



# PUPPIES

Here is a pertinent post which has been adapted (with permission) as it raises some important points, some of which very fortunately don't apply to our breed.

In recent weeks the Club has had many new members join the Facebook group, many who already own the breed but many more are looking to get one 'now or in the near future'. With this in mind, please read the following.

Why now is a bad time to get a puppy.

Over the last few months, many breeders have been deluged with calls, texts and emails asking if we know of any puppies or litters for sale. In fact, there has been huge demand for dogs of all breeds. On the back of this demand the price has appeared to sky rocketed, with some greedy, unscrupulous breeders asking ridiculous prices, sometimes for an unregistered and unhealth tested puppies from unhealth tested parents.

Some breeders have postponed their planned litters, deciding they did not want to breed their bitches during this time of national crisis. The result is that there are very few litters around and the chance of finding a puppy at the moment is very slim.

This situation is likely to last for some time. A bitch is pregnant for 9 weeks, so don't expect an upturn in the number of puppies until Autumn/Winter and responsible breeders will already have a waiting list in place for future litters, so be prepared to wait.

Whilst the lockdown rules are slowly being lifted, currently they still prevent people from visiting the Breed Club Area Representatives or breeders and going into their home, so you cannot do the usual checks. You are reliant on the breeder sending you information in other ways. Please be aware that there are lots of scams. Some websites appear to be 100% scams or at the very least very misleading. The reason people can operate these scams with ease is because people may not visit the breeder and meet their dogs.

Some reasons why now is a bad time to get a puppy:

1. You can't go into the home of the breeder and check how their dogs live and how the pups will be raised.
2. Many unscrupulous breeders have doubled or trebled their prices to take advantage of the shortfall in puppies- it's all about greed, not the welfare of the puppy. A responsible breeder won't have increased their prices.
3. Puppy socialisation is so essential, especially for intelligent dogs. At the moment there are no puppy classes or training classes operating. Opportunities to socialise your puppy are limited. You cannot go into other homes, let your puppy meet lots of other dogs, go on trains, meet children and elderly etc.
4. Much of the demand is because people want something to do over summer and think getting a puppy will occupy the children. Leaving the puppy in the house on its own during lockdown can be tricky so a

pup will become used to you being there 24/7. What will happen once you resume your normal working life? Separation anxiety is a common reason for young dogs being rehomed. When you do go back to work / school what will happen to the puppy? You can't leave it on its own all day. Are there any doggie day care facilities locally or dog walkers? Do they have places available once their regular customers go back to work?

5. Lockdown affects dogs just as much as people. Dogs thrive on being able to go out, meet lots of other dogs and people, experience different places/smells. This is not happening now. We are hearing from owners that their dogs are behaving differently. They are barking at the door and window at passing people. Some owners report their dog is more protective of the family home and growling at people. Dogs are getting stressed.

6. We suspect that more dogs will end up in rescue as life gets back to normal and the puppy is no longer required. Some people will give up on the unruly puppy. Some people will lose their job and can't afford to keep their dog anymore. Rescues will be overflowing. If you still want a pup in a few months' time, consider adopting a pup from a reputable rescue.

So please be patient. There will be more litters later in the year. If you have been planning for a puppy for a while, then a few months should not make that much difference. If you can't wait that long, then maybe you are looking for a puppy for all the wrong reasons.

Use the time to contact reliable & responsible breeders through the Brittany Club of GB website, and look for Kennel Club Assured Breeders among them. They follow a strict code of ethics and conduct laid down by the breed club and Kennel Club respectively. **Talk to these breeders and get on their waiting lists and be patient, the right puppy from the right breeder is worth the wait and can provide you access to a wealth of experience and a lifetime of support.'**

Adapted with permission from Elaine Bradley (Vizslas)

#### **USEFUL LINKS:**

**Breed History:** <https://www.brittanyclub.co.uk/brittany-club-history-brittany-breed-information/breed-history/>

**Breeders:** <https://www.brittanyclub.co.uk/contact-us/links-and-brittany-breeders/>

**Buying a Puppy:** <https://www.brittanyclub.co.uk/the-brittany/buying-a-brittany-puppy/>

**Kennel Club:** <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/findapuppy/Default.aspx>

**Puppy Register:** <https://www.brittanyclub.co.uk/the-breed/puppy-litters/>

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