

WHERE DO I BUY A RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK?

Assuming that you have done a lot of research on the breed and have decided that you have the time and lifestyle to properly care for a Rhodesian Ridgeback then your next problem is where to find one?

IMPORTANT:

REPUTABLE BREEDERS DO NOT ADVERTISE ON WEBSITES SUCH AS DONEDEAL OR GUMTREE.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT I AM BUYING FROM A REPUTABLE BREEDER?

- Even if they do not actively show they will usually be a member of a club and so adhere by its Code of Ethics (Clubs will have a list of members who you can approach).
- The pups parents will be at least hip scored and preferably elbow scored as well.
- Most breeders will have a waiting list so be prepared to wait (sometimes for a year)
- You should be prepared to visit the breeder's home and to see **ALL** of the dogs (if some dogs are hidden or not available for view – with the exception of a bitch with a young litter – then alarm bells should ring). Visit the breeder **BEFORE** the litter is born – check out their other dogs – how they are kept and the condition they are in.
- Pups are reared in a home environment (the first 8 weeks are a critical period in developing the temperament of a pup) – the pups should be with their mother and not leave until at least 8 weeks old. (You may not see the father as reputable breeders often travel miles to get the ideal mate for their breeding programme).
- You should expect a lifetime of support/advice from your breeder – they will issue an information pack along with the pup.
- The registration papers will carry endorsements – these will usually state that the pup cannot be bred from or exported – a contract of sale will be issued with the pup and this should be explained to you.
- Pups are born with the ridge they will have as adults – it doesn't suddenly appear or change in appearance.
- The pups will have been checked several times (usually by someone else as well as the breeder) for Dermoid Sinus.
- The pups will have been vet checked before leaving the breeder.

- Breeders will want to know how their pups are getting on and will expect to be kept informed of their progress. Reputable breeders will also require you to sign that if for any reason the dog has to leave your ownership then they will want it returned to them.
- Ask the breeder how many litters they have bred and how long they have had ridgebacks – this will give you an idea of their experience
- Ask to contact people who have had their pups before to get their feedback

ALSO IF YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO TAKE ON A RESCUED RIDGEBACK THEN THE CLUB WILL (UNFORTUNATELY) HAVE THESE AVAILABLE FROM TIME TO TIME.

Please note that in the Republic of Ireland there are further restrictions on the ownership of Rhodesian Ridgebacks:

The controls, which must be observed when the dog is in a public place, require that these dogs, or strains and crosses thereof, must be kept on a strong short lead [only up to 2 metres long] by a person over 16 years of age who is capable of controlling them. The dog/s must be securely muzzled too. (Control of Dogs Regulations 1998)