

# Dog Breeder Checklist

## What you need to know before you buy

Any of these signs should give you serious concern... two or more should make you run!

### Is the breeder open and honest, or evasive?

- The "breeder" is local, but no, you can't visit. Instead, he or she wants to meet at a halfway point, a mall or car-park. Sure sign of a puppy mill.
- Hand painted signs on the road, advertising puppies for sale.
- Breeder is selling puppies at a public place like a flea market, yard sale, swap meet or pet store, or out of the back of a pickup truck, car, or van.
- The breeder wants cash only.
- There is no written health guarantee, and the breeder doesn't seem to have proper copies of initial vaccinations the pup has received - including Vet's name and address.

### Does it look like 'home-raised puppies' or a production line?

- You can visit - and you see 3 or more different dog breeds running around. This is a red flag that the breeder isn't committed to one breed or hybrid, and is just breeding whatever dogs she has, to make money.
- The puppies should be raised inside the breeder's home as part of the family, not stuck in a kennel, garage or basement with few visits to the "big house." These tiny pups are household pets, not yard dogs!

### How much does the breeder know about Yorkshire Terriers and Maltese?

- The breeder knows very little about Morkies' breeding stock: the Yorkshire Terrier and the Maltese dog.
- Breeder doesn't seem to know the mother and father dogs well.
- When you ask about the puppy's parents, breeder is evasive and vague. Parents aren't available to see.

### Can you see the facilities?

- Dirty or stinky facilities. Genuine breeders love their dogs and put their care first. The home and puppy area should be clean and tidy and a safe environment for the puppies and parents.

### Does the breeder seem to care about the pups or where they are going?

- Breeder doesn't demand that you spay or neuter your puppy. A genuine breeder will ask you to sign an agreement that your dog will NOT be bred.
- Puppies are always available, and the breeder will let you take one at Christmas, Easter, etc. No good breeder will release a puppy during these very high-stress times and no responsible breeder always has a handy supply of puppies
- The breeder asks you very few questions about your home and lifestyle.

### How does the puppy look?

- The puppy is dirty, matted or has a poor coat. Poop stains around the rectum.
- Runny eyes, puffy eyes or discharge from the nose.
- Puppy seems lethargic, lacking energy (puppies tire quickly and will fall asleep after excitement, but should be curious and lively when you first connect)
- Disreputable breeders will often claim the puppy is older than it is, to sell the puppy as a "teacup." So a 6 week old puppy will be passed off as 10 or 12 weeks old. Probe carefully - the dog's age in weeks, and a bit later in the conversation, date the puppy was born. Toy dogs like Morkies should NOT be taken from their mothers until 10 weeks old.