

December 2007

Buying a Healthy Puppy

What you need to know about new legislation on breeding

On Tuesday, December 4 2007 new legislations passed through the Victorian Parliament that will have significant effects on dog breeding.

Clause 89, Section 15C of the Animal Legislation Bill makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly breed a dog with a heritable defect. It also states that when selling a dog with any such defect, it must be disclosed to the purchaser.

DOGS Victoria, the peak body representing owners and breeders of pure bred dogs, is already in the process of consulting with its members to make sure all breeding plans are in accordance with these new laws.

“Our members have always been responsible, caring breeders,” said DOGS Victoria President Doug Ford in response to the new laws. “They have had long-term breeding plans in place for many years and are working as a whole to eradicate many hereditary conditions including and beyond the list covered in this new legislation.”

“Because of these responsible breeding practises,” Mr Ford continued, “We see these laws as a welcome reminder to the public that it can be detrimental to purchase puppies or dogs of unknown origin.”

This includes so-called designer dogs, whose possibility for hereditary conditions are not known because they are crosses between breeds, and puppies from puppy farms, where dogs are bred purely for profit and often not screened for hereditary diseases.

In many cases, the choice is between extremely costly veterinary care to manage the condition or putting your dog down. A little research can help you avoid this tragedy.

DOGS Victoria advises anyone considering a new puppy to visit the premises, see the puppy with its littermates and parents and ask about screening for any heritable conditions. If you feel the breeder is not being completely open and honest with you, walk away and find someone else. Only buy a puppy that is happy and healthy.

For more information on purchasing a puppy, visit www.dogsvictoria.org.au.

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A DOGS Victoria representative can be made available for interviews on a variety of topics including training tips, choosing the right dog, and general dog information.