

Selecting a Breed Rescue Group

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A Reputable Group Should:

- Have Department of Agriculture Licensing (In Missouri. Other states may have other regulations)
- Be a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.
- Be willing to answer your questions as to how they operate and place their animals.
- Screen potential adopters and have a written adoption application.
- Take back animal at any time if adopter cannot keep the animal.
- Place animals with a written and binding adoption contract.
- Evaluate animals for sound health and temperament.
- Have animals spayed or neutered prior to placement, or an enforced contract requiring animal to be spayed or neutered.
- Provide animals with appropriate vet care (example: dogs-vaccinations, heartworm test, care for known conditions).
- If in a physical location, facility is well maintained and appears clean. Animals should have access to fresh water, housing and be kept in a secure area.
- Share relevant information concerning individual animals in their care to potential adopters (i.e. known history, health, prior training, etc.).
- Be knowledgeable of breed/species characteristics of the animals in their care.
- Have staff that is friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable when contacted.
- Be willing to make referrals when they cannot directly offer assistance.
- Be easily contacted.
- Return calls in a timely manner.
- Have animals that are in good health, clean, and well cared for.

A Reputable Group May:

- Be affiliated with a larger organization and/or a national breed rescue group.
- Request donations to help provide for the animals in their care.
- Require references.
- Contact your veterinary clinic to inquire about your current and/or former animals.
- Conduct a home visit.
- Follow up after adoption with phone calls, home visit, and/or correspondence.
- Consider euthanasia for temperament or health issues (i.e. biting, untreatable medical conditions, extreme & harmful behavior issues).

You Should:

- Be comfortable with how the animals in their care are provided for.
- Be comfortable with how the group operates.
- Beware of groups that always seem to have young purebred puppies. It is highly unusual for most rescues to have purebred puppies and even more unusual for them to have them on a regular basis. This could indicate a seller posing as a rescue group.
- Trust your instincts. Your intuition is often the best indicator of a situation.