



By Kim Burnell

[VIEW ARTICLE ONLINE](#)

The purpose of this article is to help the prospective Weimaraner puppy owner find a reputable Weimaraner breeder.

Note: There's a lot of information here, which is an expanded version of the Weimaraner Club of America's article about [How to Choose a Weimaraner Breeder](#). Also, it may take awhile to sift through, digest it all, and then go through breeder by breeder to get to a point where you're comfortable getting a puppy from someone. Take a few days or weeks if you need to. The process *should* be time consuming, but your patience will be worth it.

To get started, go through the below checklist with each breeder you're considering a puppy from, and see where they rate on the scale. For each row, circle yes or no from one

HOW TO FIND A REPUTABLE WEIMARANER BREEDER
By Kim Burnell

of the two available columns. Once you are done, compare your answers with the key provided below the checklist.

Criteria	Ideal	Not Ideal
<i>Breeder Announcement</i>		
Does the breeder bluntly state the purchase price without providing much other information?	No	Yes
Does the breeder produce puppies of any coat color other than silver, gray, silver-gray, mouse-gray, or blue?	No	Yes
Does the breeder claim to have <i>rare</i> dogs for sale?	No	Yes
Does the breeder indicate they have dogs with “champion bloodlines” or “top USA bloodlines?”	No	Yes
Is the puppy advertised on a website that ships puppies of multiple breeds?	No	Yes
Is the puppy advertised on local sites, like Craigslist?	No	Yes
Are there typos in the breeder’s announcement? (example: confirmation, pedegree)	No	Yes
<i>Purchase Details</i>		
Does the puppy purchase include written contract that outlines seller guarantees and buyer expectations?	Yes	No
Does the breeder acknowledge that Weimaraners may suffer from certain genetic, congenital, or heredity defects?	Yes	No
Does the breeder provide a health guarantee against hereditary and congenital defects?	Yes	No

HOW TO FIND A REPUTABLE WEIMARANER BREEDER

By Kim Burnell

Does the breeder provide you with copies of Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or PennHIP certificates for the puppy's sire and dam?	Yes	No
If OFA certificates are available, can you verify through the OFA website that the sire and dam are both free of hip dysplasia?	Yes	No
Does the breeder guarantee that your puppy is certified to be free of hip dysplasia?	No	Yes
Does puppy purchase include AKC registration documentation?	Yes	No
Is the purchase price required in full before the puppy is picked up/shipped?	No	Yes
Are puppies vaccinated according to Weimaraner Club of America (or more conservative) protocol?	Yes	No
Are tails docked and dewclaws removed?	Yes	No
<i>Pedigree Information</i>		
Can the breeder easily explain what their pedigrees mean?	Yes	No
Can the breeder provide you with at least a 3-generation pedigree of both sire and dam?	Yes	No
<i>Breeder Practices</i>		
Do you have an opportunity to visit the breeder and see where the puppies live prior to bringing your puppy home?	Yes	No
Does the breeder raise puppies inside their home?	Yes	No

HOW TO FIND A REPUTABLE WEIMARANER BREEDER

By Kim Burnell

Does the breeder provide a reasonable explanation for using a stud dog they own outright?	Yes	No
Does the breeder let you pick your own puppy?	No	Yes
Is the breeder willing to send your puppy home prior to the age of 7 weeks?	No	Yes
Does the breeder produce more than two litters per year?	No	Yes
Does the breeder send your puppy home to you with a "puppy package?"	Yes	No
<i>Breeder Knowledge and Commitment Level</i>		
Is the breeder an active member in good standing in the Weimaraner community? Examples include, but are not limited to AKC, WCA and NAVHDA.	Yes	No
Can the breeder explain the importance of socializing puppies and how they do it?	Yes	No
Does the breeder expose the puppies to new things, both in <i>and out</i> of the home, before they are 8 weeks old?	Yes	No
Can the breeder provide you with a list of references from previous puppy buyers?	Yes	No
Can the breeder provide you with a list of other (local) breeders?	Yes	No
Does the breeder commit to being available for questions after your puppy is purchased?	Yes	No
Will the breeder take your dog back at any time if you can no longer care for it?	Yes	No

HOW TO FIND A REPUTABLE WEIMARANER BREEDER

By Kim Burnell

Are any of the circled answers containing a red **yes** or **no**?

Some answers are so black and white that there's no room for leeway. For example: There's no possible way you are getting a puppy from a reputable breeder if your puppy isn't coming to you with some sort of Purchase Agreement/Contract. So, if there are any red **yes** or **no** circles (barring any very special or unique circumstances), the breeder gets an "**automatic fail**" in my book. Your best bet is to start over with a new breeder and fresh printout of the checklist.

If no, look at your answers to see how many circles are from the **Ideal** column, and how many circles are from the **Not Ideal** column. Get in touch with the breeders with the most circles in the **Ideal** column, first. If you left some rows blank because you didn't know an answer, be sure to ask and find out.

All or most circles from Ideal column, and 1-3 circles from the Not Ideal column. Good. Connect with the breeder to start a dialogue and ask them to explain any statements that caused a circle from the Not Ideal column. If their logic and reasoning makes sense to you, and you have an otherwise good gut feeling about them, by all means, continue your discussions.

4-9 circles from the Not Ideal column. Not as good, but not a complete dismissal, either. Start a dialogue and ask these breeders to explain any statements that caused a circle from the Not Ideal column. If you feel good about them after you hear from them, go ahead and keep them on your list. Alternatively, if you don't get a warm/fuzzy or something just doesn't seem right, use this opportunity to thank them for their time and move on.

10+ circles from the Not Ideal column. Bad. While maybe not one single thing might stand out as "bad," if there are so many factors that aren't ideal, I'd set these breeders aside until you go through the better rated ones.

[Click here](#) to read about the purpose of each of the questions.

At the end of this process, go with someone you trust and have a really good gut feeling about.

Best wishes,

- Kim Burnell, Alpha Dog at [Barrett Weimaraners](#)