



Do not be shy about asking for proof of those certifications. A good breeder will not be offended that you demand evidence of such certifications. Rather, a good breeder will be delighted that it is important to you. If a breeder cannot produce the appropriate papers or makes excuses as to why they are not presently available, then a red flag should go up in your mind that warns you not to do business with this breeder. Along the same lines, one should ask to see proof of the show and working titles of your prospective puppy's parents. Don't assume that just because the breeder produces a pedigree with multiple champions of record that the sire and dam of your puppy is of the same quality. Demand to see their proven credentials before agreeing to buy one of their offspring. It is also a good idea to ask the breeder for references from their veterinarian and other past clients. Ask lots of questions: the more, the better. Remember, you are not shopping. You are doing research. Breeders that are involved in a passion and not a money-making proposition love to talk about their dogs and the breed. They will welcome your questions. They will be knowledgeable about their dogs, their pedigrees, and the health issues of the breed. Backyard breeders lack much of this knowledge and therefore are uncomfortable when multiple questions are raised. They typically sell their pups on a "first-come, first-served" basis with very little discussion being desired.



You should also expect a good breeder to ask many questions of you as well. A responsible breeder wants to know what kind of home you will be able to provide for one of their puppies. If they do not interview you and ask you some standard questions, then this should also be a sign that something is not right.

These are some questions that you can commonly expect to be asked of you as a potential client.

- Have you ever owned a Rottweiler before? If yes, then how long did you own it and did you earn any titles?
- Where will the dog live?
- Do you have a fenced-in yard?
- Do you presently belong to any dog clubs?
- Do you plan to show or work the dog?
- Do you have any children residing at your home and if so, how old are they?
- Do you have any other pets?
- Why do you want a Rottweiler?

These are the types of questions that are usually asked by good breeders.



You will probably have a few lengthy and detailed conversations with the breeder on the phone, but at some point you need to make an appointment for a personal visit if at all possible. Unfortunately, many breeders have less than appropriate facilities. You want to make sure that is not the case with the breeder from whom you plan to get your new puppy. When you visit a kennel, you want to see that it is safe, secure, and clean. The dogs and puppies should be clean with healthy coats and trimmed nails. A puppy that has lived in an unclear environment will be much harder to housebreak later. When evaluating the puppies, check their eyes and ears carefully. The environment should not only look clean, but it should smell appropriately clean. Do not be surprised if the breeder asks you to wash your hands before handling the puppies, or if you are asked to remove your shoes before entering the puppy area to protect against the possibility of you bringing in Parvo or something else that could endanger the litter. These would be good signs that you are dealing with the right type of breeder. Always insist on meeting and interacting with the dam of the pups, and also the sire if he is on the premises. If a breeder will not allow you to have a supervised encounter with the parents, then you ought to think twice about getting one of their puppies.

The bottom line is that you have to spend the necessary time to find a reputable and responsible breeder that you are comfortable with and that you trust. I recommend that you find a breeder that you trust so much that you would be willing to allow them to pick out your puppy for you. In case you didn't know, that is the policy of some of the best breeders. They select the puppy that they believe is best for you, based upon their knowledge and experience. Choose your breeder carefully so they can in turn help you choose your puppy.

Don't miss our next article entitled: "Choosing a Litter: What Is in the Genes?"