

**This information was obtained from the KUSA web page – also see [www.kusa.co.za](http://www.kusa.co.za)**

### **BUYING A PUPPY - Beware of internet based scams - Pitfalls to avoid**

In recent months we have received a number of alleged scam reports pertaining to person/s operating within the RSA. Please be very careful and do not make any payments unless you are absolutely certain that you are dealing with a legitimate dog owner/breeder as we have received reports of payments that have been made and no dogs were received. These alleged scam reports arose mainly from buyers who responded to advertisements that were placed on various websites.

Should you wish to purchase a puppy we advise that you rather consult with our members who are on our Accredited Breeders Scheme and their names and contact details can be found on our website at [www.kusa.co.za](http://www.kusa.co.za) - on our homepage click on 'Accredited Breeder'. KUSA members who are listed on our Accredited Breeders Scheme have signed a pledge that they will adhere to the criteria as set out in the scheme. Scheme information can also be viewed on our website. Please note that puppies are not always available upon request and you may have to go on a breeder's 'waiting list'. If you are not successful with finding a breeder on our Accredited Breeders Scheme then please contact us again, advise us in which province and suburb you are staying and we can put you in contact with a KUSA affiliated club closest to you. Buyers must advise us of the breed of dog that they are interested in.

It is important that you find out if the breeder offers a written agreement of sale, and if so, make sure that you fully understand the terms and conditions, e.g. price of puppy, will a Breeder's Restriction be placed on the dog, will the dog be correctly inoculated and will the breeder provide a Veterinary Inoculation Card, were any health tests done on the parents and if so, can the breeder provide proof thereof, does the breeder offer a return/refund policy, when can the KUSA Certificate of Registration be expected etc., as set out by the breeder

### **Here are some steps that should be taken and questions that a buyer should ask the breeder before buying a puppy:**

- Can I see the mother and father of the litter? – A photo on a website is not acceptable as proof; ask to view the KUSA Certificate of Registration of the parents.
- Ask if you can be provided with references and endorsements of owners who previously purchased puppies
- Ask whether breeder/seller has a website – it is recommended to do as much research as possible.
- Can I see where the litter of puppies is being raised?
- Will I be able to pick out my puppy?
- What are the common genetic problems in this breed?
- Are you a member of KUSA and will you register the puppies with KUSA – ask the seller/breeder to provide you with his/her membership number to enable you to verify the number with KUSA.
- What health tests, if any, were done on the mother and father of the litter. – If health tests were done, ask if you can view the Health Certificates.
- Will you provide me with enough information on feeding etc before or when I collect my puppy?
- Do you offer an agreement of sale – (please refer to the above information with regard to the agreement of sale)
- Do not pay a deposit based on photographs.
- Do not be pressurised into buying a puppy.

The information provided is for use by prospective puppy purchasers only and cannot be used for any other purpose whatsoever. The Kennel Union makes no warranty as to the quality or fitness of any puppies offered and we cannot accept responsibility for any transaction between purchaser and seller arising from this letter.