

There is currently a high demand for puppies of all breeds, including Flatcoated Retrievers. Reputable breeders are still having litters but will usually have a waiting list. Unfortunately there are a number of people who are breeding purely for profit. These litters are usually from parents with little or no health tests and sometimes are not registered with The Kennel Club. The puppies are being sold for inflated prices which have been brought on by a 'supply and demand' mentality, on occasion it has been known that puppies are advertised which are not actually available. Buyers are encouraged to send a deposit to secure a puppy from a litter that does not exist based on photos of quality puppies that have been sourced from the internet.

Current Covid-19 guidelines allow a purchaser to collect a puppy from a breeder as long as social distancing is maintained. However puppy farmers will willingly deliver a puppy or arrange to meet at a mutually convenient place such as a service station or retail park so as not to reveal their location or the unsatisfactory conditions under which the parents and puppies are being kept.

More on this can be found on The Kennel Club website.

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/.../breeders-and-covid.../>

And the Action Fraud website.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/.../animal-lovers...>

Members of the Flatcoated Retriever Society abide by our Code of Ethics which can be found on the website.

<https://www.flatcoated-retriever-society.org/.../coe3jfin...>

We have put together a few general guidelines:

Flatcoats should be 8 weeks of age before leaving for their new homes.

Puppies must be registered with the Kennel Club. If not, why not?

A puppy should cost up to around £1300, much more is likely to be a breeder who is purely about profit and not the health and welfare of the puppies.

Once puppies are born and it is confirmed that there is one available for you, a deposit may be paid but this should come off the overall purchase price. Be cautious of non-refundable deposits, many reputable Flatcoated Retriever breeders do not take deposits as they have a waiting list for puppies. It is essential to see mother with the puppies. The breeders should also be able to tell you information about the father, not just his pet name.

Both parents must be hip scored and eye tested for PLA/Goniodysgenesis. Information on these tests is available on the FCRS website <https://www.flatcoated-retriever-society.org/.../health...>

As visiting the breeders home may not be possible at the moment, technology is such that we can offer puppy buyers a video call via mobile phones/tablets to see the puppies and the environment that they are living in and to see them with their mother. Do not accept a pre-recorded video.

Care should be taken when buying puppies via commercial web sites, and if a puppy buyer has any doubts whatsoever, they should contact the litter secretaries who are always available to give impartial help and advice. Details of litter secretaries can be found on the FCRS website.

Finally, if in doubt walk away. Many people buy puppies because they feel sorry for them and want to take them away from the situation. This is an admirable and selfless act, but it may cause you heart ache. By buying from such breeders we are perpetuating the problem and more puppies will be produced