

Pre-Screening Verification Before Contacting Breeders:

1

- Researched breed temperament/energy level matches my lifestyle
- Checked AKC Marketplace or UKC breeder listings
- Verified breeder is member of national/regional breed club

Gathered referrals from:

- My veterinarian
- Past puppy owners (asked for 2+ references)
- Local breed club members

Facility Inspection During Visit, Verify:

2

- Clean indoor living space (no strong ammonia odor)
- Puppies raised in home environment (not isolated kennels)
- Mother dog present and appears healthy
- Puppies alert and socialized to human touch

Medical records available showing:

- Age-appropriate vaccinations
- Deworming schedule
- Veterinary exam dates



Health Clearance Requirements Must Provide Documentation For:

3

- OFA/PennHIP hip and elbow scores (parents)
- Breed-specific genetic tests (verify requirements at ofa.org/recommended-tests)
- Eye clearances (CERF/OFA) if required for breed
- Cardiac exam if required for breed
- Optional but recommended: Full Embark DNA panel

Red Flags:

- Cannot produce actual test results (only "vet says healthy")
- Tests performed outside recommended timeframes
- Only partial testing completed

Contract Essentials

Legally Binding Agreement Should Include:

4

- Minimum 2-year genetic health guarantee
- Return policy with no penalties
- Spay/neuter agreement if pet quality

Provision of:

- Full pedigree papers
- Microchip registration
- Complete vaccination records



- Lifetime advice/consultation availability
- Willingness to take dog back if needed
- Active community of past puppy buyers
- Training/socialization guidance



Essential Questions Not to Forget!

"Can I speak to three families who bought puppies from you in past years?"

"What do you do with dogs when they retire from breeding?"

"How do you socialize puppies before 8 weeks of age?"

"What is your protocol if I can no longer care for this dog?"

"Which veterinary clinic do you use for your dogs?"

"What genetic conditions have appeared in your lines in the past 5 years?"