



## United Kennel Club Position Statement Purchasing Dogs

UKC acknowledges that responsible dog breeders are our fundamental asset, the backbone of our registry, and the guardians of the quality and health of dogs throughout the world. Responsible breeders are the best resource for purebred dogs, and it is through the actions of these breeders that the UKC Total Dog philosophy is maintained. In the best interests of all dogs and their breeders, United Kennel Club advises that prospective dog owners obtain them only from breeders who follow responsible breeding practices.

The United Kennel Club strongly recommends that individuals in search of healthy canine companions only purchase dogs and puppies from responsible breeders who allow them to visit their facilities, examine health test certificates of the sire and dam, and meet the relatives of the puppies, especially the pup's mother if possible. We strongly recommend that individuals do not purchase dogs or puppies from pet stores or commercial facilities as it would be virtually impossible to meet the pups' breeders directly, see the conditions in which the puppies were born, meet the pup's relatives or examine any appropriate health certificates.

*A Kalamazoo, Michigan-based company founded in 1898, United Kennel Club is the largest all-breed performance-dog registry in the world, registering dogs from all 50 states and 25 foreign countries. Celebrating the unique Total Dog philosophy, UKC events highlight the instincts and heritage of dogs that look and perform equally well, as more than 60 percent of its annually licensed events are tests of hunting ability, training, and instinct. United Kennel Club prides itself on its family-oriented, friendly, educational events, welcoming both purebred dogs and dogs of unknown ancestry.*

