

# PUPPY CONTRACT

Helping you make  
the right choice



## About the breeder

### 1. Contact details

Name
Address
Telephone
Email

## About the seller (if different)

### 2. Contact details

Name
Address
Telephone
Email

## About the puppy

### 3. Date of birth

4. Sex:  Male  Female

### 5. Is the puppy a specific breed or cross breed? Please circle

State breed      Mother      Father

6. Is the puppy registered?  Yes  No

If yes, attach registration certificate.

Type of registration, e.g. Irish Kennel Club.
Registration number



### 7. Puppies should be microchipped before re-homing, what is their number?

8. Was this puppy born by caesarean section? Yes No

9. Will the puppy be vaccinated before it is sold? Yes No

If yes, attach vaccination record to the Puppy Contract and insert next vaccine due date.

### 10. Give details of any worming or flea treatments the puppy will have received

Product used	Date

### 11. If the puppy has had a health check or been treated by a vet for any reason prior to the sale please tick this box and provide further details

Treatment/check provided

Treatment/check date

### 12. What is the puppy's current weight?

Kilograms and grams	Date weight recorded
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### 13. What types of diet is the puppy currently being fed?

Dry

Pouch

Tinned

Other  (Provide details) .....

14. Will the buyer be given enough of the puppy's current food for at least five days?  Yes  No

15. Where is the puppy kept for the majority of the time?

- In a kennel
- In a quiet part of the house
- In a part of the house where there is a lot of activity (e.g. kitchen)
- Other ( please describe)

16. Before the sale will the puppy have interacted with:

- Adult males/Adult females
- Children under 4 years
- Children between 4 and 10 years
- Children over 10 years

17. Will the puppy have interacted with:

- Other dogs of the same breed or type Dogs of different breeds or types
- Cats
- Rabbits
- Other animals, state which

18. Before the sale will the new owner have the chance to see and interact with:

- The puppy's mother /The puppy's father
- Other puppies in the litter



## About the puppy's mother

19. Date of birth

DD/MM/YYYY

20. Has the mother been microchipped?  Yes  No

Chip number (15 digits)

21. How many caesarean sections has the mother had, including this litter?

22. How many litters has the mother had, including this one?

23. How old was the mother when she had her first litter?

Years and months

Was it on her first season?

Yes  No

24. Is the mother up to date with vaccinations?  Yes  No

25. When was the mother last treated for worms/fleas and which worming/flea product was used?

Product used	Date

26. Has the mother had any surgical procedures to correct features that could be inherited by the puppy?  Yes  No

If yes, please give details

## About the puppy's father

27. Father's date of birth

DD/MM/YYYY

28. Has the father been microchipped?  Yes  No

Chip number (15 digits)

29. Has the father had any surgical procedures to correct features that could be inherited by the puppy?  Yes  No

If yes, please give details

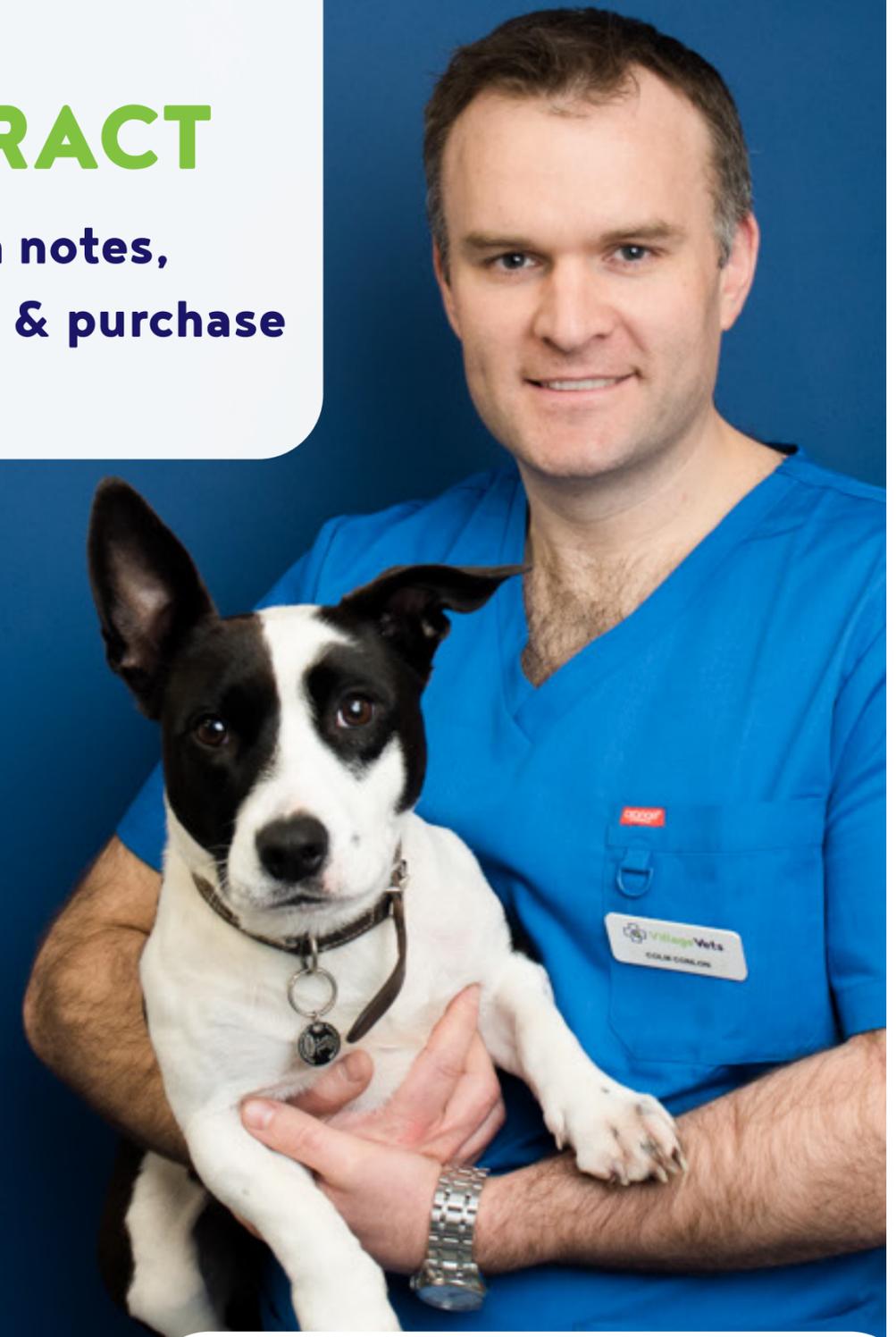
30. Is the puppy's pedigree known and will its pedigree certificate be attached to this contract?  Yes  No

31. Extra information. Use this space to include any additional information about the puppy.



# PUPPY CONTRACT

Explanation notes,  
Information & purchase  
contract



**VillageVets**

*A family practice since 1980*

### 1.1 Q1 & Q2: About the breeder/seller

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We recommend that you do not buy a puppy from anyone other than the breeder so that you can see the puppy in the place where he/she was born.

### 1.2 Q6: Is the puppy subject to any Irish Kennel Club (IKC) or similar organisation endorsements?

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Before a puppy is sold the breeder may apply to the IKC to place endorsements on its records including the registration certificate. For example, R - PROGENY NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION or X - EXPORT PEDIGREE NOT ALLOWED.

The breeder must explain what the endorsements mean before you agree to buy the puppy.

### 1.3 Q7: Has the puppy been microchipped?

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Microchipping helps puppies to be identified and returned if they get lost or stolen. This is a legal requirement for the seller of the puppy. You must contact the relevant registration scheme to update their records with your contact details. Ask us for info on how to change your details.

### 1.4 Q8: Was this puppy born by caesarean section?

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A caesarean section is an operation to take the puppies out of the mother when she hasn't been able to give birth naturally. It is a major operation which can cause problems for the mother and puppies.

Some breeds and some individual mothers struggle to give birth naturally and may end up needing a caesarean every time. Vets feel that these dogs should not be bred from. So you should avoid buying puppies from mothers who have had more than one caesarean. This is especially important if the puppy is a female you want to breed from, otherwise she may have trouble giving birth herself.

### 1.5 Q9: Will the puppy be vaccinated before being sold?

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Vaccinations are very important to prevent certain deadly diseases such as parvo. If the mother was vaccinated properly the puppy should have resistance to these diseases for roughly the first ten weeks of its life. If your puppy has been vaccinated the breeder's vet, they will have given them a vaccination certificate which shows the vaccination date and products used for the mother. This certificate will have the details of the vet who carried out the vaccination with dates & signature. Speak to us about whether the puppy requires more vaccinations and when its first booster is due.

### 1.6 Q10: Details of worming & flea treatments the puppy will have received

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Regular worming & flea treatment is important for all puppies, whether the mother was wormed or not, for the health of pupies and humans. Ask us about the products listed and avoid buying from breeders who have not treated their dogs for worms or fleas at all.

### 1.7 Q11: Has the puppy had a health check or been treated by a vet for any reason?

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Many puppies don't need to see a vet before they leave their breeder. If your puppy has been checked or received any treatment the breeder should provide details of anything abnormal that the vet noted. Talk to us if you are unsure about any of this information.

It's best to get your puppy examined by us as soon as you can, to make sure there are no problems straight away and to get advice about things like food, vaccination, worming, fleas, insurance, microchipping.

### 1.8 Q12: What is the puppy's current weight?

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There is no single correct weight for a puppy. However, it's really useful to know how much the puppy weighed when you got him so that your vet can see if he gains or loses weight.

### 1.9 Q13: Details of the puppy's diet

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It is important that you know the type of food that the puppy is used to and how often and when he is used to being fed, so that these can all be kept as similar as possible when you take the puppy home. Puppies should be fed a weighed or measured amount of food at regular times. They should not be fed human or raw food.

### 1.10 Q14: Will the buyer be given enough of the puppy's current food for at least five days?

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When changing to a new food, this should be done over four to five days with increasing amounts of the new food replacing the previous food each day. If the food is changed too rapidly, this can cause stomach upset or diarrhoea.

### 1.11 Q15: Where is the puppy kept for the majority of the time?

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It is well documented that the early social and physical environments of puppies strongly influences their behaviour as adults. A puppy that has lived in a domestic environment, particularly in a part of the home where people come and go, is more likely to be prepared for life in a home. Where puppies are kept in kennels, you need to check that they have experienced aspects of a normal home environment at least some of the time.

When you visit the puppy ask to see where he has been kept. Although you may be introduced to the puppy in a house, he may not usually be kept there. Are there food bowls, bedding, pens, etc?

### 1.12 Q16: The puppy's experience of contact with people

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The first 12-14 weeks of a puppy's life are very important in determining how he will react to people. Lack of social contact during this period increases the risk of behaviours associated with fear and/or anxiety later in life.

Puppies need to have contact with men, women and children during this period. In general the more people that puppies have interacted with the better.

Puppies which have had positive experience of lots of different types of people are less likely to be wary when you handle and approach them. Ask the breeder if you can take as many members of your family as possible when visiting. Watch carefully how the puppy responds to adults and children acting normally/ reasonably. Look for signs of the puppy withdrawing, struggling to get away, cowering, putting their tail between their legs or hiding.

### 1.13 Q17: The puppy's contact with adult dogs and other animals

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Puppies need to meet a variety of other dogs in order to learn social skills and how different types of dog communicate. If the puppy is vaccinated ask to see him interacting with adult dogs other than his mother so you can see if he is confident and happy to interact and play with another dog.

If puppies have experience of other animals, they will be more likely to adapt rapidly to any other animals they have to live with in your home. If the puppy is very excited or nervous with other animals, he will be more likely to show these behaviours with other animals when you take him home.

If possible see what other animals are in the environment where the puppy lives and watch how he reacts to them.



**1.14 Q18: Before the sale will the new owner have the chance to interact with the puppy's parents and other puppies in the litter if there are any?**

It is very important that you see the puppy's mother and the other puppies in the litter. You should also try and see the father if possible, although this may be difficult in some circumstances. Make sure you interact with the parents, handle them if safe to do so, and assess their reaction to you. Check they appear healthy, check the environment that the mother and puppies are in and check the temperament of the mother, father and other littermates. The parents characteristics can influence how the puppies develop and behave. In particular, look for signs of fear, such as withdrawal, cowering, urination, and tail between the legs. Also watch for signs of aggression such as growling, lunging and barking.

Unscrupulous breeders can try and show you another dog instead of the puppy's mother. To avoid this make sure you see the mother and puppies together, and check for signs that the dog you see has given birth recently, such as having enlarged nipples. Ask why other littermates or father cannot be seen if breeders answer „no” in these sections.

**1.15 Q22: How many litters has the mother had, including this one?**

Pregnancy, birth and rearing puppies all take a lot of energy and work for any mother. She may have problems such as difficulty giving birth and poor body condition if her nutritional needs aren't met. Mothers should be allowed at least one season between litters. Avoid puppies from mothers that have had numerous litters, as this may be a sign that the breeder has expected too much from the mother and may also mean that the care and condition of the puppy might not be ideal either.

**1.16 Q 23: How old was the mother when she had her first litter and was it on her first season?**

Responsible breeders should not breed from their female dogs first season and should not breed from female dogs under about one year old. This makes sure the mother is fully grown, mature and is as capable as possible of coping with pregnancy and birth. Breeders who have ignored these guidelines may not be very knowledgeable and caring about the mother, and therefore the puppy.

**1.17 Q24: Is the mother up to date with vaccinations?**

It is very important that the mother's routine vaccinations are up to date. She needs to be vaccinated to make sure her puppies are born with a good immunity to certain deadly diseases. This will keep them healthy until they can be vaccinated themselves. Homeopathic vaccines should NOT have been used. Ask us if you are unsure what vaccines she should have had and when.

**1.18 Q25: When was the mother last treated for worms & fleas and which product was used?**

Regular worming of the mother, including during pregnancy, is important to make sure the puppies are not born infested with worms. Ask us about how effective the products listed are, and whether they are up to date. Avoid buying from breeders who do not vaccinate or worm their animals adequately.

**1.19 Q26 & Q29: Has either parent had any surgical procedures to correct features that could be inherited by the puppy?**

Many breeds have been bred to emphasise certain features which over time have become more and more exaggerated. Although "normal" for a breed, flat faces, heavy wrinkles and very floppy ears are just a few examples of features that may cause problems.

For example, dogs with short flat faces often have narrow nostrils and tiny windpipes. They can suffer severe breathing difficulties and may even have difficulty enjoying a walk or playing. Folded or wrinkled skin may be itchy and painful, and infolding eyelids can scratch the eyeball. Some of these problems will require lifelong medication or sometimes surgery.

You should also be told if either parent has had surgery to fix a problem such as eyelids which rubbed on the eye as this may no longer be obvious to see, but could still be inherited by the puppy.

It's important to know whether the parents are affected to give you an idea of how likely the puppy will be to get the same problems. Speak to us about any problems listed.

Before you buy a puppy find out which breeds are worst affected and try to avoid them. To find out more talk to us or visit the following websites:

- Canine Inherited Disorders Database:  
[www.upei.ca/cidd](http://www.upei.ca/cidd)
- Dog Breed Health:  
[www.dogbreedhealth.com/](http://www.dogbreedhealth.com/)

Breeders can also ask their vet and should use the websites above when listing the exaggerated features in their breed.

**1.20 Q30: If the puppy's pedigree is known and a pedigree certificate will be attached**

The pedigree certificate shows the puppy's ancestry and may go back up to five generations, starting with the puppy's parents in the left column through to the great-great-great grandparents on the right column. The top half shows the puppy's ancestry through its father and the bottom half is the mother's pedigree. This may not be available at the time of purchase.

- <http://www.ikc.ie/breeding/>



## Our Clinics

### Village Vets Ashbourne

4 Castle Street  
Ashbourne  
Co. Meath  
T: (01) 849 9973  
W: ashbourne@villagevets.ie

### Village Vets Cabra

87 New Cabra Road  
Phibsboro  
Dublin 7  
T: (01) 868 0119  
W: cabra@villagevets.ie

### Village Vets Clonsilla

Clonsilla Road  
Coolmine  
Dublin 15  
T: (01) 821 3189  
W: clonsilla@villagevets.ie

### Village Vets Coolock

Coolock Retail Park  
Malahide Road  
Dublin 17  
T: (01) 544 1910  
W: coolock@villagevets.ie

### Village Vets Dunboyne

1 Avondale Terrace  
Dunboyne  
Co. Meath  
T: (01) 825 1125  
W: dunboyne@villagevets.ie

### Village Vets Dundrum

Apollo Building  
Dundrum Road  
Dublin 14  
T: (01) 298 7510  
W: dundrum@villagevets.ie

### Village Vets Dunshaughlin

Main Street  
Dunshaughlin  
Co. Meath  
T: (01) 825 9636  
W: dunshaughlin@villagevets.ie

### Village Vets Sandyford

2B Lambs Cross  
Sandyford  
Dublin 18  
T: (01) 294 5899  
W: sandyford@villagevets.ie

### Village Vets Stillorgan

Glenalbyn Rd  
Stillorgan  
Co. Dublin  
T: (01) 288 8486  
W: stillorgan@villagevets.ie

Disclaimer: The contract, puppy information pack and related documents are intended to provide a fair basis for the sale and purchase of a puppy with the primary aim of promoting animal welfare.

No warranties, representations or undertakings are made about the documents (including without limitation any as to quality, accuracy or fitness for any particular purpose) Village Vets cannot accept liability for any loss arising out of or in connection with the use of these documents. A suitably qualified lawyer should be consulted on any specific legal issue.

Please note that this guide does not constitute legal advice and any information provided in this guide should not be construed as legal advice or legal interpretation. We do not except any liability for any loss by reliance on this guide.

## Contract for the sale and purchase of a puppy

### Definitions:

- "Puppy" means the dog described in the Puppy Contract.
- "Puppy Contract" means any document or documents supplied by the Seller to the Buyer at any time that sets out the Dog Health Information and Future Health and Welfare Needs.
- "Dog Health information" means the information about the puppy, its parents and grandparents, and these animals health and temperament.
- "Good Health" means a condition of health free of parasites and congenital defects and of reasonably sound physical condition and temperament.
- "Future Health and Welfare Needs" means the measures that should be taken to ensure that the Puppy is and remains in Good Health and is properly housed, fed, watered, trained, socialised and exercised and that it receives appropriate veterinary attention.

### 1. The Seller warrants:

- 1.1 That if the Buyer has previously selected the Puppy from a litter or in any other circumstances, that the Puppy sold under this contract is the puppy that the Buyer has previously selected.
- 1.2 That the genetic health checks and health screen set out in the Puppy Contract have been carried out on the Puppy's parents and the results of these have been fully explained to the Buyer.
- 1.3 That the Puppy is not the result of a mating of two individuals related within two generations.
- 1.4 That the Puppy is in Good Health, other than as the Seller specifically informs the Buyer before the date of sale.
- 1.5 That he/she has supplied the Puppy Contract prior to the Buyer viewing the Puppy or a reasonable period in advance of the Buyer's decision to buy the Puppy and has communicated to the buyer:
  - a) The ramifications of buying the Puppy given the Dog Health Information, the genetic health checks and health screening carried out under clause 1.2 and the particular considerations that are likely to affect the Puppy given its breed;
  - b) The implications of any Kennel Club endorsement;
  - c) The measures that should be taken, whether by neutering, contraception or otherwise, to guard against unwanted pregnancy; and
  - d) The Future Health and Welfare Needs of the Puppy.
- 1.6 That the information contained in the Puppy Contract supplied to the Buyer under clause 1.5 above is accurate and materially complete (to the best of the Seller's knowledge and belief where the information is supplied by a third party) and all diagnostic tests for the puppy have been undertaken as recorded in the Dog Health Information and that reasonable care and skill is and/or will be used when explaining to the Buyer the Future Health and Welfare Needs of the Puppy and any advice or recommendations provided under clause 2.5 below.
- 1.7 That he/she, having made reasonable enquiries of the Buyer, in good faith believes that the Buyer is able to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs.
- 1.8 That the Puppy is more than 8 weeks old at the date of sale.
- 1.9 That the Puppy has received adequate care and that the Seller has provided it with the opportunity to socialise with dogs, humans and other animals it is likely to come into contact with and it has been habituated to the sounds and experiences of typical family life.
- 1.10 That, where appropriate, the Seller has provided the Buyer with all relevant registration papers and pedigree certificate and that any pedigree indicated for the Puppy is accurately stated.

## 2 The Buyer warrants:

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- 2.1 That he/she understands the information provided to him/her under clauses 1.2-1.5 above.
- 2.2 That he/she in good faith believes that he/she will be able, and intends, to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs.
- 2.3 That neither he/she nor any member of his/her household has been cautioned for or convicted of an animal welfare law violation such as neglect, cruelty or abandonment.
- 2.4 That he/she shall not act in any way contrary to any Irish Kennel Club endorsement.
- 2.5 That in the event that he/she is no longer able or willing to provide a home for the Puppy or otherwise to meet the Puppy's Future Health and Welfare Needs he/she will contact the Seller and have regard to any advice and recommendations that the Seller provides.

## 3 Both Buyer and Seller agree and understand:

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- 3.1 That the Puppy is a living creature with interests independent of both Buyer and Seller.
- 3.2 That in the event of the Puppy suffering any pain or discomfort as a result of any breach of the obligations set out in this Agreement the party not in breach shall be entitled to recover from the party in breach damages for such distress and inconvenience as the Party not in breach can establish he/she has suffered.
- 3.3 Nothing in this contract affects the Buyer's statutory rights including any warranty of satisfactory quality of the Puppy implied by sale of goods legislation or other law.

### Amount paid for this puppy €

#### Buyer

I agree that by voluntarily signing this agreement I am entering into a legal and binding contract.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

#### Seller

I agree that by voluntarily signing this agreement I am entering into a legal and binding contract.

Signed: ..... Date: .....



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