



PICKING YOUR PUPPY

You go to the breeder and there is ten little bundles of joy running around. How could you ever pick? When all else fails (and even if it doesn't) let the puppy pick you!

10 THINGS TO DO TO HELP YOU PICK THE RIGHT PUPPY

- Go when they are active. Make sure puppy has not just woken from a nap or nursed on mom.
- Do not pick by sex alone. You must pick by personality.
- How does the puppy act with littermates. Are they a bully?
- Calm/cautious vs. confident. Which is the easier train for your family.
- Is the puppy focusing on you or the environment?
- How does the puppy act with different members of your family?
- Watch the puppy tail! If it is low to the ground or tucked between the puppies legs they are nervous and unsure.
- Check the parents health clearances.
- Many believe parents have a large influence on the puppy personality. However notice the caretakers of the puppy as they have the biggest influence.
- Ask the breeder what they have seen about the puppies personality.



TEST THE BOUNCE BACK OF THE PUPPY

Make a sudden low keyed noise and watch the puppies reaction. Did they run to the other side of the room, or just flinch? Checking to see how quickly the puppy will return to normal will tell you how tolerant the puppy is. Do not make an unusually scary sound or scare the puppy. Something just unexpected will give you a reading.



PROFESSIONAL TIP

Ask about the health of the grandparents! A recent study has shown that the sire's father and the dam's mother can foretell health characteristics of the puppies. The sire's father will influence the males of the litter and the dam's mother will influence the females. In males, make sure testicles have dropped and in females make sure they do not have an inverted vulva as that could cause more urinary tract infections