

CRITICAL INFORMATION

FOR PROSPECTIVE CHOW CHOW PUPPY BUYERS

Finding a Puppy

Chow Chows are an impressive breed and people are often inspired by their looks to seek a puppy. However, there Chows are notorious for having small litters (3 to 4 puppies is the average litter size) and there are never many puppies available at any one time, so finding a puppy may prove difficult. Here are some tips:

- You are making a long-term commitment so don't settle on the first breeder you find - make sure you choose a reputable breeder.
- Anyone can put two dogs together and call themselves a breeder but that doesn't necessarily make them responsible or reputable.
- An ethical and responsible breeder breeds to improve the health and quality of the Chow Chow, not just to produce a product for sale.
- A responsible breeder will know their dogs, have an in depth knowledge of bloodlines, study pedigrees and health test their breeding stock.
- Reputable breeders are members of a State controlling body such as [Dogs Victoria](#) and are also members of a Chow Chow breed club.
- Most Chow breeders in Australia generally do not advertise offering puppies or dogs for sale; rather, they are listed as breeders on those few sites that provide such a listing and invite enquiries.
- Avoid responding to advertisements on-generic on-line classified sites. Scammers, puppy farmers and backyard breeders use these sites.

To find a reputable breeder the best place to start is to check the **Breeders List** on the [Chow Chow Club of Victoria](#) web site.

The ANKC has two documents worth check regarding Responsible Breeders. These are

- * [ANKC policy summary statement](#)
- * [ANKC Sourcing Responsible Breeders](#)

COLOURS IN CHOWS

The Chow Chow Club of Victoria (CCCV) has learned that Chow Chow puppy advertisements have appeared on various websites for Chow puppies of "rare" colours, some of which are not recognised by the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC). Please note, there is **NO SUCH THING** as a "rare coloured" Chow.

There are five acceptable colours in Chows which are Red, Black, Blue, Cream and Fawn. The two dominant colours are red, followed by black. The remaining colours are recessive/dilute colours and of the latter three, there are always fewer numbers. However, none of these five colours should be more expensive than another.

Colours such as chocolate, lilac, Isabella, sable and merle (pied) **DO NOT** appear in any of the Chow Chow breed standards (the written description of a perfect breed specimen) around the world. Not only are such colours **HIGHLY** undesirable, there are likely to be additional genetic health issues as these colours are the result of dilute/recessive coloured parents being mated together and resulting in these non-standard colours.

Reports indicate that puppy buyers being asked for higher and often exorbitant prices for these so called “rare” and often questionable non-standard coloured puppies that possibly do not exist or are not as the seller advertised.

To be very clear

Reputable Breeders

- do **not** deliberately breed non-standard or undesirable colours;
- do **not** charge more for any colour over another;
- seldom take deposits or if they do it is a nominal sum;
- do **not** take deposits on litters not yet born;
- **do** provide an ANKC Certificate of Registration* (pedigree papers), Contract of Sale and Puppy Pack including Diet Sheet
- **do** provide a (limited) health warranty for serious, known hereditary and congenital health issues. [**NB:** No breeder can guarantee that a Chow will not develop entropion [rolling in of eyelids] at some point in their lives.]

The CCCV recommends that all potential puppy buyers due their due diligence with any and all breeders they may approach.

SCAM ALERT

Beware of any classified ads for Chow Chows from an unknown source, generic on-line classified sites or at prices that are too good to be true. The CCCV recommends that you download the CCCV Breeders List as each of those breeders are breeder members of the club and their state canine council – that is, they are ANKC registered breeders.

Protect yourself

- Be cautious - if the advertised price of a pedigree puppy looks too good to be true, it probably is.
- Don't trust the legitimacy of an ad just because it appears in a reputable newspaper or any online classified website - scammers often use these.
- Be suspicious of any breeder who has suddenly had to change cities and/or states.
- Be suspicious of any advertiser who is selling puppies for a family member suddenly incapacitated.
- Avoid any arrangement with a stranger that asks for up-front payment via money order, wire transfer, money gram, or Western Union.
- Do an internet search using the exact wording in the ad - many well-known scams can be found this way.
- If you are in doubt, contact a reputable breeders association for advice.

- **Remember:** it is impossible to import a dog from overseas into Australia in just a few weeks as our strict quarantine procedures **must** be followed. For details check the requirements with the [Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service](#).

Report A Suspected Scam

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission SCAMwatch also recommends that you can report a scam to the ACCC via the report a scam page on [SCAMwatch](#)

More information

For more information about how you can protect yourself, check out SCAMwatch <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/about-scamwatch> and go to the puppy scam alerts at <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/news/pause-to-avoid-a-puppy-scam>

DO YOUR DUE DILIGENCE

The club recommends all potential puppy buyers do their due diligence in choosing any breeder. **If in doubt**, do contact the CCCV for advice.