

DOBERMAN BREEDER CHECKLIST

Y/N	Question to ask the Breeder	My Notes
	<p>Are the bitch (mom) and stud (dad) registered with a reputable breed club like AKC, UKC, CanKC, or FCI? <i>This is a bare minimum requirement for reputable breeders.</i></p>	
	<p>Did the bitch and stud come from a reputable breeder (one that follows the kennel club standards and strives to breed for them)?</p>	
	<p>Do you have documentation of 3-5 generations of pedigree? <i>The breeder should be able present paperwork proof to you. The breeder should have in depth knowledge of the health, longevity, cause of death, and temperament of each dog for 5 generations.</i></p>	
	<p>Do the parents and grandparents have working, conformation, agility, or obedience titles? If not, why? <i>There are some instances in which dog gets hurt or an owner does not follow through with showing or competing where the breeder still decided the dog is worth breeding. However, this is an exception. If neither parent is titled than they are not responsibly breeding.</i></p>	
	<p>Do the bitch and stud have stable temperaments? How so? What temperament testing have you, the breeder, done to ensure this? What testing is done on pups before they go home? <i>This is extremely important to avoid excessive expense and heartbreak. You could save money on a dog, and spend thousands on trainers. Ask about anxiety, separation anxiety, reactivity, noise sensitivity, handling sensitivity, sociability, and aggression. What exposure work has the breeder done with the pups to ensure there will be no surprises later?</i></p>	
	<p>Have the bitch and stud been judged by an impartial evaluator as physically conforming to the breed standard? Tell me about this.</p>	
	<p>Have the bitch and stud been certified as physically sound by OFA or PennHip, CERF, and free of genetic problems common to Dobermans? vWD, Thyroid - annually, Liver - annually, Hips, ECHO-annually, Holter - annually, etc.</p>	
	<p>Do you as the breeder require a contract that ensures you will take back any dog for any reason at any time? <i>All reputable breeders require this and take lifetime responsibility for every dog they breed.</i></p>	
	<p>Do you have qualifying questions for me, the customer? <i>Good breeders will likely require an extensive application and interview.</i></p>	
	<p>Is a clean, sterile environment always maintained? Can you show it to me? <i>Puppies are messy! However, they should never live outside or in the dirt. They should have adequate space and stimulation to develop their bodies and minds. They should have separate bathroom and play</i></p>	

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	<p><i>areas. Flooring should never be slippery as it makes pups prone to joint issues as they mature. Pups should have exposure to sounds, objects, textures, water, and various other things to prepare them for their future.</i></p>	
	<p>What puppy raising protocol do you follow? Puppy Culture and ENS may be things the breeder mentions. In order to get a sound puppy, it is critical the breeder has a program focused on socialization and exposure. They should then complete mental and physical evaluations of puppies prior to placement.</p>	
	<p>Do you market exclusive “rare” colors? <i>The FCI(European) standard does not support Blue, Fawn, Isabella, white, or Albino dobermans. The AKC standard ONLY allows for the Blue, Fawn or Isabella outside of the black/tan and red/tan but a reputable breeder will not breed exclusively for them as they are dilutes and generally come with additional skin and coat issues.</i></p>	
	<p>Does the pedigree have any dogs with a registration number that starts with WZ? <i>WZ prefix on a registration number means that the dog is descended from a white doberman. These dogs were bred outside of standard and exclusively used by unethical breeders to sell the “rare” white/Albino doberman. These dogs generally are not good representations of the breed with additional health issues. No responsible/ethical breeder from any registry will have them or use them in their pedigrees.</i></p>	
	<p>Do you allow people to purchase more than one puppy at a time? <i>Ethical breeders will never allow the same Household to take home two or more puppies, due to Littermate Syndrome.</i></p>	
	<p>BONUS: Does the breeder have knowledge of up and coming health research into the breed? Are they active members in a breed club? Are they willing to mentor you through the upbringing of the puppy? Have they done DCM genetic testing? Do they allow breeding without co-ownership?</p>	