

PUPPY BUYER'S CHECK LIST

1. AGE

Puppies must be at least 8 weeks old to be sold. Puppies separated too young may develop behavior problems such as biting, nervousness and problems adjusting to other dogs. A breeder who will allow you to handle puppies under the age of 4 weeks is not knowledgeable or responsible, as the risk of disease to unvaccinated puppies is very high.

2. HIP DYSPLASIA/INHERITED PROBLEMS

Hip dysplasia (HD) is a malformation of the ball and socket joint of the dog's hip. All breeds may develop HD, with large breeds being more susceptible. Pain and severity vary, possibly requiring expensive surgery or even euthanasia. Avoid HD by purchasing from a breeder who provides OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) Certification for both parents of your pup. The more generations of OFA'd dogs behind your pup, the better your chances of avoiding this inherited condition. Many other problems are hereditary in Weimaraners, such as heart, eye, thyroid, diaphragmatic hernias, skin and allergy problems. Some of these problems can be detected with tests, and your breeder can supply you with more information.

3. HEALTH

Breeder should provide a written health record, certifying that your pup has received a Parvo shot, a Distemper shot and has been checked for worms and wormed if necessary. Most breeders guarantee the health of your pup for several days to allow you to take it to your own vet, and will take the pup back if he finds any evidence of a hereditary defect.

4. APPEARANCE

Puppies should be raised inside the home. They should be clean: clear eyes, no fleas or ticks, no weepy or crusty eyes, no messy rear ends. No severely herniated navels. Males should have both testicles. Tails are docked and dewclaws removed.

5. TEMPERAMENT

Puppies should have been well socialized with people. They should be active, playful, curious and friendly. Avoid buying a pup that runs and hides or one that bites and appears overly aggressive. Temperament, sociability and overall quality tend to suffer if the breeder keeps an unreasonably large number of dogs.

6. PARENT DOGS

The sire and the dam must be at least 2 years old to obtain OFA Certification. Females should not be bred more than once a year. They should be clean, healthy and free of allergies and skin irritations, friendly toward people, not overly shy, aggressive or high strung. The breeder should provide a photo of the sire if he is not on the premises, and a four generation pedigree on the pup. Pups usually grow to be much like their parents, so be sure you like what you see.

7. THE BREEDER

The breeder has specific goals for his/her breeding program and first hand knowledge of many of the dogs in the pup's pedigree. Breedings are undertaken for more reasons than convenience.

8. PRICE

There should be no difference in price between males and females simply because of their sex. Price should not be raised simply because the pup has a blue coat color, a dobe marked coat color, or long hair. If you are interested in a show, field or obedience prospect, purchase your pup from a breeder who has experience in your area of interest. Bargain puppies are often more costly in the long run due to health problems that can develop from poor care and hereditary conditions.

9. SPAY/NEUTER

If your puppy is not going to be used for show or competition, it should be spayed or neutered. This improves the health and longevity of your friend. Responsible breeders now realize that non-competition puppies should be sold under a spay/neuter contract, AKC Limited Registration, or withholding of papers until proof of neuter.

10. PAPERWORK

- **AKC REGISTRATION**-The breeder should provide you with a blue AKC registration application for your pup. Do not buy from a breeder who promises to send the papers at a later date. (OFA certification should appear on this form).
- **OFA CERTIFICATION**-The breeder should provide you with copies of the OFA certificates on both parents.
- **WRITTEN HEALTH RECORD**-Should come from the breeder and include shot and worming records.
- **PEDIGREE**-The breeder should provide a four generation pedigree on your pup.
- **HEALTH GUARANTEE**-The breeder should give a written guarantee that you can return your pup within 48-72 hours if your vet declares your pup to be unhealthy. Some breeders may offer additional guarantees.