

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB OF MICHIGAN

Is This Breeder Reputable?

How do you know if the breeder you have contacted is a person of integrity committed to bettering their particular breed? It can be tough to discern, especially if this is the first time you've sought out a purebred breeder. Following are a few guidelines to help you make that determination.

- 1 A reputable breeder requires that pet quality animals be spayed or neutered. Be wary of breeders who do not mention altering.
- 2 A reputable breeder requires a contract, which varies from breeder to breeder, but usually spells out the rights of the seller and buyer, health information, altering and buy-back/return policy.
- 3 A reputable breeder shows a general interest in, love for and knowledge about the breed. He or she cares about placing puppies in good homes and will often interview potential buyers thoroughly, ask for references and refuse to sell a dog if necessary.
- 4 A reputable breeder will guarantee a puppy's general health for a certain period of time. While no one can guarantee against inheritable diseases, a reputable breeder is well informed about genetic problems in their particular breed or bloodlines, routinely has dogs/pups tested for problems and passes this information along to buyers. Beware of breeders who scoff at genetic testing and say their particular breed/line is problem free.
- 5 The environment (kennel or home) in which the breeder keeps the dogs should be clean and well maintained.
- 6 A reputable breeder is actively involved in the dog fancy, including showing or breed clubs. While there are exceptions—a retired individual who has shown dogs for 20 years—a person who is not involved with others in the breed can be suspect.
- 7 A reputable breeder is willing to provide answers to questions you may have and is willing to provide names of others who have purchased pups.
- 8 A reputable breeder will allow you to meet the puppy's parents if available and, if not available, be willing to show pictures.
- 9 A reputable breeder follows up on puppies. He or she is interested in how the pups develop physically and mentally, difficulties in the owner/dog relationship and health problems.