

# **pitpat** GUiDe TO *Picking your new best pal!*

## Questions and Observations about the Mummy Dog:

- ❃ **Can you meet the mother?** NEVER buy a puppy from anywhere without being able to see one, or preferably both, of the parents.
- ❃ **What's the mum like?** Be sure mum is a nice, friendly dog because temperament can be inherited. Be aware that she might be defensive of her pups, which is to be expected and normal. If you're not allowed to see them together, it might be that they're not really her puppies!
- ❃ **How many times has she had pups?** It is against the law to breed from a bitch more than six times in her lifetime and if the breeder breeds frequently they are required to have a license.
- ❃ **How old is the mum?** The mummy dog should be over the age of 1 and not obviously old.

## Questions about the puppies:

- ❃ **Which pup from the litter?** Unless you're experienced at training dogs, you probably shouldn't choose the puppy that comes bounding over to you and knocks the other pups over, this is normally the most dominant in the litter, the bully. On the other hand, don't choose the little one that's curled up with the mother, this is the runt in the litter, both the runt and the bully can have behavioural problems, which can be trained out of them, but some experience with puppies would be better for this. Choose one from the middle of the rankings.
- ❃ **How old should my pup be/ should it be weaned?** Puppies should be 8 weeks when you get them and they should be fully weaned by 7 weeks, if they're not, they may be younger than the breeder is claiming.
- ❃ **Worming?** Puppies are born with worms, which is why they should be wormed from 2 weeks old, then every 2 weeks after that by the breeder and continued by you until they're 10 weeks.
- ❃ **Have the pups been vaccinated?** They should be vaccinated at 6-9 weeks then 10-12 weeks.
- ❃ **Does the puppy look well?** Clean eyes, ears and bottom with no obvious open wounds or sore patches.
- ❃ **What should you feed the puppy?** A good breeder should give you enough food to feed the pup exactly the same diet for a few days. They could also give you a diet sheet that shows how you should adjust the feeding as they grow.
- ❃ **Socialisation?** Puppies raised in a home environment settle into life as a pet much more easily than those raised in kennels. They'll be used to the everyday noises and traffic of a home.
- ❃ **Can you return the puppy if there are health problems?** You should take your new pup to your chosen vet within 48 hours of collection, for a health check. A good breeder will take the puppy back if there are any problems.
- ❃ **Is the puppy kennel club registered?** If so you should receive a registration certificate and pedigree when you pick them up, as well as a few weeks of free insurance.
- ❃ **Microchipping.** It is a legal requirement for the breeder to microchip the puppy and register it under their details before the sale. It is an offence for them to register it directly under your name, which is your responsibility to change it once you have the puppy.

