



ADVICE ON FINDING A WELL REARED STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER PUPPY

We hope this booklet will offer you some helpful advice. Looking for that perfect new member to add to your family can be a daunting task - this covers everything you need to know to get you started on the right track.

Advice on finding a well reared Staffordshire Bull Terrier Puppy.



It can be an exciting time looking for that new puppy to add to your family. You know you definitely want one that is a happy, healthy bundle of joy and so you should. You must remember there are many important things to consider as well and it is hoped this will help you to understand the correct way to go about finding a happy, healthy and well reared Staffordshire Bull Terrier puppy.

First things first, are you ready for a dog?

Before buying a puppy or a dog, ask yourself:

- Most importantly, is a Stafford the right breed for me and/or my family? – Contact your local Breed Club Secretary to find out any local meeting places, shows, events or recommended breeders.
- Can I afford to have a dog, taking into account not only the initial cost of purchasing the dog, but also the on-going expenses such as food, veterinary fees and canine insurance?
- Can I make a lifelong commitment to a dog? - A Stafford's average life span is 12 years.
- Is my home big enough to house a Stafford? – Or more importantly is my garden secure enough?
- Do I really want to exercise a dog every day? – Staffords can become very naughty and destructive if they get bored or feel they are not getting the time they deserve. They are a very people orientated breed and love human company.
- How long will the dog be left at home alone? - Staffords get lonely just like humans.
- Will I find time to train, groom and generally care for a Stafford? – Grooming is the easy bit but where you save time there training will swallow it up. Staffords are a very clever breed but they need lots of time and consistent training from puppyhood to adult to help them become well-adjusted and better behaved individuals.
- Will I be able to answer YES to these questions every day of the year? – Only you can answer that but please think hard before you make your mind up.

Advice on finding a well reared Staffordshire Bull Terrier Puppy. Finding the right Staffordshire Bull Terrier breeder

When sourcing a healthy pedigree Stafford puppy it is the breeder that is the most important consideration - buying a pedigree Stafford should not be done 'on the cheap' nor should it come from a disreputable source. By going to a responsible Staffordshire Bull Terrier breeder you stand the best chance of getting a dog that will enjoy a happy and healthy life.



Staffordshire Bull Terrier Breed Clubs



Most Breed Club secretaries will know of any forthcoming shows where you can go along and take a look at the dogs. They may know of health tested litters or know of one that may be on the way soon. They have first-hand experience with the breed so are a good source to answer any questions about the breed's health, temperament or anything at all that is Stafford related. Breed Clubs are found around England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland so there should be one fairly local. Breed Clubs are the best 'first port of call' for anyone looking for a Stafford puppy. A full list of SBT Breed Clubs can be found on the last page.

The Assured Breeder Scheme



This is run by the Kennel Club and lists breeders in various areas throughout the UK. The dogs listed must be health tested; currently eye screening of litters is only a recommendation. The ABS comprises of anyone that breeds KC registered dogs and fulfils the KC requirements so you need to do your homework. Check the accolades and see if the breeder is a member of a Staffordshire Bull Terrier Breed Club. More info <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/203>

Advice on finding a well reared Staffordshire Bull Terrier Puppy.

Buy one get one free!!



***Be aware of adverts selling puppies in local papers and on various dog selling sites on the internet, there are no background checks so any dodgy dealer can advertise on there. Alarm bells should ring if the advert reads like this:**

- 2000 champions in the pedigree – a reputable breeder won't sell puppies based on these silly numbers, it won't guarantee quality or health..... it is just a sales pitch.
- Rare blues – there are no rare blues, about 75% of all puppies registered now are actually blue.
- Red Nose Staffy, Long Legged Staffy – there is only one Kennel Club registered Stafford and that is the 'Staffordshire Bull Terrier', the other colourful names are given to mongrels.
- Rare Merles – there is no merle in this breed nor has there ever been. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Breed Council of Great Britain & Northern Ireland stopped the option to have puppies of this colour registered. So if you see a merle coloured Stafford ask yourself how did they manage that?
- Blue champion stud dog – currently there has never been a blue UK Champion (dog or bitch).
- Father sired 2000 litters – this just means that the dog has been used a lot, so another sales pitch.
- £900 for green, £1200 for the rare coloured puppies in the litter – a reputable breeder will sell all puppies at the same price regardless of colour or sex. For a well reared, fully health tested Stafford puppy the average price is around £600.
- Never buy a puppy that is delivered without you going to visit first and seeing the litter in their home environment and with their mother.
- Don't go for one that's a bargain and/or dropped price because it is the last one left or the breeder has a holiday booked in a few days – that's not the attitude of someone who cares about their puppies and where they go. Could they have also cut corners with rearing/raising the litter?
- Remember if something doesn't seem right don't be fooled to rush in and buy! Always give yourself time to think about making the right decision – a reputable breeder will not push you into having one of their puppies, or make you feel like time is running out. They will want to find out if you and their puppy will be well suited for one another's needs.

Advice on finding a well reared Staffordshire Bull Terrier Puppy.

When you have found a litter to enquire about, questions to ask the breeder before going to see them



- Are the puppies Kennel Club registered? – You could be buying a cross breed if they are not Kennel Club registered.
- Are both parents hereditarily clear for L2-HGA? – **Don't buy if untested, politely say goodbye and hang up!**
- Are both parents hereditarily clear for HC? - **Don't buy if untested, politely say goodbye and hang up!**
- Have both parents been eye screened for PHPV/PPSC and are they clinically clear? - **Don't buy if untested, politely say goodbye and hang up!**
- Will the litter be eye screened for PHPV? – Reputable breeders who care about their puppies will do this prior to them leaving home. **Don't buy if untested, politely say good bye and hang up!**
- Are the puppies micro-chipped? – From 2016 all dogs in the UK will legally need to be micro-chipped; reputable breeders already chip their litters.
- Have they been wormed regularly? – Worms take away vital nutrition from the puppies so if infested they won't thrive.
- What are the parent's temperaments like? – A Stafford's temperament should be reliable; not human aggressive nor timid/nervous.
- Was the litter reared inside? – Puppies are better socialised indoors with all the hustle and bustle of family life going on around them, they get used to being handled and around people from an early age.
- Will they have a contract? – The contract is a legally binding document that both you and the breeder will sign if you both agree to the sale of the puppy. Most breeders state that if you can't keep the dog/bitch then it is returned to the breeder, which is fair as no breeder wants one of their much loved puppies to end up in a rescue or in the wrong kind of environment.
- Are there any endorsements on the puppy? - There are two endorsements that can be placed 1. Export pedigree not allowed. 2. Progeny not eligible for registration - which means you can't breed from your dog until the breeder lifts the endorsement. These should be explained by the breeder in full detail.
- Do you have all the paper work available for me to look at? – The breeder should show you all the paper work when you visit and explain to you about health testing, the contract, endorsements placed and why.
- Explain to the breeder a bit about yourself, if you've had a dog before, if you want a family pet or one to show or a budding agility star. That way the breeder will have a better idea about what you're looking for in your puppy i.e. a lively little character would most probably thrive in an agility home, where the quieter litter mate would be more suited to a young family.
- If you can think of any more questions write them down before making contact with the breeder.
- Expect a few questions back, it's only natural that the right homes are being sought by the breeder, just like you want the right puppy for you.

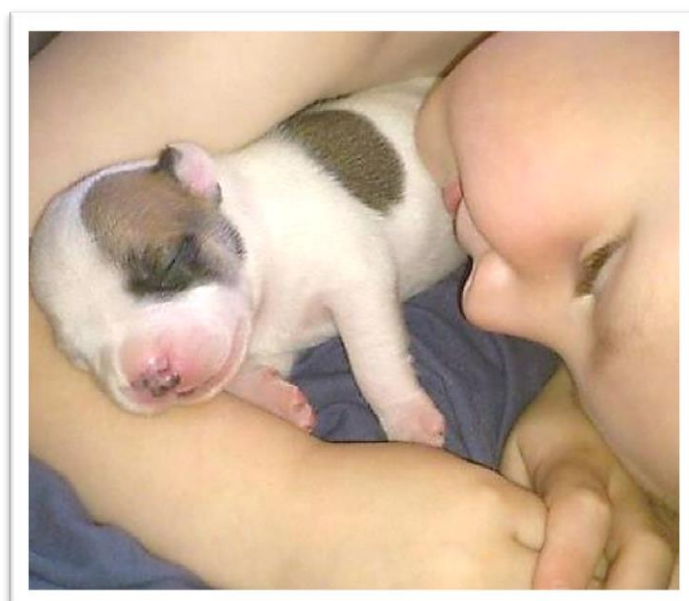
Advice on finding a well reared Staffordshire Bull Terrier Puppy. When you first go to visit the new litter.

When you first meet the litter, you could be met by a rabble of over enthusiastic little characters all with sharp teeth, fighting for your attention and dangling off your clothes. Or they could have just been fed, had a mad half hour and are now a pile of little sleepy heads that refuse to wake up. What you need to look out for:



- You need to see them with their mother – if dad isn't living there, which quite often is the case, then the breeder usually has a photo and health information, like a copy of his eye screening certificate, to show you.
- Nice plump puppies with lovely clean shiny coats - free from dirt, dandruff, fleas and not patchy.
- If they are not asleep then bright, clear, alert eyes – puppies may get 'sleep' in the corners when they have just woken up but they shouldn't have any green discharge or weepy/runny eyes.
- Clean ears that don't smell – if there is a build-up of debris it can cause infection that will smell foul. Puppies that have been kept in a clean environment won't usually suffer from dirty or infected ears.
- Check there is no mess or wet underneath or down their back legs as this could indicate runny stools and some sort of underlying illness, disease or a very bad case of worms.
- Is the bedding and play area nice and clean with plenty of natural light? That doesn't mean the odd toilet, that just can't be avoided with a litter but fresh vet bedding or blanket in the sleeping area and clean newspaper or puppy pads in the play area. These should be changed daily; puppies should not be playing in yesterday's mess.
- Puppies won't thrive if living in filth or with parasites like fleas or worms. If you buy from someone that would keep them like that you are condoning their actions and they will continue to breed for all the wrong reasons.

Thankfully there are breeders out there who care and cherish their puppies from the moment they are born and those are the kind of breeders you need to get your puppy from.



Advice on finding a well reared Staffordshire Bull Terrier Puppy.



When the long anticipated day finally arrives and you pick your puppy up, he/she should leave the breeder with:

- Signed Kennel Club registration document – You will need to fill this in and send it off to the KC to have your puppy transferred into your name. It will show the health status of your puppy and its' parents. (Litter eye screening won't be shown)
- A photo copy of the litter eye screening certificate – This will have all siblings and their results listed.
- Micro-chip information – The pup may have the breeder's details assigned and need to have your details added by the micro-chip company. Many breeders ask for their details to be kept on the microchip database as an emergency back up.
- Advice on the pup's first vaccinations. This can be arranged with your vet when you register your puppy with them.
- Worming – Information and dates when your puppy was wormed, what wormer was used and when it will need doing again.
- Feeding guide – The breeder should supply a diet sheet with information on what food the pup has been fed, how much and how often to feed. Some breeders send enough food for the first few days and it is advisable to keep to the diet the puppy is used to. Any change in diet needs to be slowly and over a set time to avoid an upset stomach.
- Puppy pack – Optional and this is solely down to the individual breeder what is included.
- Help and advice – This goes without saying, a reputable breeder will be happy to offer you any help and advice and will usually tell you they are there 24/7 if needed.

This link will show original Kennel Club documents http://www.staffords.co.uk/sbtbc/ex_docs.htm. You can also go to the Kennel Club's website and check any KC registered dog's health status although litter eye screening is not recorded there. <http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk/services/public/mateselect/test/Default.aspx>

When you get home with your puppy don't forget to give him/her a few days to settle in and get used to new surroundings. It is a good time to register the pup with your local vet for a quick check up and have the chip scanned to make sure it is working correctly. You can also discuss a worming regime and vaccinations. As a legal requirement you will also need a name tag to attach to the pup's collar, engraved with your name and address and optional phone number.

If you haven't already done so then don't forget to join a Breed Club local to you. They offer advice and opportunities to meet other Stafford owners. There may be puppy training classes near you, you might even consider having a go at passing the Puppy Foundation Course of the KC Good Citizen Dog Scheme and show everyone what a canine genius your Stafford puppy really is. If there is a local ring craft club you can teach your young friend how to become a well behaved show dog. More info <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/index.html>

Advice on finding a well reared Staffordshire Bull Terrier Puppy. Staffordshire Bull Terrier Health Information

Available Genetic Tests

L-2-HGA (L-2-hydroxyglutaric aciduria) in Staffordshire Bull Terriers is a neurometabolic disorder characterised by elevated levels of L-2-hydroxyglutaric acid in urine, plasma and cerebrospinal fluid.

L-2-HGA affects the central nervous system, with clinical signs usually apparent between 6 months and one year (although they can appear later). Symptoms include epileptic seizures, "wobbly" gait, tremors, muscle stiffness as a result of exercise or excitement and altered behaviour. More info http://www.aht.org.uk/cms-display/genetics_l2hga.html

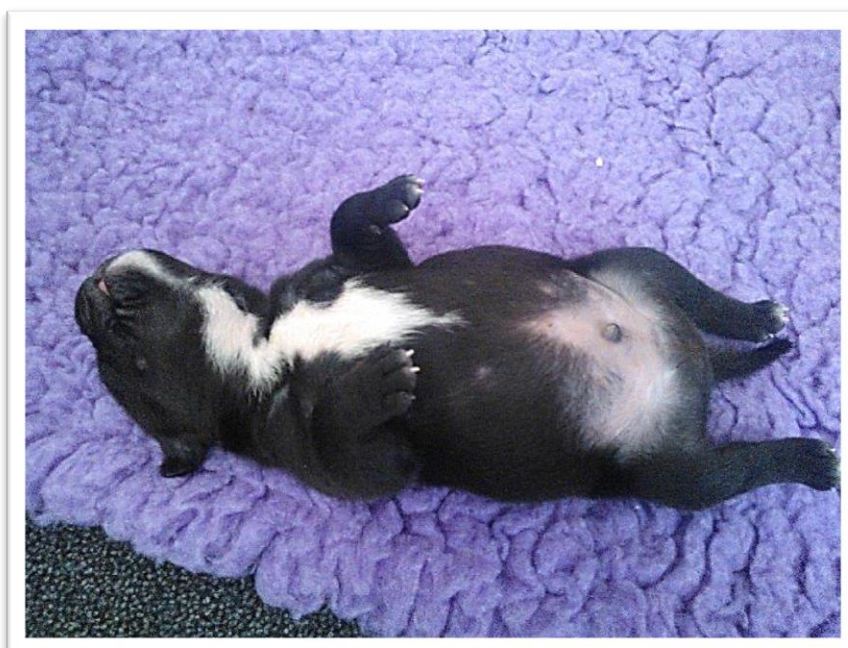
HC (Hereditary Cataract) in Staffordshire Bull Terriers has been recognised as an inherited condition since the late 1970's. Affected dogs develop cataracts in both eyes at an early age. The condition is not congenital, so the lenses are normal at birth but cataracts appear at a later stage, progressing to total cataract (and resulting blindness) by 2 to 3 years of age. More info http://www.aht.org.uk/cms-display/genetics_staffcataracts.html

Annual Eye Tests

PHPV (Persistent Hyperplastic Primary Vitreous) The mode of inheritance of PHPV is not so clear, but it is known that it is a congenital condition (present at birth) and that it is not progressive. This means that if a puppy is born with PHPV it can be detected by ophthalmic screening from 6 weeks of age and if it is affected, whatever the condition of the problem at that stage it will not change throughout the dog's life.

PPSC (Posterior Polar Subcapsular Cataract) This type of cataract is found in other breeds, particularly the Labrador and Golden Retriever. It usually remains as a small, punctuate cataract and doesn't usually lead to sight problems in these two breeds. It has been placed on schedule 3 of the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme because a number of Staffords that have been through the Scheme have been found to have this type of cataract. This type of cataract cannot be detected through litter screening. The mode of inheritance is unknown and has a variable age of onset. Eye Screening Clinics <http://www.staffords.co.uk/eyeclinics.htm>

"Litters should also be eye screened prior to leaving home and it is important for new puppy buyers to be aware and make sure ALL health tests are in place for ALL of the above conditions."



Advice on finding a well reared Staffordshire Bull Terrier Puppy. SBT Breed Standard

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A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Breed Watch section of the Kennel Club website here <http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk/services/public/breeds/watch> for details of any such current issues.

If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure.

General Appearance

Smooth-coated, well balanced, of great strength for his size. Muscular, active and agile.

Characteristics

Traditionally of indomitable courage and tenacity. Highly intelligent and affectionate especially with children.

Temperament

Bold, fearless and totally reliable.

Head and Skull

Short, deep though with broad skull. Very pronounced cheek muscles, distinct stop, short foreface, nose black.

Eyes

Dark preferred but may bear some relation to coat colour. Round, of medium size, and set to look straight ahead. Eye rims dark.

Ears

Rose or half pricked, not large or heavy. Full, drop or pricked ears highly undesirable.

Mouth

Lips tight and clean. Jaws strong, teeth large, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Neck

Muscular, rather short, clean in outline gradually widening towards shoulders.

Forequarters

Legs straight and well boned, set rather wide apart, showing no weakness at the pasterns, from which point feet turn out a little. Shoulders well laid back with no looseness at elbow.

Body

Close-coupled, with level topline, wide front, deep brisket, well sprung ribs; muscular and well defined.

Hindquarters

Well muscled, hocks well let down with stifles well bent. Legs parallel when viewed from behind.

Feet

Well padded, strong and of medium size. Nails black in solid coloured dogs.

Tail

Medium length, low-set, tapering to a point and carried rather low. Should not curl much and may be likened to an old-fashioned pump handle.

Gait/Movement

Free, powerful and agile with economy of effort. Legs moving parallel when viewed from front or rear. Discernible drive from hindlegs.

Coat

Smooth, short and close.

Colour

Red, fawn, white, black or blue, or any one of these colours with white. Any shade of brindle or any shade of brindle with white. Black and tan or liver colour highly undesirable.

Size

Desirable height at withers 36-41 cms (14 to 16 ins), these heights being related to the weights. Weight: dogs: 13-17 kgs (28-38 lbs); bitches 11-15.4 kgs.

Faults

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Note

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.



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Contact details for Staffordshire Bull Terrier Breed Clubs



DOWNLANDS STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Mrs Ann Gatenby - Tel: 01730-828-402) ann.gatenby@tesco.net

EAST ANGLIAN STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Mrs Lesley McFadyen - Tel: 01205 - 871762) [easbtclub@gmail.com](mailto: easbtclub@gmail.com)

EAST MIDLANDS STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Mrs Janet Higgins - Tel: 01530
563898) Janethiggins1524@btinternet.com

MERSEYSIDE STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Mr Francis Schofield - Tel: 0151-547-1022) fschofield@live.co.uk

MORECAMBE BAY & CUMBRIA STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Mrs Val Finney - Tel: 01744 753217) sanguliano@talktalk.net

NORTH EASTERN STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Miss Jaci McLauchlan - Tel: 01642 783948) DarcySBT@aol.com

NORTHERN COUNTIES STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Mrs Clare Lee Tel: 01423 863829) Antlee.74@virgin.net

NORTHERN IRELAND STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Mrs Jenni Connery – Tel: 028 2589 8733) jenniconnery@inbox.com

NORTH OF SCOTLAND STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Miss Julie Smith - Tel: 01569 760418) julie@staffie.co.uk

NORTH WEST STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Mrs Claire Crossman – Tel: 01772 724045) pendlestaffclaire@live.co.uk

NOTTS & DERBY DISTRICT STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Ms Helen Reaney - Tel: 01543-684-422) helen.reaney@btinternet.com

POTTERIES STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Mrs Sheila Reader - Tel: 01782-611-514) s.reader47@yahoo.co.uk

SCOTTISH STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Mr Gareth Owen - Tel: 01501 763721) Gareth.owen14@gmail.com

SOUTHERN COUNTIES STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER SOCIETY

(Acting Secretary: Ms Nancie Booth – Tel: 01268 511248) ramblestaff@me.com

STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

(Secretary: Mr James Beaufoy - Tel: 01299-403-382) jbeaufoy@aol.com

STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB OF SOUTH WALES

(Secretary: Mr Kevin Jones - Tel: 01639 821410) maxtakev@hotmail.com

WESTERN STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER SOCIETY

(Secretary: Mr Martin Grimwood - Tel 01495 759254) stormstaff@talktalk.net

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