

New Laws Impact Purchasing a Pet Dog in California

Currently, the State of California regulates those who breed and transfer either three or more litters or 20 or more dogs in a calendar year. Under current California law, if you purchase a dog from a breeder meeting this definition, [you are entitled to consumer protections](#).

However, with the passage of Assembly Bill 506, starting on January 1, 2026, dog purchasers will be eligible for new consumer protections if they buy a dog from any breeder (even a breeder who sells as few as one dog a year) or from animal rescues.

Click [here](#) to see what new consumer protection you should expect when buying a dog (or cat or rabbit) from a breeder or rescue after January 1, 2026.

Even with new safeguards in place, it is still important for buyers to educate themselves about the dog they are interested in, and to take steps to reduce the likelihood of ever needing to avail yourself of state consumer protections. Here are some helpful steps to take in your next search for a dog:

- If you don't have a relationship with the dog breeder, always visit the breeder in person, if you can.
- If visiting the breeder, ask to see the sire and dam along with the general conditions on the breeder's premises.
- Whether getting a dog from a hobby dog breeder, professional breeder or an animal rescue, [be sure to obtain information you are entitled to](#) such as health information, vaccination records, and microchip information.
- If you are buying a dog from out of state, be sure you receive a copy of Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) from the seller. The CVI will detail the health status of the dog at the time of sale.