

How to Select a Puppy That Is Right for You

How to pick a puppy that is compatible with your home and family.

Rose Boccio

Take your search a step further. Find a reputable breeder who values his or her pups' placement. Geiss suggests prospective owners: Spend some time with the litter and its parents. Do the dogs look healthy? Identify the puppy that interacts best with you. Ask the breeder about the puppies' personalities to help you choose the best match.

If you can't meet the breeder face to face, do what Koehler did. "I talked to [Buchanan] several times over several months," she said. "She sent me photos of the father, who has a champion bloodline. And she sent me a video of her dogs, which included a previous litter. So I got a chance to see how the dogs were cared for and what the mother and father looked like."

That effort paid off. Koehler and her grandchildren couldn't be happier with her Bulldogs Shena and Venom. In fact, Koehler is shopping for a third one.