

Information for Prospective Owners of Airedale Terriers

After researching the breed and speaking to breeders and owners you have decided that the Airedale Terrier is the breed for you.

The next step would be to then endeavour to see as many adult Airedale Terriers as possible so that you are getting a “warts and all” picture of the breed before purchasing your puppy or rescuing an adult. There is a national breed club and regional clubs whose information can be found on their web sites and a list of clubs with contact details can be found on page 11 of this booklet. Information is also available from the Kennel Club. These clubs organise various events during the year and attending one of these events would be advantageous to meeting a number of Airedale Terriers in one place and the opinions and advice of other owners sought.

The majority of clubs have either a puppy list or a list of breeders in their area. These could either be sent to you by the breed club secretary or accessed via the relevant club web site.

It is worthwhile visiting breed specialist kennels before making your decision. This may involve some travelling, as breeders are countrywide. Your patience and time spent will be rewarded, as your chosen new puppy will hopefully be a best friend for many years.

When visiting a breeder, if you have concerns about the environment and condition of the puppies please do not purchase a puppy because you feel sorry for them but contact the appropriate local authority. In taking a puppy away from that environment you will be perpetuating the actions of the breeder.

By contacting a responsible breeder you should have the expectation that they will conform to the Kennel Club Code of Ethics:-

1. Register all breeding stock and puppies at The Kennel Club.
2. Sign and hand over The Kennel Club Registration Certificate at the time of sale. (Occasionally it may not be available at the time of sale.)
3. Fully explain any endorsements on the registration form that pertains to the sale.
4. In the puppy sales wallet you should be provided with written advice on feeding and worming programmes, if any immunisation measures have been taken/and or to be taken. Socialisation, exercise, future training, grooming requirements and equipment:- leads, collars, brushes, combs, feeding bowls etc.
5. Provide you with reasonable after-sales telephone advice.
6. Provide a contract of sale to be signed by both seller and buyer.
7. You should also receive a Pedigree Certificate signed by the breeder and the puppy's Kennel Club registered name and number together with the Sire and Dam's Hip Score (*)

Please note:- On Friday 6th April 2007 the Animal Welfare Act became law in England and with it, a ban on tail docking for all but working dogs.

If the breeder is a dedicated or a Kennel Club Assured Breeder then you are assured that they will provide you with all the above information.

(*) **Hip Scoring:** You will need to ask the breeder for the Hip Score of the Sire and Dam of the litter. *Dysplasia means abnormal development and the degree of hip Dysplasia present is indicated by a score assigned to each hip.*

The hip score is the sum of the points awarded for each of nine aspects of the X-rays of both hip joints. The minimum score is 0:0 and the maximum is 106 (53 for each hip). The lower the score the less degree of Hip Dysplasia present. The mean or average score is calculated for all breeds under the Scheme and advice for breeders to use only breeding stock with scores below the breed mean score. The breed mean score at present is 16 (Both hips added together). The higher the score the more likely the animal is to develop arthritis-related problems in later years.

When visting the Breeder

You should expect the following:-

- Please make sure to the best of your ability to keep the appointment time agreed (please let the breeder know if for any reason you are unable to keep the appointment). Appointments are essential when maybe other potential puppy buyers may be travelling from a distance away. You will need to feel happy with all aspects of your visit
- On arrival at the premises you should feel that you are welcome and that the breeder willing to spend time with you. They should be happy to discuss any aspects of their puppies and adult dogs. The breeder should let you know their experience with the breed, the length of time they have been breeding and the various activities they take part in *i.e.* Showing the breed, Obedience, involvement with breed clubs etc.
- Most breeders will question you on your reasons for taking on a new Airedale Terrier and will require knowing the make up and ages of the family, your lifestyle, and your work routines. Photographs of where you live and any previous animals you have owned could be taken with you to show the breeder. It is advisable if possible to bring any children you have with you to make sure they are happy to accept a new member of the family.
- Airedale Terriers are a hardy breed and do not necessarily need to be bred within the house. Suitable whelping areas and outside kennels are appropriate for the breed. The puppies and dam as well as any other animals on the premises should be well cared for, be clean, appear happy, and contented. Their living conditions should be tidy and smell clean and be free of “old” excrement. The animals should be kept in a light airy environment with plenty of room to play and develop. Outdoor kennels should provide warmth and protections from the weather.
- The dam of the litter should be available for you to see but not always the sire. Often a sire from a different kennel is used but a photograph of the sire should be available for you to see.
- Depending on distance you should be able to make return visits to the puppies before arranging the date and time you will be able to take one home.
- After you have considered all the above, made the decision to go ahead and the breeder is happy to let you have one of their puppies. You will need to establish what deposit will be required to hold the puppy for you and any further conditions of sale.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE PURCHASING AN ADULT AIREDALE TERRIER NOT JUST A PUPPY**