

Frequently asked questions when selecting a breeder.

What is the Griffon Bruxellois Club of Victoria Inc.?

The Griffon Bruxellois Club of Victoria Inc. was founded in 1975 and the first Griffon Bruxellois Club to be established in Australia. The club promotes health and welfare of the breed first and foremost. A voluntary organisation affiliated with Dogs Victoria, it tries to offer a range of services, advice and support on health, breed direction, rescue, buying a puppy and breed care. The Griffon Bruxellois Club of Victoria Inc. also holds two Specialty shows a year. The club offers exhibitors the opportunity of showing their dogs under some of the leading local and international breed judges in the world. The Griffon Bruxellois Club of Victoria Inc. is also very proud to have developed a health document for breeders and puppy purchasers alike to use when breeding their dogs or in their search for a puppy.

Who or what are Dogs Victoria, Dogs NSW, Dogs Queensland and the ANKC?

All three Dogs state bodies hold their states breed registries, control registrations and pedigrees and maintain a code of ethics, binding on all members. They promote health and welfare, shows, training, judges training, trials and other dog related activities as well as advice about pedigree dogs. The ANKC (Australian National Kennel Council) is the overriding body nationally.

What is a Code of Ethics?

A code of ethics (COE) is an agreed upon set of standards which include the breeding, owning and correct husbandry of pedigree dogs which always surrounds the health and welfare of each breed. Every registered breeder who holds an ANKC breeder prefix signs the COE and agrees to the content of the COE, agreeing to uphold it at all times. This includes abiding by and breeding to the breed standard of any given breed. Breaches can result in suspension or expulsion.

What is a registered breed?

A registered breed is a recognised breed that adheres to an accepted standard, usually from the country of origin. Registered breeds are recognised by canine controlling bodies around the world such as Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC), The Kennel Club (UK), The American Kennel Club, Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI).

What is a reputable breeder?

- A reputable breeder is one who stands by the dogs they breed.
- Ideally a reputable breeder is a member of a breed club.
- A reputable registered breeder is someone who has passed an education course, has signed and acknowledged the Code of Ethics, upholds the COE and follows all health and other recommended breeding practices.
- A reputable breeder strives to improve the quality and health of the breed and is not someone solely breeding for profit or to meet market demand.

How do I find a Griffon Bruxellois Puppy?

Contact your state breed club for advice and a list of its breeder members.

Buyer Beware Social media pages and websites mass producing and even auctioning puppies to the highest bidder should be considered not only unethical, but in complete breach of not only the governing state registries [Dogs NSW, Dogs QLD, Dogs VIC etc] but also the national registry [ANKC] Code of Ethics. Remember, registered breeders agree to uphold and promote the Code of Ethics. If a breeder is breaching that code, what other recommended breed practices are they breaching? Many online classified websites should also be met with caution. Please, contact your state Club for advice on contacting breeders.

What questions should I ask of the Breeder?

- Experience with the breed – how long involved?
- Club membership and breed involvement – how long, do they show their dogs, participate in obedience, Tracking etc?
- Health testing of their breeding stock – do they do it and what tests do they do? What documentation do they provide puppy purchasers?
- Health screening of puppies – do they do it?
- Kennel visit – can we see the environment where our puppy has been raised?
- Kennel visit – can we meet the parents of the puppies? The sire may not be available if an outside stud was used, but you should at least be able to meet the mother, see her interact with her puppies and have info about the father.
- Will the breeder be available and willing to help and advise you after purchase of a puppy?

- **What documentation should I ask for?**

- Copies of the official Health Certificates for Sire and Dam
- Copy of pedigrees of the Sire and Dam
- Vaccination and microchip paperwork for puppies
- Pedigree and registration papers for puppies – these should be available at the time of purchase. There should be no difference in price for a puppy on limited register or main register. The breeder should **never** sell a puppy without pedigree papers. Contact your state breed club for advice if you are unsure.
- Diet Sheet
- Sales agreement

What is the difference between Main Registration and Limited Registration?

Dogs sold with **main registration** papers (blue forms) are eligible for competition in dog shows. If bred, their offspring can be registered.

Dogs sold with **limited registration** papers (orange forms) are eligible for competition in obedience, trials, and other canine disciplines. Dogs on the limited register cannot be shown and if bred, their offspring cannot be registered. Breeders usually register the puppies which are being sold as pets and companion animals on the limited register.

What is health testing and is there a difference between Vet Checked and Health Tested?

Vet checked simply means, checked by a vet. This usually happens at the time of microchipping and vaccination of puppies. The vet will listen to heart and check the overall wellbeing of the puppy. **HEALTH TESTED** means the dogs have undergone a series of agreed upon tests to help identify their suitability for breeding. This is with the aim of promoting and producing healthier puppies.

What are the Health Tests recommended by the Griffon Bruxellois Clubs?

There are no mandatory health tests for the Griffon Bruxellois, however there are recommended tests including patellas, eyes, heart, hips and an MRI scan for Syringomyelia. Please refer to the [Griffon Bruxellois Club of Victoria Inc.](#) website for a full explanation of these health issues.

Why are these Health Tests important?

The Griffon Bruxellois Clubs recommend and promote these health tests to help to produce healthier puppies that will lead healthy lives with a minimum number of health issues.

What is a Standard?

The standard for each breed is specifically drawn up to set out guidelines covering the desired externally observable qualities for that particular breed – its physical conformation, character and temperament.

Why is the Standard important?

The breed standard provides a working outline of the desirable traits and hallmarks of the breed, pushing healthy sound dogs. Movement, temperament and soundness, including breathing are highlighted in the standard. The standard is the blueprint which defines each breed individually. When judging, one is selecting the best representatives of the breed, ie the best specimens to breed on with. It is not a beauty contest.

Does a higher price mean a better quality puppy?

NO!!! The price is not indicative of quality. Such a price is unfortunately usually relative to what the public will pay.

Quality to an owner should relate to how well one can talk to and relate to the breeder, both before and after purchasing the puppy. Trust and reliability in the documentation of the puppy, its health testing and that of its parents should form a solid basis for quality.

Quality relates to the health and soundness of the puppy you are purchasing, whether for a pet or a show dog.

Need further information or advice?

Please contact your state Griffon Bruxellois Club, the ANKC, Dogs Victoria, Dogs NSW or Dogs Queensland. They should be happy to provide you with answers you seek and point you in the right direction.