

Buying a new puppy or kitten

Deciding to buy a new puppy or kitten is an exciting (but big!) decision. Dogs and cats represent a significant long-term commitment and are an important addition to your family, so making a well informed decision at the very start is crucial.

The advice found at these sources will help guide you at each step when buying a new puppy or kitten.

RSPCA: Buying a puppy

www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/puppy

RSPCA: Buying a kitten

www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/cats/kittens

It is really important that you source your new pet from a responsible breeder. Unfortunately, pets suffering from health problems and poor welfare are often unwittingly purchased from puppy farms, or via illegal dealers posing as credible breeders.

To combat this, in April 2020, legislation was introduced which bans third party sales of puppies and kittens. This is called **Lucy's Law** and you can find out more on the government website:

www.gov.uk/government/news/lucys-law-spells-the-beginning-of-the-end-for-puppy-farming

Key points to remember include:

- ✔ You should be able to meet the puppy/kitten's mother along with its litter mates.
- ✔ Puppies and kittens should not enter their new homes until they are at least 8 weeks old.
- ✔ Legally, puppies must be microchipped by the age of 8 weeks and registered to the seller before sale.
- ✔ Make sure to get records of vaccinations, flea and worming treatments given.



For further advice about the safe and responsible purchase of a puppy or kitten please visit the following website:

<https://getyourpetsafely.campaign.gov.uk/>

There is also the **puppy contract**, which is a FREE comprehensive information pack designed to encourage responsible buying (and breeding) of puppies:

<https://puppycontract.org.uk/>



Support behavioural balance

Don't forget
there is always
the option of
rescuing a dog or
cat needing
a home.

Rescue or rehome?

It is important to select a reputable UK rescue or rehoming organisation, as sadly, there can be sellers with poor welfare standards operating under the pretence of a rescue centre.

Association of Dogs and Cats Home <https://adch.org.uk/find-a-rescue/>

Dogs Trust <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/>

Cats protection <https://www.cats.org.uk/adopt-a-cat>

RSPCA <https://www.rspca.org.uk/findapet>

Blue Cross <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/rehome-pet>



Stressed out, anxious pet?
Use **Alphazium TT** as part
of your management strategy.

Find out more at
www.tvm-uk.com/alphaziumtt
or speak to your vet