

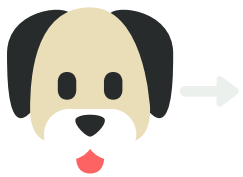
WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING A DOG, ESPECIALLY ONLINE?



Before buying, **think twice** and consult your veterinarian on healthy dogs and suitable breeds. Owning a dog is a huge long-term responsibility.

Have you considered **adoption**? There are many dogs in local shelters waiting for a family.

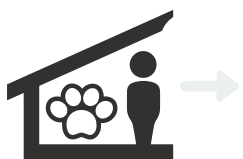
Look for a **reputable animal shelter or breeder**.



BEFORE YOU BUY A DOG



- **Meet the dog personally.**
- Puppies **<8 weeks** of age should not be separated from their mother. Dogs **<15 weeks** of age cannot travel abroad to most countries.
- **Witness the puppy and the mother interacting** at the breeder's establishment (never meet on a parking lot, or similar).
- **General health; check for vaccination & anti-parasitic treatment.**
- **Birth date & country, microchip number, passport, pedigree certificate, etc.**



- **Beware of red flags** (i.e. wrong picture, poor description of the animal, offer of home delivery, use of pseudonyms, many different breeds for sale by the same seller, etc.)
- **Ensure you have the name & contact details** of the seller.
- **Talk with the seller on the phone. Ask questions** and expect to be asked questions.
- **Never** buy in a rush, under pressure, out of mercy, from **free auction sites** or **social media**.
- Ask about **references**, testimonials, **contract** and **your rights** as a buyer.
- If you **suspect fraud**, **report** to the police, local authorities, or other animal welfare enforcement agency.

