



## CHOOSING A BREEDER

A happy, healthy dog is a combination of early socialisation, genetic background and healthy parents which is the result of the breeder's efforts. Due to increased popularity, often some breeders who advertise have had little experience with the breed. Carefully investigate breeders before you buy a puppy; the conscientious have nothing to fear and will be happy to answer your questions. Reputable breeders will have carried out health checks [Hips, Elbows, Hearts etc.] by having their breeding animals x-rayed through the KC/BVA Hip and Elbow scoring schemes and hearts tested by a qualified veterinarian. Ask to see the health certificates. Reputable breeders will be happy to show you copies of the test results. If they don't produce them – walk away.

Not all private breeders are conscientious, but commercial establishments such as pet shops or dealers' kennels seldom give the individual attention needed by puppies and new owners. Also, not all Kennel Club registered puppies are of good quality. Never ever be tempted to buy from a puppy farm. First-time owners of Rottweilers may need considerable help and advice with their puppy or adult, and another point to consider is that you should select a breeder with whom you feel at ease and who generates confidence in you.

Choose a breeder who will let you see the puppies with their mother. [NB not all breeders have the sire of the puppies on the premises as he is usually owned by another breeder].

Choose a breeder who supplies a complete back-up service after the purchase of your puppy, and that the breeder has the experience to help with any problems which may arise. Also the breeder should state they will happily take a puppy back if personal circumstances change and will help with the rehoming of a puppy bred by them. Reputable breeders are available at all reasonable times to give help and advice. You should be given at least a four generation pedigree, KC registration form at the time of purchase of your puppy, or a promise to send it on later. Most breeders will let the puppy go with a few days' supply of the food it has been raised on, together with advice on correct feeding and rearing; record of worming and any vaccinations; also a Contract of Sale which will include any registration endorsements and conditions for their removal. The contract should be signed by both parties prior to the new owner leaving with the puppy.