

For those people who are looking to buy a Griffon puppy...and we know there are many at the moment...here are a few tips to help you on your journey.

Bona fide breeders will welcome your questions and answer them honestly ...and they will also ask you many, many questions about your circumstances to determine if you are a good home for one of their precious puppies.

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE PUPPY PURCHASERS....

In the U.K. we have four Griffon Clubs, The Griffon Bruxellois Club, The Griffon Bruxellois Breeders Association, The Northern Griffon Bruxellois Club and The Scottish Griffon Bruxellois Club. They all have their own Websites. All of the Clubs are willing to help any prospective owners obtain a well bred puppy or occasionally an older Griffon. Contact the Secretary of any of the Clubs in the first instance.

What is a Code of Ethics?

A code of ethics (COE) is an agreed upon set of standards which include the breeding, owning and correct husbandry of pedigree dogs which always surrounds the health and welfare of each breed. Every breeder within any of the Clubs (the vast majority of reputable breeders in the U.K. are members of all of the four clubs) signs the COE and agrees to the content of the COE, agreeing to uphold it at all times. This includes abiding by and breeding to the breed standard of any given breed. Breaches can result in suspension or expulsion - and it has!

What is a registered breed?

A registered breed is a recognised breed that adheres to an accepted standard, usually from the country of origin. Registered breeds are recognised by canine controlling bodies around the world such as The Kennel Club UK, Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) ,The American Kennel Club, Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI).

What is a reputable breeder?

- A reputable breeder is one who stands by the dogs they breed, always offering help and support, often throughout the life of the dog.
- Ideally a reputable breeder is a member of a breed club.
- A reputable breeder strives to improve the quality and health of the breed and is not someone solely breeding for profit or to meet market demand.

How do I find a Griffon Bruxellois Puppy?

Contact any of the four breed clubs for advice and a list of its breeder members.

Remember, breeders agree to uphold and promote the Code of Ethics. If a breeder is breaching that code, what other recommended breed practices are they breaching? Many online classified websites should also be met with caution eg Pets4Homes. Please contact your nearest Club for advice on contacting breeders.

Good breeders do not breed constantly. They usually only have 2-3 litters from each girl, they only breed to produce high quality dogs, often only breeding when they want something themselves.

If a breeder constantly has pups that should ring alarm bells.

Good breeders will not promise or take deposits on dogs that have not been born- especially with Griffons.

However it is not instant. A bitch who is mated today has a 9 week pregnancy and then another 10-12 weeks before pups can go to new homes so that is at least 5-6 months.

Be patient. Use the time to do your research. Make sure that the Griffon is the breed for you and not an impulse.

What questions should I ask of the Breeder?

- Experience with the breed – how long involved?
- Club membership and breed involvement – how long, do they show their dogs, committee member of any of the Clubs, participate in other events with their Griffons. Eg. Promoting the breed at Discover Dogs.

Health screening/ testing of their breeding stock – do they do it and what tests do they do? In the U.K. there isn't any mandatory Health Testing of Griffons as required by the KC.

- Kennel/ home visit – can we see the environment where our puppy has been raised?
- Kennel / home visit – can we meet the parents of the puppies? The sire may not be available if an outside stud was used, but you should at least be able to meet the mother, see her interact with her puppies and have info about the father.
- Will the breeder be available and willing to help and advise you after purchase of a puppy?

What documentation should I ask for?

- Copies of the official Health Certificates for Sire and Dam
- Copy of pedigrees of the Sire and Dam
- Vaccination and microchip paperwork for puppies
- Pedigree and registration papers for puppies – these are usually available at the time of purchase. The breeder should never sell a puppy without pedigree papers. Contact your breed club for advice if you are unsure.
- Diet Sheet

Sales agreement/ contract - this is to 'safeguard' both you and the breeder as you both know where you stand.

(Sometimes a breeder will 'endorse' the registration with progeny not to be registered and/or dog not eligible for an Export Pedigree. The breeder can lift these restrictions at anytime if agreed)

What is health testing and is there a difference between Vet Checked and Health Tested?

Vet checked simply means, checked by a vet. This usually happens at the time of microchipping and vaccination of puppies. The vet will listen to heart and check the overall wellbeing of the puppy. HEALTH TESTED means the dogs have undergone a series of agreed upon tests to help identify their suitability for breeding. This is with the aim of promoting and producing healthier puppies.

What are the Health Tests recommended by the Griffon Bruxellois Clubs?

There are no mandatory health tests for the Griffon Bruxellois, however there are recommended tests including patellas, eyes, heart and an MRI scan for Syringomyelia. Each club has a Committee Member responsible for 'health'. They then liaise with the Health Co-Ordinator for the breed who is responsible for giving and receiving information to/from the KC and other bodies.

Why are these Health Tests important?

The Griffon Bruxellois Clubs recommend and promote these health tests to help to produce healthier puppies that will lead healthy lives with a minimum number of health issues.

No breeder of any breed can 'guarantee' the health of a puppy but reputable breeders try to do everything possible to reduce the risk of serious health issues.

What is a Standard?

The standard for each breed is specifically drawn up to set out guidelines covering the desired externally observable qualities for that particular breed – its physical conformation, character and temperament.

Why is the Standard important?

The breed standard provides a working outline of the desirable traits and hallmarks of the

breed, pushing healthy sound dogs. Movement, temperament and soundness are highlighted in the standard. The standard is the blueprint which defines each breed individually. When judging, one is selecting the best representatives of the breed, ie the best specimens to breed on with. It is not a beauty contest.

The Griffon Bruxellois comes in two coat types, rough and smooth and three coat colours- Red, Black and Black and Tan. In the U.K. and Australia they are all referred to as Griffon Bruxellois. In other parts of the world they may be referred to as Brussels Griffons. Whilst Blacks and Black and Tans are more difficult to obtain than a Red Griffon they should never be more expensive to purchase. There is also no such thing as a Teacup Griffon. Griffons range in size from Approx. 3.2 kgs to 5 kgs. (Breed standard limits) There are some Griffons that fall outside this standard.

Does a higher price mean a better quality puppy?

NO!!! The price is not indicative of quality. Such a price is unfortunately usually relative to what the public will pay.

Quality to an owner should relate to how well one can talk to and relate to the breeder, both before and after purchasing the puppy. Trust and reliability in the documentation of the puppy, its health testing and that of its parents should form a solid basis for quality.

Quality relates to the health and soundness of the puppy you are purchasing, whether for a pet or a show dog.

Need further information or advice?

Please contact your nearest breed club. They should be happy to provide you with answers you seek and point you in the right direction.

At this point in time visiting a breeder to see the breeding set up is much more difficultfor this reason it is vital that people contact breed clubs for advice and guidance.

Sadly, there are many puppy scammers out there making a huge profit off unsuspecting people.