

	Question	Sire	Dam
1	Are both Sire and Dam registered with the Kennel Club?		
2	What are their hip scores?		
3	What are the "parents" dates of birth?		
4	How many litters has the Dam had and when was her last litter?		
5	Are the breeders members of either the HVS or HVC?		
6	How long has the breeder owned Vizslas and how many litters has the breeder bred?		
7	How many litters (any breed) do they have in a year? If more than 4 - are they registered with Council as a Commercial Breeder?		
8	Do they undertake any other Health Screening - ie elbows, eyes .. etc?		
9	Ask if there is any history of serious illness within the pedigree of the puppy i.e. Myositis, Epilepsy, Elbow Dysplasia.		
10	Who owns the Sire? Can they be contacted?		
11	What is included in their puppy pack? eg apart from diet sheet etc, do they include any health leaflets.		
12	Do the Sire or Dam work, show or agility or something else - or are they purely companion dogs?		
13	Will the puppies be docked/dew claws removed?		
14	Will the puppies have had their first vaccination before they leave the breeder and when were they wormed.		
15	What are the breeders dogs fed on? ie barf, kibble, wet food		
16	Ask what 'after sale' support the breeder will give –are they happy to give help and advice if you are having trouble?		
17	Ask if there is a contract of sale of the puppy and if so, can it be seen prior to purchase.		
18	Are there endorsements on the puppy?		
19	For these endorsements to be lifted are there any conditions.		
20	When can you visit for a chat and to see the dogs.		
21	Would the breeder be willing for you to contact previous puppy purchasers?		

1. Both the Sire and Dam should be registered with the Kennel Club for the pups to have KC papers. Cross bred Vizslas are not registered with the KC – hence no checking of information given to you by the breeder can be verified.
2. Hip scores are an indication of any hip dysplasia within the lines – although HD can arise as a result of over-exercising a puppy. If the dog was hip-scored later in life there may be wear and tear on the hips and so could be slightly higher.
3. The HVS and HVC Code of Ethics state that the bitch should be mated after her 2nd birthday and not whelp after her 8th birthday. The dog should be at least 18 months old at the date of mating and not have more than 3 litters in the first year of use, until the progeny is proven.
4. The Code states that a bitch cannot have more than 3 litters. There should also be at least a year between litters from the same bitch.
5. If the breeder is a member of the HVS or HVC then they will be “policed”; breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from Club & Society membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.
6. If the breeder has had more litters than years in the breed then ask why?
7. Commercial breeders have to be licensed under the Animal Welfare Act 2008.
8. Any additional Health Screening - i.e. elbows, eyes etc, shows the breeder is particularly committed.
9. It is really important to ask about the health of the puppies bloodlines as this sort of information is not necessarily volunteered.
10. Is it possible to meet the Sire so that you can see temperament etc for yourself.
11. A comprehensive puppy pack shows that the breeder is trying to help new puppy owners with as much information as possible.
12. Dependant upon your requirements for a puppy – do the parents of the pups help you achieve this. Check conformation and suitability to the breed.
13. It is illegal to dock puppies unless breeders can prove that they hold a shotgun licence or can prove that they are regular members of a shoot.
14. The vaccinations are dependent on how old the pup is when you take him home and what vaccination regime your vet takes. Some pups may be given an interim Parvo vaccine – this is not always given. You need to know when the pups were wormed and which wormer; the breeder should inform you when to next worm the pup.
15. If the breeder shows knowledge of diet then they will be a good source for asking questions about diet for your pup.
16. ‘After sales’ support from the breeder is very important especially if you have not owned a Vizsla before! Responsible breeders will take the puppy back at any age if necessary.
17. Responsible breeders should have a clear contract stating the Terms & Conditions of Sale. Pay particular attention to clauses that must be adhered to by the purchaser. The contract should be signed by both parties and each to retain a copy.
18. Some breeders place an endorsement on the puppy to stop people breeding from their stock without looking at why they are breeding first, i.e. finding a suitable mate, health checks, etc. This should be written into the contract of sale.
19. Some breeders are only lifting endorsements if you use their dog for the mating. Steer clear from this type of arrangement – the choice of mate should be yours.
20. You should visit the breeders in person preferably before the pups are born. When the pups are born most breeders will not want you to visit until they are at least 3 weeks old. Good breeders want to vet new owners, just as buyers would want to vet breeders; so steer clear of breeders who are not bothered about seeing you and just ask for a deposit in the post!
21. Good breeders will be in contact with people who have purchased puppies in the past and will not have a problem passing that information on.

On an enquiry about a puppy, the breeder should ask you numerous questions, for example: about your lifestyle, house, care and most importantly why you want a Vizsla.

On completion of this questionnaire if you have any doubts about any of the answers, then please contact the Society or Club who will do their best to verify the information you have been given.