

If you haven't had a Samoyed before ask yourself

- Meet one in the flesh. If you don't know anyone with a Samoyed, ask the breed clubs for help as they can find someone near you to visit.
- Do I want to groom daily? Samoyed coats are lovely but hard work. Coats are shed once or twice a year and hair gets everywhere in the house.
- Is someone home most of the day? Samoyeds are easily bored and destructive if left too long by themselves and also have a reputation for barking – which your neighbours may not thank you for. They do not do well kept outside.
- Are you garden proud? Samoyeds are great gardeners digging holes at the drop of a hat.
- Is your garden fully secure? If not then Samoyeds will find a way out either over, under or just simply through.
- Are you ready for the time to be put in training? That has to start right from the time they arrive home. Consistent treatment is the key. Finding a good puppy class is a must and be prepared to be patient, Samoyeds have a very casual view of obedience and are renowned for pulling on the lead.
- Are you aware of the health issues in the breed? Samoyeds are prone to diabetes and whilst it is not that common, it will mean daily monitoring of the dog and insulin injections twice daily for their rest of their life. Other issues potentially are pancreatitis and juvenile nephritis both of which relatively rare.

What to ask a breeder?

- Are both parents health tested? This means both hip scored and eye tested.
 - Hip scoring gives the breeder an indication of whether the dogs may suffer from hip dysplasia although what you let your puppy do as a youngster is a very important factor too. Hip dysplasia is monitored via X-Rays of the hips and the British Veterinary Association (BVA) scores the resulting picture. The lower the overall score the better although scores can be from 0 to 106. The breed average currently is around a combined score of 12-13.
 - Eye testing can also be carried out through a BVA scheme – many responsible breeders also do this although the incidents of issues with Samoyeds are low in this country. Eye testing should include both a standard eye test and gonioscopy. Gonioscopy's have 4 grades which are, 0 which means the dog is clear; 1 – means mildly affected; 2 moderately affected and 3 means severely affected. These grades give the prediction of the **likelihood** of a dog developing glaucoma during its life. It is not an exact indicator.
- Are the parents and puppies Kennel Club Registered? (NOT Dog Lovers Register, Pet Lovers Club or any of the other registers out there which tend to be used by indiscriminate breeders). The Kennel Club registration is the only sure way of

ensuring a pure Samoyed.

- Can you see the parents of the puppies? Many people will only have the mother of the puppies as they will have travelled to use the stud dog, but they will have pictures of the dog and also be able to tell you about him.
- At what age will the puppy be ready to take home? This must not be before 8 weeks of age.
- How many litters of pups has the mother had? If she has had more than 3 ask why? Have any of the pups been returned to the breeder?
- Will the puppies be microchipped before leaving the breeder? It is the law that all puppies are microchipped by the breeder before leaving.
- Will the pup have been checked by the breeders vet?
- How often will the pups (and Mum) have been wormed by the time they are ready to leave home? This regime depends on the brand of wormer used, but 2-3 times between 3 and 8 weeks is the norm.
- What kind of socialisation will the pup have had? Will it have been reared in a busy household? Been in a car? Got used to a vacuum cleaner? Washing machine? Loud noises? Had their nails clipped? Groomed daily?
- Will the puppy come with some of the food it is used to? A toy or piece of blanket with mothers scent on it?
- What will be in the puppy pack? There are many variations as to what can go in a puppy pack, but at minimum it should contain the registration documents for the puppy, copies of the health test results for both father and mother, contract between the breeder and purchaser, feeding advice, general advice about looking after your puppy, worming and vaccination information.
- If your circumstances change and you are no longer able to give your Samoyed the care it needs, will your breeder take your Samoyed back? Will there be any conditions attached to this?

What a breeder may ask you?

- Good breeders will regard you as part of their extended family and should be available for help with any issues. They will ask you loads of questions as they want to make sure you are ready for 12-14 years of Samoyed life.
- Many will expect you to visit before you purchase a pup.
- Deposit? Legitimate breeders do not ask for a deposit up-front. They may ask for one after you have visited the pups, Make sure you know under what circumstances this is refundable.

Other Information

It is quite difficult to find a puppy from a reputable breeder and you will probably have to get on a waiting list and sit and wait for puppies to be born. Most reputable breeders have the entire litter booked by the time they arrive, so it's very difficult to find one ready and available.

There is a growing trend for overseas kennels to advertise puppies in the UK, principally it

seems from Eastern Europe. Some of these operate whereby the pups are born in the country of origin, e.g. Poland, and then sold via an agent in the UK. Some are direct. Please take great care if taking this route and be extra vigilant when doing your due diligence on the breeder. All puppies imported into the UK should come with an export pedigree from their country of origin and documentation which covers what vaccinations and worming they have had.

Be very careful of any claims made via the Internet, it's always best to get recommendations from other breeders/breed clubs, and if you do find one on the internet make sure both parents have gone through all the recommended health tests, that you can see mother with puppies and that the owners ask loads of questions as they need to care where their puppies are going. The breed clubs do not endorse buying puppies via internet sites or newspaper ads.

Going rate for puppies from reputable breeders varies from breeder to breeder but is around the £2,000 mark, at time of writing. Anything vastly under or over that should set alarm bells ringing, but please bear in mind prices are subject to market forces. If you would like help locating a pup then do contact the breed societies listed below who will be happy to help. In addition, more information on health and other Samoyed related matters are available on <http://samoyedbreedcouncil.co.uk/health/>.

The following 4 breed societies will be able to help you further

The Samoyed Association

Secretary : Miss A Haffenden
tel : 01908 379624
email : avishaffenden@hotmail.com
www.thesamoyedassociation.co.uk

British Samoyed Club

Secretary : Mrs V Lloyd
tel : 01691 860370
email : arianrhod_9@btinternet.com
www.british-samoyed-club.co.uk

The Northern Samoyed Society

Secretary : Mr G Smith
tel : 01922 492053
email : gsmith23@hotmail.co.uk
www.thenorthern-samoyed-society.co.uk

Samoyed Breeders & Owners League

Secretary : Mrs P Lepley
tel : 01526 351494
email : lepleyp@btinternet.com
www.samoyed-sbol.co.uk