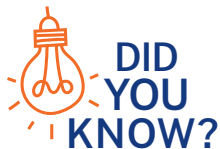


Checklist when purchasing a puppy or kitten

The purchase of a new pet can be a big commitment – of time, money and emotions. To ensure the process is as smooth as possible, there are a few important points to consider.



All breeders of dogs and cats in NSW are legally required to comply with the [Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding dogs and cats](#). This Code is designed for everyone involved in the activity of breeding dogs and cats, to protect the welfare of animals in their care. Section 9 of the Code specifically relates to buying or selling a puppy or kitten.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

- Have you researched to make sure the breed suits your home and lifestyle? What are the animal's characteristics, lifespan, how much time and money is needed to look after it?
- Are you aware of any possible health issues (and vet costs) that certain breeds may be more predisposed to, such as breathing issues in some brachycephalic (flat-faced) breeds or hip dysplasia in some larger breeds?
- Have you verified the microchip number through the [NSW Pet Registry](#) or the breeder's details through one of the registered breeder associations? All puppies and kittens must be microchipped in the breeder's name prior to being re-homed.
- If possible and safe to do so, are you able to visit the facility where the animal has been bred or is being housed and meet its mother?
- How is the health and behaviour of the mother and other puppies/kittens in the litter? Have you seen them? Is the mother calm and friendly, are the puppies/kittens active and free from signs of disease such as watery eyes/noses, fleas, coughing, diarrhoea etc.
- Are the living conditions where the puppy/kitten is being raised clean and comfortable, with enough space for them to play and move around?
- Have you checked with your local rescue shelter to see if they have a puppy or kitten that suits you/your family?

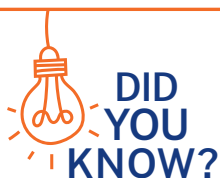
QUESTIONS TO ASK THE BREEDER/SELLER

Legal Requirements

- Is the puppy/kitten at least 8 weeks of age? (this is the minimum legal age for sale or re-homing).
- Is the puppy/kitten microchipped in the breeder/seller's name? It is a legal requirement in NSW that all animals are microchipped prior to sale, with details transferred to the new owner after purchase.
- Has the breeder provided you with written information concerning the care of the animal being purchased? This should include records of vaccinations and worming treatments (as required by the NSW Breeding Code), as well as other accurate written information e.g. dietary requirements.

Good to Know

- Has the puppy/kitten been 'health-checked' by a vet. A health check is separate to a vaccination certificate. Can the breeder/seller provide you with a record of this?



In 2021, an average of **9 people per day** reported being the **victim of puppy scammers!**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES / HELPFUL LINKS

- [NSW DPI Animal Welfare](#)
- [NSW Fair Trading](#)

- [Animal Welfare League NSW](#)
- [RSPCA NSW smart puppy and dog buyers guide](#)