

# *The Northern Japanese Spitz Club*

## *Guide to Buying the Perfect Puppy*



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## Japanese Spitz - the guide to buying the perfect puppy



So, you've made the decision you'd like a Japanese Spitz puppy ..... great choice but there a few things you need to know.

Firstly, puppies are a **HUGE** commitment, so before you start the process, it's important to take time to consider whether it's the right choice for both you and the puppy. Sit down and think through all the implications first, as a dog is a life-changing commitment and a puppy should never be bought on impulse.

You may be working at home at the moment but what happens when you go back to the office?

Also bear in mind, under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 you are obliged by law to provide the five fundamental welfare rights, can you commit the next 10 – 16 years to:

<b>Health</b>	Protection from pain, injury, suffering and disease and treated if they become ill or injured.
<b>Behaviour</b>	the ability to behave naturally for their species eg. Play, run, dig, jump, fly etc.
<b>Companionship</b>	to be housed with, or apart from, other animals as appropriate for the species.
<b>Diet</b>	a suitable diet. This can include feeding appropriately for the pet's life stage and feeding a suitable amount to prevent obesity or malnourishment, as well as access to fresh clean water.
<b>Environment</b>	a suitable environment. This should include the right type of home with a comfortable place to rest and hide as well as space to exercise and explore.

Insurance is also a consideration, if your puppy is KC registered, a puppy will often come with 4 weeks free insurance (speak to your breeder) but this is something you need to factor into the cost of both purchasing and ownership of your puppy moving forward as are vets' bills.

Japanese Spitz are a numerically small breed, in 2019 only 149 puppies were registered with the UK Kennel Club. With the onset of Covid-19, the demand has rocketed so you really will need to be prepared for a wait, it could be a lengthy wait too, but it will be worth it.

### A little insight in to the breed:

- They are a very sociable breed and love company; they therefore don't like being left for long period of time (short periods are fine)
- They are hugely loyal and intelligent making them easy to train
- They can be prone to weight gain to need a balanced diet to maintain their weight, treats are fine but need to be deducted from their daily food allowance.
- They need as little or as much exercise as you want them to have, the breed is fine with short walks or happy to run with you too, so a really adaptable breed.
- They are little warning dogs which is great but that means they can be barkers
- They moult – a lot. Girls shed twice a year and boys once. They need regular brushing (although they don't need bathing that often and they don't smell doggy); they are double coated so must **NEVER** be cut or shaved (only paws are trimmed) and they do lose hair all the time (lint rollers will become your "must have" accessory)
- It can be hard to stay at one.



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## Do Your Research:

A puppy is a huge commitment, our breed can live to 16 years (and beyond in some cases), we are lucky that we don't get many in rescue, we don't want this to change either.

Check out our website which contains lots of helpful info on owning this wonderful breed

<http://www.northernjapanesespitzclub.co.uk/ownership.htm> and make sure you ask lots of questions on the Northern Japanese Spitz Facebook Group which can be found here

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/169750073170147/>

The Kennel Club Assured Breeder section of the Kennel Club Website is a great place to start looking for a breeder <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/acbr/Default.aspx?breed=Japanese+Spitz>, as is ChampDogs <https://www.champdogs.co.uk/breeds/japanese-spitz/breeders> which will also have a list of breeders – please bear in mind that ChampDogs is not always up to date. Also, not all reputable breeders appear on either of the above, which is why speaking to the NJSC Breed Club will enable you are in contact with the right people from the onset.

Be prepared to travel, you'll need to visit your breeder at least twice, once to choose / meet your puppy and second to collect it once it's ready to leave mum. Your puppy cannot leave its mum until it is at least 8 weeks old, but don't worry if it's a little older, this is quite normal. You need to add this to your list of considerations as this could be a lengthy journey for some.

## Some questions to consider when talking to a breeder:

**Who are the Parents:** ask for their KC registration names, these can then be checked on MyKC

(<https://www.mykc.org.uk>) this website enables you to register your details and then check on any dog that has been registered with the Kennel Club.

**How old are mum and dad?** A bitch should not be mated until she is at least 18 months old (this is a Kennel Club and a NJSC breed club regulation), it is preferable that a stud is no younger than 12 months at the time of mating (although some exceptions may occur). The KC also will not register litters from a bitch who is 8 years or over.

**How many litters?** Ask how many litters has the bitch had, the number of KC registered litters can be checked via the Kennel Club, if a bitch has had 4 litters, further litters will not be registered by the KC, **this does not mean that a breeder will not breed from a bitch though, they just won't register them** so always check, breeding from a bitch who has had more than four litters is not ethical.

**What support does your breeder offer?** From a reputable breeder you will get a lifetime of support, your breeder will potentially look for updates on their progress too.

When you buy a puppy, you are often buying a breeder's legacy, they have put years of love, devotion and effort into creating the perfect dog and they are entrusting it to you, of course they'll want to ensure the puppy matures in to a happy, healthy dog.

You will also be expected to sign a **puppy contract** too, this is a binding contract between you and the breeder which will stipulate things like whether you're allowed to use the dog to breed in the future (these are known as endorsements and can be lifted by mutual agreement) but more importantly, it will state that if anything happens and you can no longer care for the dog, the breeder will take it back.



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Good breeders will not ask for a deposit to go on a list and **NEVER** pay a deposit without meeting the breeder and seeing the mum.

Once you're ready and you've got an idea of breeders, speak to the NJSC Breed Club to help point you in the right direction and answer any questions you may have – any member of the committee would be happy to help, or contact Julie Edmondson at [julie@perfectfitpeople.co.uk](mailto:julie@perfectfitpeople.co.uk). The Northern Japanese Spitz Club (NJSC), although based in the North, have national coverage so it doesn't matter where you are located.

Speak to people in the breed – there is no better advertisement than someone who already owns one of these amazing dogs, attend dogs shows (even if you're not looking to show your dog, it's a great way of meeting people in the breed and more importantly, your breeder); or better still, join one of the Japanese Spitz Meet Ups that happen across the country (post Covid of course) – any meet ups are always publicised on the Northern Japanese Spitz Club Facebook Group.

### The Price of a Puppy:

The price of a Japanese Spitz puppy will vary but you should not expect to pay more than **£1500** for a well-bred, healthy puppy from an ethical breeder. We would suggest that if puppies are advertised at much higher prices, the breeder is capitalising on the current pandemic and the increased demand for puppies; the converse also applies, if a puppy / dog is being offered to you at a low price, this should also ring warning bells as research has demonstrated that in some instances, these are scams or worse, puppy farmers. If you're unsure, ask the NJSC Breed Club.

### Choosing your breeder and getting on a List:

When you're looking for a puppy, the most important relationship you will form is with your breeder, this is the person who will be taking care of your puppy, who will feed and nurture it and then they will entrust part of their legacy to you, for many breeders, this is hard and they will want to make sure their puppies are going to the best possible homes, so be prepared for lots of questions.

Your breeder will also be the person you turn to if you're worried, so it's important you choose your breeder and stick with them.

Many potential owners make the mistake of getting on lots of different lists as they feel it will increase their chances of getting a puppy sooner, or cheaper. Buying a puppy is not like choosing a pair of shoes, you don't see what you want in the store then search Amazon for a quicker / cheaper version.

With ethical breeders, this actually has the opposite effect. They are entrusting you with their puppy, they want to see your commitment from the start, so once you've chosen your breeder and you're on their list, keep in touch with them, check to see how their litter plans are coming along, remain "front of mind" with them and demonstrate your commitment and be patient.

### BEWARE the Perils of the Internet:

More and more online adverts are springing up, so please be very, very careful from sites such as Preloved; Gumtree; Pets4Homes etc; often these are scams with the puppies not existing, or worse are puppy farmers. It is always advisable to speak to the NJSC Breed Club as we'll often contact the breeder for more information if there are concerns. ***There have been reports of adverts offering puppies via email and phone calls where they offer a place on a list for a large deposit. DO NOT PAY A DEPOSIT these are scams - there are no puppies.***



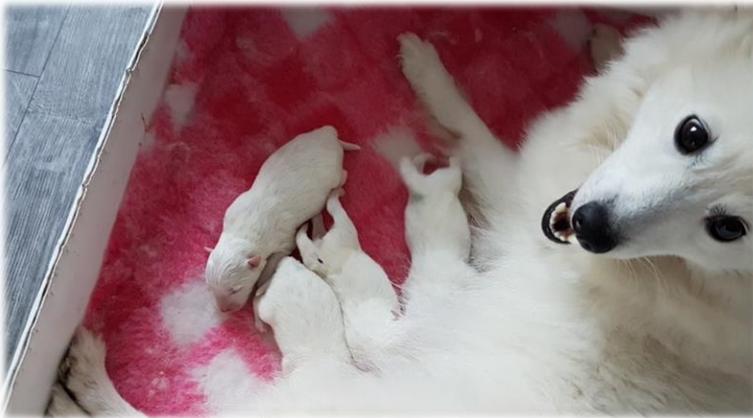
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### Once your puppy arrives ...

You'll no doubt have kept in touch with your breeder and as soon as your puppy arrives, you'll be the first to know. Ask your breeder for updates on the progress of your puppy including lots of pictures too, you're breeder will be very busy caring for their new arrivals but they're always happy to oblige, You'll also be thinking about your first visit to see your new puppy too, this would normally be around the 5/6 week stage. **NOTE: it is imperative that you see mum with her puppies.**

Pictures of your puppy will enable you to follow their progress;



*Puppies at around a week old, notice lovely round, full tummies and a healthy, happy mum*

*Puppies at around 2-3 weeks old. Again, lovely full tummies and mum looking relaxed and happy with her babies*



*Mum content with her puppies*



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*Do the puppies have access to outdoors for play and socialisation?*



### **Planning to bring puppy home:**

You will have lots of time to prepare for your puppy coming home and there are lots of things to consider. First and foremost, you need to puppy proof your house / garden to ensure puppy is safe at all times. Puppies love to chew ... a lot so beware of anything that can harm your puppy such as loose cables.

The Japanese Spitz Facebook Groups really come into their own during this phase, there are lots of news and experienced owners in the Groups (together with experienced breeders) who can share the experiences and offer you support.

Our website <http://www.northernjapanesespitzclub.co.uk/ownership.htm> contains lots of essential information on puppy care together with an excellent grooming guide.

### **The day arrives:**

Your puppy must be at least 8 weeks old before it's ready to leave mum and you will already have made plans with your breeder to collect him/her, if it's a little more than 8 weeks, don't worry, this isn't unusual. You will need to think about how you're going to transport your new fluff ball home, it's against the law for a puppy to be loose in the car so think about a crate for the car that will keep him, and you safe.

When you collect your puppy you'll have lots of time to talk to your breeder, they will go through the puppy contract with you, most puppies come with 4 weeks free Kennel Club Insurance and they'll also discuss feeding with you too, most breeders will also send you away with some of the food your puppy currently eats to get your started. Should you wish to change your puppy's food, this MUST be done very gradually so as to not upset tummies.

Your breeder will also advise you on what injections the puppy has had and also advise you on microchip details. Remember it is law that your dog has to be microchipped.

You're now ready for your journey to begin ..... enjoy every moment.