

Reputable Breeder

We at Shining Star Aussies pride ourselves on being a reputable and dedicated breeder of Toy and Miniature Australian Shepherds. We strive with each mating to "be the best that we can be", and want our customers to be proud of the genetics, quality, overall appearance and temperament of their newly acquired dog or puppy purchase. Shining Star Aussies view our puppies and dogs as an extension of our love for the breed and it's characteristics. We proudly show our dogs at national shows throughout the country and gladly welcome visitors to our kennel facility in Howe, Oklahoma.

Below are some points that you, as a buyer, should consider when researching for a reputable breeder to buy your puppy or dog from. At Shining Star Aussies we strive to maintain the following "Code of Ethics" pertaining to quality and being a reputable breeder.

A reputable breeder acknowledges responsibility for each and every puppy produced and stands behind every dog they have bred. They assure you of the background and heredity of the dog or puppy and they are dedicated and persevere to maintaining the breed characteristics. A reputable breeder also strives to enhance the quality of the breed with each mating that they do.

It is an interesting fact that poor quality pups from pet shops and backyard breeders are usually sold for the same price and sometimes even more than those purchased from the serious hobby breeder. So, the question is: How does one recognize the serious, dedicated hobby breeder? Prepared below are criteria that you should require your breeder to meet before you consider purchasing your purebred dog. Do not be afraid to confront them with these requirements. It is your RIGHT and you can rest assured that the dedicated breeder will respond positively and with pride. Your Breeder should:

- The dedicated breeder belongs to a local breed club or a national all-breed club. Ideally, he or she belongs to several. However, sometimes this is impossible if there is no local breed club in the area. The reason for this requirement is that this sort of participation indicates depth of involvement. This breeder is exposed to other points of view, learns more about his breed, general dog care, and modern breeding practices and is kept up to date. They are breeding in accordance with a Code of Ethics.
- The dedicated breeder is involved in showing their dog(s). This means that your breeder is not breeding in a vacuum. The breeder who does not show has no idea how good his dogs really are and is deprived of the opportunity to share information and ideas with others. Showing provides the competition, which encourages breeders to produce better dogs. The breeder who shows wants to prove how good his dogs are in competition and is putting his breeding program on the line. They are not relying on just a pedigree to indicate quality. Even though you do not want a show dog, you deserve a pet that is the end result of a carefully planned litter--a pup that received the same care as a potential champion. The Breeder who is known by others and has a reputation to uphold will undoubtedly be as careful and honest in selling you your pet as they are in selling their show dogs.
- The dedicated breeder will give you a period of time which to allow you to have the pup examined by a veterinarian to determine his state of health, so that both of you are assured as to its health. If a problem should arise, it can then be quickly resolved. This period of time is usually 48 to 72 hours.
- The dedicated breeder will give you written instructions on feeding, training, care and grooming. You should also be given the pup's health/shot records. The breeder should supply you with information where you can purchase books about the breed.
- The dedicated breeder will be able to show you proof that their stock has been x-rayed and is clear of hip dysplasia, with certification from OFA, GDC, Guelph (Ontario, Canada), or PennHip.
- The dedicated breeder will make it clear to you that their responsibility continues long after you have taken your puppy home. Indeed, until your pup has departed this earth. Many dedicated breeders will ask that the

pup be returned to them or placed with new owners who meet with their approval if for any reason you are unable to continue ownership.

- The dedicated breeder will be curious about what kind of dogs you have had in the past and what happened to them.
- The dedicated breeder will ask questions like whether or not you have a fenced yard or if the pup will be walked on lead. They will make certain you understand all the negative aspects of owning a dog as well as the positive. Having the pup's best interests at heart to say nothing of theirs and yours, a reputable breeder will take great pains to place their pups properly the first time around. A returned pup is a traumatic experience for all concerned and therefore, the breeder who is always willing to accept a puppy back will want to make certain that this specific purebred dog is the breed for you.
- The dedicated breeder will be able to show you a clean environment, well-socialized puppies and a dam with a good temperament (happy and self-assured).
- The dedicated breeder will be willing to give you references--names of people who have purchased pups from them in the past or of others in the breed.
- The dedicated breeder will perhaps be a bit hesitant to sell you a pup until they know more about you. Will not pressure you into deciding immediately, and encourage you to see other litters before making your final selection.
- The dedicated breeder will provide a written contract and/or conditions of sale.
- The dedicated breeder will require spaying or neutering of pet quality puppies. Breeders spend a lot of time and effort planning breeding programs designed to improve the breed. They selectively carry on their programs with only the best quality available. Pet quality puppies should be loved and enjoyed as pets. Reputable breeders don't want their dogs being used just to "make puppies" or worse yet, to have their puppies end up in "puppy mills" where they will be mass produced. Therefore, they will require that pets be spayed or neutered before being registered with a breed registry.

If a breeder meets all the above criteria, you are in good hands. If you find yourself with a negative response to any of these, think twice; discuss the situation with someone else. Don't be impulsive and DO ASK QUESTIONS!

KEEP THIS IN MIND: YOU ARE PROBABLY GOING TO PAY FOR QUALITY. WHETHER YOU GET IT OR NOT IS UP TO YOU!

Reference: www.NAMASCUSA.com