



**CONNECTICUT**  
**FOR**  
**ANIMALS**  
Education Fund 501(c)(3)

# BREEDER QUESTIONS

We recommend stopping the support of puppy mills by choosing to adoption instead. Puppy mills exist because there is no shortage of consumers who are willing to buy from them. In Connecticut there has not yet been a ban on the sale of pets from pet shops. These shops often buy from puppy mills.

Another avenue for sales is through the internet, classified advertising, and specialty publications. With considerable effort put into producing professional looking websites, it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking they are legitimate breeders with rhetoric and deceptive photographs showing clean facilities and happy, healthy dogs running outside. Puppy mills will also sell through deception in which they pose as rescues and “adopt” out the animals.

In Connecticut and throughout the United States, animal shelters and rescues are at capacity and full of amazing dogs and other animals desperate for a loving home. Adopting from these locations is not only rewarding but sends a clear message to the puppy mills that their business model and cruel treatment of animals is not acceptable.

While it is not unusual for people to prefer to bring a puppy rather than an older dog into their family, puppies can be found and adopted from rescues, they do not have to be purchased from a pet shop.

**If obtaining a puppy from a breeder is necessary, we would urge everyone to investigate the breeder and consider the following questions:**

1. Can you visit the breeder’s facility, and can you see the puppy’s kennel? *You should be welcome.*
2. Are the parents of the puppy, or at least the mother, on site? *At least the mother should be as the puppy is probably too young to have been separated from her.*
3. How old is the mother, how many litters has she had, and have both parents been tested for hereditary conditions? *She should not have been bred before she was two years old and should not have more than three or four litters in her lifetime, both parents should have been screened.*
4. Is the asking price suspiciously low for a pedigree puppy? *Check around to find out what other breeders are charging.*
5. Is the breeder passionate about the breed and about their breeding program? *They should be!*
6. How old will the puppy be when you are able to get it? *Legally they should be no younger than eight weeks, but twelve weeks is far better for development.*
7. Does the breeder focus on one breed or many? *Reputable breeders focus on one breed and generally only have one litter per year, so waitlists are common.*
8. Do they ask you to sign a contract regarding spaying/neutering and vaccinations, and do they specify that the puppy must be returned to them if it must be surrendered? *You should expect this from a reputable breeder, and they will always want you to reach out if you cannot keep your puppy, they would always want to know the puppy is safe and in a good home.*
9. Do they expect follow up contact to ensure the puppy is healthy and doing well? *Reputable breeders want to know how their puppy is doing.*
10. Do they sell online and are they willing to ship the puppy? *These are both red flags!*

**UPDATED 7-3-2024**

**CTFORANIMALS.ORG**  
**PO BOX 266, EAST WINDSOR, CT 06088**

