

Buying or Rescuing a Puppy

Find out the best way to get a new puppy.

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Ask the pet store employee:

- Did the puppies come from a USDA-licensed dealer?
- Do you have contact information for the kennel?
- At what age were the puppies separated from their mothers?
- How were the puppies socialized?
- Does the kennel provide genetic clearances on its breeds?
- Can I get a copy of the eye and hip certifications?
- What health problems are common in this breed?
- What are the stores policies on pet returns and health guarantees?

Two major pet supply retailers PetsMart and Petco can be ideal places to look for a puppy or dog. The reason? These national chains donate space in their stores for local animal shelters and reputable breed rescue groups to showcase dogs and cats in need of good homes rather than sell pets. Often, a veterinarian is available in the store to answer questions about the dogs health or temperament. And, these chains alert customers about area veterinary clinics offering discounts for spaying and neutering newly adopted pets.