

Buying a Rhodesian Ridgeback Puppy

What to expect from a Breeder who puts Health, Welfare and Temperament First



✓ Essential Documents

- Signed AWF Puppy Contract
- KC Registration Certificate (if applicable)
- Microchip Registration Certificate
- Temporary Pet Health Insurance
- Vaccination Certificate
- Copies of Health Certificates

A good breeder will

- have socialised and habituated the puppy
- provide a supply of food
- provide a blanket smelling of Mum
- follow the Code of Practice for Dog Breeding



Health Certificates (Both Parents)

Official Health Schemes

- BVA/KC scheme for hip dysplasia (HD)
- BVA/KC scheme for elbow dysplasia (ED)
- BVA/KC screening for eye disease. DBRG recommends that all dogs should be visually examined by an ophthalmologist before breeding (includes checks for multiple inherited diseases).

DNA tests relevant to breed

- DM - degenerative myelopathy
- Haemophilia
- JME - juvenile myoclonic epilepsy

Some laboratories offer tests for other rare inherited diseases in Ridgebacks

Other tests

Responsible breeders check puppies for dermoid sinus before sale



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Brief explanations and other diseases that may be more common in the breed – if in doubt then consult your vet for guidance

Official Health Schemes

Hip dysplasia - abnormal formation of the hip joint - pain and lameness

Elbow dysplasia - abnormal formation of the elbow joint - pain and lameness

The BVA/KC eye testing scheme checks for many inherited abnormalities that can cause progressive blindness or pain.

DNA tests relevant to breed

DM - degenerative myelopathy – progressive weakness of back legs

Haemophilia – blood clotting disorder

JME - juvenile myoclonic epilepsy – twitching or seizures in young dogs

Other problems

Cancers (various)

Dermoid sinus – birth defect associated with the ‘ridge’ of reversed hair growth along the back. Severe cases can involve the spinal cord and be fatal.

GDV - Gastro dilatation/volvulus (‘bloat’) - stomach fills with air and twists, can be fatal

Hypothyroidism - underactive thyroid gland, causing weight gain and lethargy

