

Collie (Smooth)



The obvious difference between the breeds is the coat length, which in the case of the Smooth is short and flat with a harsh texture on a dense undercoat. Colour range is the same although one tends to see more blue merles in Smooths than in Roughs. As a result the blue and blue-flecked eye is more characteristically seen in Smooths. Both breeds' standards call for a gay, friendly disposition without a trace of nervousness or aggression.

What about Health Issues?

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the puppy you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found on the Kennel Club's website at:

www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Puppy buyers should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

And what health screening is relevant for the Smooth Collie?

Kennel Club Accredited Breeders must use, or are strongly recommended to use, the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams:

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme
- DNA test - CEA

This list is not necessarily comprehensive and you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.