Purchasing Checklist for Dog Breeders

The commercial dog breeding industry in Indiana continues to grow. Established operation owners, as well as those just starting, should be proactive when buying breeding animals, to ensure they are healthy and well-maintained. Some suppliers of breeders are not always completely honest or responsible in their care standards. This list is a starting point for evaluating new additions to a kennel.

1. Brucellosis

☐ **Always test for canine brucellosis. Ask the seller for copies of brucellosis test results, or ask the seller to pay for testing (before taking posession of the dogs).**
- Retest all the newly aquired dogs 60 days after purchasing.
- Be aware: Antibiotics can supress test results, allowing a brucellosis-positive animal to test negative. A confirmatory retest should be done after 60 days to verify an animal's negative status.
- At-home test kits may be purchased online, but a veterinarian will not issue a certificate of veterinary inspection on a producer test.

☐ **Retest all male dogs on an annual basis.**

☐ **Brucellosis cannot be cured, so the positive animals should be put down.**
- Female dogs can test negative, but the disease can always reoccur. Spaying is essential to reducing the risk of spread.
- Males will continually shed the disease due to the prostate gland.
- Puppies do **not** have a natural immunity if they are born to an infected mother.

☐ **No vaccination is available.**

☐ **Clinical signs appear from 30 days to 6 months after exposure.**
- Signs include females not getting pregnant, and males will have swollen testes. These clinic signs could mean other issues, so dogs should be tested to confirm the illness.

2. Oral Health

☐ **Look in the mouth of every dog purchased!**
- Poor oral health in dogs will lead to lower conception rates and lower litter numbers.

☐ **Use a quality oral antiseptic spray to protect the dogs' teeth.**
- The spray can be used daily, if needed, or as little as weekly.

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3. Skin Conditions

- ☐ Inspect each animal for signs of lice, fleas, or other external parasites.
- ☐ Physically observe the dogs for skin conditions before purchasing.

4. Vaccination and Health History

- ☐ Ask for vaccination records before purchasing animals to understand what has and has not been administered to the dogs.
- ☐ Reputable suppliers will always provide veterinary records on individual animals without hesitation. Veterinary records are an indicator of the overall quality of care a supplier gives to his/her animals.
- ☐ Verify paperwork is for a specific dog by looking for some form of permanent identification, such as a microchip or tattoo. A collar tag is not permanent ID, and can be switched between animals.
- ☐ Ask for contact information on for the attending veterinarian to call with any questions.

5. Microchip Your Dogs

- ☐ Microchipping is the preferred method for identifying animals.
- ☐ Keep individual animal records based on microchip numbers. Recordkeeping will help ensure consistent care for animals.

6. Tour the Supplier's Facilities

- ☐ Visit the site to get a sense of the level of care being given to the dogs.
- ☐ Are pens adequate and clean?
- ☐ Is general sanitation, including waste disposal, acceptable?

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