



The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of Canada
Founded 1965

Nemo Me Impune Lacessit

BUYER'S GUIDE FOR THE PURCHASING OF A STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER

The following are points to help prospective buyers understand some of the things which we know to be important to breeding a quality Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

WHAT ARE BREED STANDARDS AND CONFORMATION?

Breed standards define the structure and breed type of a purebred dog. Every breed has a written breed standard that preservation breeders adhere to. The breed standard describes two things, structure and breed type. The standard is the blueprint of the breed.

Structure of a dog is like the structure of a house. If the framework is structurally faulty it effects the integrity of the house; things over time will wear faster, crack, or even fall down. You must have sound *structure* to maintain the house's integrity. The same theory applies to dogs.

Any dog must have *sound structure* so they can handle the wear and tear of a lifetime of running and jumping and playing and just being a dog. Dogs with unsound structure will become more arthritic, more prone to injuries and so on.

Good pure-bred dogs will conform to their breed standard. 'Conformation' is an expression of how well an individual meets its breed standard.

WHAT IS BREED TYPE?

Breed type is what separates one breed from another. It's those attributes that when you look at a breed you know what it is. It's what sets breeds apart, what makes a Greyhound a Greyhound, or what makes a Staffy Bull a Staffy Bull. Size, head shape, coat, how they move, temperament and so on.

WHY ARE CONFORMATION SHOWS IMPORTANT?

We feel it is important that people look for their next family pet from a breeder who shows in conformation. The conformation shows are where breeding stock is evaluated against the breed standard. It is not just a beauty contest! It is the judge's job to determine if the dog is structurally sound and has good breed type. Also, to determine if the dog is built the way it should be in order to be able to preform the job that the breed was originally bred and designed to do.

All these things are very important to producing the best family pet that will give you years with a happy, healthy dog that can keep up with all that your family throws at him whether that is performance events, hiking, running, throwing a ball or being a couch potato.

It is our goal as preservation breeders to provide the best quality for the health and longevity of the dog.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A BREEDER

Unfortunately, currently with social media, the selling of dogs of all breeds has become big business. Due to this there are more scammers and unethical people out there selling puppies than ever before. We would like to address some issues we have come across to help you make the best choice for your next family companion.

- Look for breeders who are CKC and or SBTCC members.
- Look for breeders active in the SBTCC breed club, and active in CKC or AKC events in conformation and or performance.
- Look for a breeder who health tests and provides a written health guarantee. Make sure the dog has passed the health testing done.
- Look for a breeder that does the 'puppy evaluation' testing of every puppy at 7 weeks of age.
- Look for a breeder who insists on personal (when possible) interviews at their home.
- **DO NOT** go to a breeder who wants to meet you in a parking lot the next day and wants money up front. There are scammers that steal pictures off the net and use them as their own and take your money and never delivers the puppy.
- **DO NOT** use a breeder that requires you to pay extra for registration papers. In Canada it is a federal offence to sell a dog as purebred and not supply the CKC registration papers. (The CKC is slow and this can take some time).
- **DO NOT** use a breeder that wants you to pay more for a certain colour or sex. Ethical breeders do not base their prices on colour or sex

HEALTH TESTING, WE RECOMMEND THAT At the minimum all breeding dogs be L2hg and HC clear either by DNA or parentage. (3 generations); and eye certification by a board-certified ophthalmologist to be done.

The above tests are the minimum any breeder should do. Additional testing can also be done such as to determine if there is hip dysplasia or elbow dysplasia.

Please note that some testing requires a **perfect pass**. Other tests have a grey area. No dogs are perfect and breeders test to be aware of any imperfections in order to make the best breeding choices for their dogs.

DNA versus Parentage CLEAR on many paperwork you will see dogs "DNA clear" or "clear by parentage".

- DNA clear means that dog was tested and is clear for a specific disease. The breeder will have a certificate from the lab that did the testing confirming the DNA status. You can ask to see this certificate.
- DNA clear by parentage means the parents or grandparents of the dog were all tested DNA clear.

If all grandparents or parents of your puppy were tested clear, then your puppy will also be clear. Breeding clear to clear can only produce clear. Your breeder should be able to tell you how far back the testing was done. It is recommended that breeders check for mutations by testing the DNA parentage breeding dogs every 3-4 generations.

Please note. The SBT is typically a very healthy breed and our preservation breeders have worked very hard to keep it this way. The labs are developing new testing every day. Ethical breeders do more and more testing every year as tests become available to gain knowledge and information to help make the next generation even better than the last.

PLEASE NOTE. Currently the popularity of the *blue colour* is exploding. Be aware that this is an acceptable colour in our breed and is not rare. It is a dilute recessive gene. Due to it being a dilute colour most breeders have bred away from it due to the problems that can arise from it. This includes dilute gene alopecia and allergies. **Ethical breeders breed for quality not colour.** Occasionally we will see a beautiful blue or blue brindle puppy in our litters and that's OK except for the possibility of increased health issues. It is never ethical to breed two blue dogs together. You are certain to get health issues by doing that.

Quality puppies from an ethical preservation breeder is worth the wait. Expect to wait 6-18 months for a puppy from any ethical preservation breeder.

There just aren't enough of us! But you will be happy you did!