

Buyer's Checklist

All of the questions below should receive a "Yes" response, and a responsible breeder will be very happy to answer these questions for you. If you receive negative responses, or if a breeder is unwilling to answer, look elsewhere for a puppy.

TEMPERAMENT

- Has the puppy been well socialized and exposed to a variety of new experiences?
- Is the puppy outgoing and friendly toward strangers?
- Does the mother of the puppy have a friendly, confident personality?
- Does the breeder of the puppy require him to stay with his littermates until at least 8 weeks old?
- Has the breeder discussed with you the high activity level of some NAS Mini Aussies and their exercise needs to avoid destructive behavior?
- Has the breeder discussed with you the strong herding instinct in some NAS Mini Aussies and how that can result in heel nipping, pants leg biting, herding of children and chasing cars?

HEALTH

- Was the puppy raised in a clean, safe environment? (Preferably in a home.)
- Has the puppy received at least one "puppy shot"?
- Has the puppy been de-wormed once or preferably twice?
- Is the mother of the puppy at least 2 years of age?
- Have both the sire and dam of the puppy had their hips x-rayed for hip dysplasia, and has documentation been provided to you?
- Have both the sire and dam of the puppy had their eyes examined by a board-certified ophthalmologist to check for hereditary eye defects, and has documentation been provided to you?
- Has the entire litter had its eyes examined for hereditary eye defects, and has documentation been provided to you?
- Has the breeder discussed with you other potential health problems in the breed such as epilepsy, cancer and allergies?

CONTRACT

- Have you been provided with a written contract which clearly states whether the puppy is of show/breeding quality or if it is required to be spayed or neutered?
 - Does the written contract guarantee the puppy or dog is free of debilitating hereditary defects including hip dysplasia and blindness?
 - Have you been provided with a written health record that describes shots and worming completed and any further shots, worming, and heartworm medicine that will be necessary after you take possession of the puppy?
 - Have you been provided with a 4 or 5 generation pedigree of the puppy?
 - Have you been provided with the registration certificate (or application) at the time you take possession of the puppy? Or if on a spay/ neuter agreement, is there a written agreement that upon proof of spay/neuter the registration certificate will be given to you.
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Additional thoughts and considerations;

Price?

Paying the highest price does not mean you are going to receive the best puppy, but dedicated breeder has invested a great deal of time, planning, veterinary care, nutrition, showing and stud fees. The initial purchase price is nothing compared with the costs involved in the upkeep of your puppy, which can live to fifteen years of age.

Code Of Ethics

The North American Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of the U. S. A. (NAMASCUSA), in keeping with its aim of breeding for the working ability, as well as, other outstanding abilities of the Miniature Australian Shepherd, has adopted the following Code Of Ethics to promote and foster the highest standards among breeders, owners and fanciers, and to encourage sportsmanship and cooperation in the improvement and advancement of our breed. All members in good standing with NAMASCUSA subscribe to and uphold this code.

Title I - Records

Each member who breeds his bitch or uses his stud for service should keep accurate records of stock such as stud services, pedigrees, all litters produced, sale of dogs/puppies, all exchanges involving Miniature Australian Shepherds for a minimum of five (5) years.

Any member who falsifies a registration or knowingly misrepresents a pedigree should be reported to the NAMASCUSA Board of Directors.

Title II Breeding

A breeder should plan each breeding with the paramount intention of improving the breed.

A breeder should select a stud and dam with an eye to conformation, temperament, working ability and intelligence with a careful study of the North American Miniature Australian Shepherd Breed Standard, pedigrees and basic principles of genetics.

Before entering into any stud service arrangement, a breeder should scrutinize the pedigree, conformation and working potentials of both sire and dam, keeping in mind the ideal North American Miniature Australian Shepherd as described in the North American Miniature Australian Shepherd Breed Standard. He should refuse the breeding if, in his opinion, it is not in the best interest of the breed. Should he refuse the breeding, a full explanation of his reasoning should be given to the owner of the bitch.

A breeder should use for breeding purposes only those individuals free of defects, such as monorchidism, cryptochidism, deafness, albinism and other disqualifying defects.

He should use only those dogs whose hips have been x-rayed for dysplasia and rated fair to excellent by OFA.

He should use only dogs whose eyes have been examined and found free of ocular deformities by a qualified Veterinary Ophthalmologist.

He should further refrain from using dogs who although free from genetic defects, consistently produces afflicted puppies.

Title III - Health

A breeder should maintain high standards of health and care for his dog(s) and guarantee the health of puppies at the time of sale.

Title IV - Sales

A breeder should be discriminating in the sale of his puppies and concerned with the type of homes in which they are placed. With this in mind, North American Miniature Australian Shepherds shall not be donated for raffles, give-aways, sold to dog wholesalers or retailers, such as pet shops or the like. A breeder should, for his own protection, as well as that of the buyer, provide adequate written contractual proof of sale and guarantees.

A breeder should provide a minimum six (6) months written guarantee against crippling or handicapping congenital defects on all pet puppies sold and should additionally guarantee the sale of breeding stock puppies against all hereditary defects and any disqualifying faults for a like period. All guarantees should at least provide for replacement of the puppy with another, within a reasonable length of time after the return of the puppy originally purchased.

A breeder should transfer all applicable registration papers at the time the purchase agreement is completed and agreeable to both parties. Upon sale of a dog/puppy, the breeder should provide all buyers with a three (3) generation pedigree, including coat and eye color and indication of NBT occurrence, diet and care information, health guarantee and inoculation record (including date and type of serum).

A breeder should refrain from releasing a puppy until it is at least eight (8) weeks old or ten (10) if the puppy is to be shipped.

Title V - Advertising

The breeder agrees that all advertising of dogs/puppies should be factual and honest in both substance and implication.

The breeder should be cautious in encouraging buyers as to breeding potential, as the breeding of North American Miniature Australian Shepherds is not to be taken lightly.

Title VI - Member Regulations

The exhibiting of dogs being a sport, NAMASCUSA members shall be expected to express good sportsmanship in all activities involving the North American Miniature Australian Shepherd. Members should refrain from unnecessary criticism of another's dog.

As a matter of ethics, he pledges to help educate the general public, as well as, graciously assist the novice breeder in all with which he is familiar.

Title VII - Implementation

Any infraction of the Code of Ethics should be reported, in writing, to the NAMASCUSA Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws.

Only when a breeder continues to deviate from these ideals and is not cooperative in rectifying an error, will the situation be presented to the Board of Directors for disciplinary actions.

**As adopted by the NAMASCUSA Board Of Directors
Revised 12/99**