

## Questions to Ask Breeders:

- Are hip, elbow, eye, and heart certifications for both sire and dam verifiable
- To verify, record Sire's Registration Number
- Dam's Registration Number
- Are your puppies sold with a written contract?
- May I have a copy of it to review in advance?
- Are your puppies examined by a veterinarian before they go home?
- Has a second stool check been done, to be sure there are no worms? How do you socialize your puppies?
- How many litters have you bred, and how many years have you been a breeder?
- How many litters do you typically have in a year?
- What is the general health and temperament of the sire, dam, and their first-degree relatives?
- Did any of them have any of the have the following hereditary conditions
  - Temperament concerns
  - Skin problems, allergies
  - Food allergy/sensitivity or frequent GI upset
  - Epilepsy or seizures
  - Lameness or stiffness
  - Red, watery, painful eyes, glaucoma, blindness
  - Flakey skin, greasy skin and coat
  - Night blindness, or late onset blindness

## **Questions a Responsible Breeder Should Ask You:**

- Are you aware that raising a puppy well takes about the same amount of time and energy in the beginning as caring for a 2-year-old toddler?
- Will someone be home with the puppy for much of the time during the first month?
- Have you owned a dog before? What breed? What pets do you currently have?
- What activities or lifestyle would you like to share with your dog?
- What activity/energy level do you want in a Golden Retriever – high, medium, or low?
- Are you planning to crate your puppy when it cannot be supervised?
- How many children do you have at home? What are their ages? Are they comfortable around large dogs?
- Do you have a fenced yard?
- Do you plan to take puppy kindergarten and/or obedience classes?
- How do you plan to exercise your puppy every day?