

Want to buy a puppy? Be a responsible owner.

I would like to advise anyone in the search for a new boxer to do their homework. There are many good and bad breeders out there. It is ultimately your responsibility to be an educated buyer, knowledge is power.

Searching for a puppy? Here are some recommendations.

1. Contact your local boxer club for current litters.
2. Once you get a breeder's name and phone number: Call the breeder, ask if you can visit, if possible and they are reasonably near you. If not ask for health testing information of the parents of the puppies.
3. Ask for Heart and Hips testing of the parents, is the least they should do, if they have other testing great ask for them too, you want the AKC registered name of the parents. AKC is a registry, they do not require any tests, a good breeder should test his breeding stock. Even if you just want a pet, you are entitled to a healthy pet.
4. Be aware that no matter how much the breeding stock is tested there are no guarantees that the puppy will be healthy but you have a higher chance that he will be healthy.
5. Ask for references that have purchased a puppy from them, and check them out.

Ok you've done your homework, everything checks out, it's time to make a decision to buy or not that puppy.

1. Do you have the time to give to your new addition.
2. Vets visits
3. Play time
4. Training time, the basics so that he/she can be a canine good companion and not a dog pound refugee. There are too many dogs abandoned at the pound because people did not stop to think that a puppy grows up and if not trained becomes a misbehaving dog no one wants around.
5. Proper food and exercise, socializing, sick care, medication, etc.
6. Dogs live anywhere from 7 to 15 years, some even longer, are you willing to spend this time with a dog, be honest.
7. To the dog you will be their everything, the least you can do for them is be there for them until their end.

A dog is a big responsibility, is like a child but unlike your child, he/she will not leave when he is ready to go, and live his life. This dog will be with you until he passes away or for health reasons you do the humane thing and put him down.

Please for the dog's sake do your homework, search your heart and if you are sure then, by all means, get that puppy you've done your research for.