

To All Prospective French Bulldog Owners!!



The hundreds of dogs imported this past week on a Ukrainian Airline flight into Toronto has brought public attention to the exploitation not only of our breed but of dogs in general. Now that nearly 90 percent of stores that sold puppies and kittens as pets are shut down, where do you think the backyard breeders, puppy mills and brokers are getting “merchandise” to sell? Planeloads of puppies from Eastern Europe, arriving every week, is as far as you have to look. These “breeders” arrange to have entire litters exported into Canada. They pick them up at the airport, then turn around and resell the puppies the next day, presenting the puppies as their own. And they can do this at enormous profits, paying maybe \$400 for a puppy that they then resell for \$4,000.

I wonder how many people buy a home, a car, or even a major appliance sight unseen or just by looking at an online ad. Remember, websites like Kijiji make their money from sales; they don't check the claims of the seller or the puppy itself. It's all left up to the individual. Sadly if you buy without doing any research, you probably won't get what you paid for. You may very well get a sick puppy, or one that will develop serious health problems.

Individuals looking for a puppy should research the breed they are looking for, as well as potential breeders. Ideally you should visit with a breeder's dogs. A dedicated breeder will want the best possible home for their puppy and will carefully screen you with lots of questions to be sure your home is the right home. They strive to produce the best possible health and temperament in their puppies. It's a source of pride for them, a reflection on their reputation. Breeders love to talk about their breed! Good breeders will freely discuss everything about their puppies and the breed, and will outline potential health and training concerns that may arise. They will want to be kept up to date on the puppy throughout its lifetime and will let you meet the mother of the puppies.

Below are just some of the questions a prospective buyer should ask:

- How many dogs do you own and how often do you breed the females?
- What health checks and testing have been done on the parents and the litter?
- At what age do your puppies leave for their new home?
- What vaccinations will the puppy have before leaving for their new home?
- Can I meet the puppy's parents (or at least the mother) and yourself at your home? If distance is involved, can we set up a Skype meeting so I can see where they are being raised?
- What activities do you do with your dog? (e.g. conformation, therapy work, obedience etc.)
- What does your contract guarantee and for how long?
- Will you, the breeder be available for the lifetime of the puppy, and will you take the dog back should the need arise?

Now where would you rather purchase from, a Buy & Sell website or a reputable breeder? I know my answer!