ABOUT NAIA

The mission of the National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) is to promote the welfare of animals, strengthen the human-animal bond, and to safeguard the rights of responsible animal owners.

Our supporters are pet owners, dog and cat clubs, obedience clubs and rescue groups, as well as breeders, trainers, veterinarians, animal scientists, farmers, anglers, hunters, and wildlife biologists. Many of America’s most respected authorities on animal welfare, animal management, animals and public policy, and responsible pet ownership are our allies.

We’re a traditional organization with an educational approach. We support the rights of others to disagree with our views, but not to break the law or use threats, lies, intimidation, harassment, or violence to force their views on others.

NAIA supports animal welfare and the rights of animal owners by:

- Providing factual information to the public about animals and animal welfare issues
- Creating programs to improve the care and welfare of animals
- Helping local animal welfare groups achieve their mission
- Helping local authorities write reasonable laws that target irresponsible ownership practices and inhumane treatment of animals while safeguarding the rights of responsible animal owners
- Supporting enforcement of state and federal laws that mandate the proper treatment of animals and provide penalties for animal abuse

www.naiaonline.org

Guide to Finding a Good Breeder
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Please accept my contribution to help NAIA promote the welfare of animals, strengthen the human–animal bond, and safeguard the rights of responsible animal owners.

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Buying from a Breeder

Buying a dog directly from a reputable breeder is an excellent way to find a pet that is right for you. Bringing a dog into the family is a big step. You want a dog that fits your lifestyle, and you want to minimize surprises. A puppy will live with a family for a dozen years or more, so selecting just the right puppy and breeder can be critical to initiating and developing a strong bond with the dog.

Good breeders are people who study their breeds and make decisions based on temperament, structure, and health. For these people, raising the best dog is much more than a business. It’s a passion, a labor of love, and a lifelong commitment. You can reap the benefits of this devotion when you select one of their puppies.

You are purchasing more than a happy, healthy puppy when dealing with a good breeder. You are also receiving peace of mind and knowledge that will help you to be a happier, more capable pet owner.

Finding a Good Breeder

If you know where to look, a good breeder is easy to find! Ask a veterinarian for a referral, attend a dog show, or ask local dog groomers, boarding kennels, or other pet service providers.

A good breeder makes a difference in the community by promoting responsible pet ownership and good neighbor practices, helping pet owners train/socialize their dogs, and serving as an expert on all issues related to dogs.

Before purchasing a puppy, the breeder should:

- Provide information on what to expect from the breed and whether it’s right for your lifestyle,
- Answer your questions on care and training,
- Provide a pedigree displaying parentage and genetic history, and
- Inform you about the health of the puppy and its parents.

Expect the following when purchasing a puppy:

- A contract clearly defining the responsibilities of both the seller and the buyer (This often covers both return policy and spay/neuter considerations, and reminds the buyer that they have responsibilities, too.
- Eligibility for registration with a reputable national registry, such as the American Kennel Club (AKC).
- Health and vaccination records, and a health care plan for your puppy.
- An agreement to take back puppies that don’t adapt to your home.

For More Advice

Call on the American Kennel Club (www.akc.org) to locate the national breed club for information on your chosen breed. They can direct you to a responsible breeder in your area.

At the same time, avoid the high profile fund-raising groups that are always in the news. Groups like the Humane Society of the United States and PETA may be good at making headlines but they know very little about dog breeding.