

What to Look For When Buying Your Westie Puppy

1. Try to find a reputable breeder, contacting the Kennel Club does not guarantee this; it only means the puppy is Kennel Club Registered. A Breed Club is a better way to find a breeder. Our Breed Club has a Code of Ethics as do the other Breed Clubs in the UK, which our members have to stick to in their Breeding Programmes.
2. Be careful of buying puppies advertised in the Newspapers. Not all of these will be Puppy Farmed Westies but the majority of Puppy Farmers sell their puppies by advertising in local press.
3. Be wary of breeders who only use mobile telephone numbers in their ads or who offer to meet you in a garage forecourt for example to hand over the puppy.
4. Note the age the breeder is willing to let the puppy go at, reputable breeders will normally not let them go until they are at least 8 weeks old; Puppy Farmers will let them go from 6 weeks which is too young.
5. Try to establish if they have any other breeds of dog for sale, very few Puppy Farmers sell just one breed.
6. Visit the premises to see the puppy before you buy, ask to see the mother, often the father is not owned by the breeder so it may not be possible to see him. A healthy Westie puppy will be full of beans, and full of mischief. Eyes should be bright with no discharge. Check the coat for parasites or signs of them, e.g. scabs on the skin.
7. If you cannot get a puppy immediately from a reputable breeder, please be prepared to wait, do not be tempted to buy from a Puppy Farm, you could be buying a lot of trouble for yourself, in some cases the puppies die a very short time after they go to their new homes. You may have to wait for a puppy from a reliable source but it should be a well-reared, healthy puppy who will be a wonderful addition to your family.