puppy?** Yes No
The puppy should not appear too young (eyes should be open & clear) 🚩
There should be no visible welfare issues including docked tails/clipped ears, puppies that are underweight or present health issues, or puppies kept in excessively small crates 🚩
- 🐾 Does the advert say the puppy is microchipped?** Yes No
This is a legal requirement before the puppy is sold, or at 12 weeks of age, whichever comes first 🚩
- 🐾 Does the advert say the puppy is vaccinated?** Yes No
Note: Puppies should be vaccinated by a vet at 6-9 weeks of age, with second round at 10-12 weeks
If the puppy is younger than 6 weeks and the advert says he/she is vaccinated, do not respond 🚩
If the vaccination certificate the breeder provides is not signed and stamped by a vet, it is likely fake and you should walk away 🚩
- 🐾 Does the advert say the puppy has been treated for parasites?** Yes No
Do not buy from a breeder who has not treated their dogs for worms/fleas at all 🚩
The breeder should be able to tell you which specific treatment was used 🚩
- 🐾 Can the puppy be seen with the mother?** Yes No
Never accept any excuses for not being able to see the puppy interacting with the mother 🚩
- 🐾 Can the puppy be seen at the breeder's property?** Yes No
Never agree to have the puppy delivered or to meet in a neutral location such as a car park 🚩