

## Final Stop: The CCA BREEDER

*You can trust in his or her expertise!*



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The adult Collie: The crowning achievement of the breeder's art

**R**egardless of where you live, it's easy to find a purebred Collie for your family. Quality puppy and adult dogs are available each year in all parts of the country. Litters can be born in any month of the year.

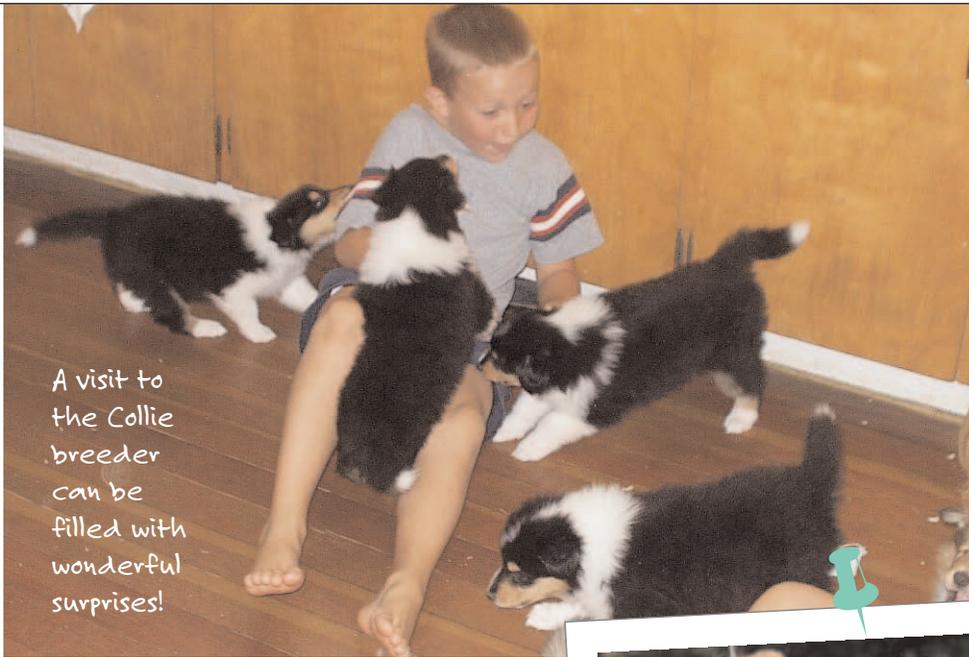
Our Collies are not produced in large kennel operations. Kennels are small, intimate and focused on producing a few quality individuals rather than many puppies for a mass market. The time it takes to find your ideal Collie companion depends upon the age, variety, color, and family of Collie you are seeking. Rough Collies are more numerous than Smooths. In both varieties, the sable color is most common, followed by tri-colored, blue merle, and white. The overall "style" or look of the Collie is a matter of personal preference, as the differences in Collie "families" (kennels) are subtle, since all Collies, Rough and Smooth, are bred to the same Standard. Your District Director will be able to discuss this in detail based on the specific kennels in your search area.

### Finding a Breeder

The choice of a family dog is a combination of passion and practicality. As you move from the theoretical world of research to seeing and meeting actual dogs, the expertise of the breeder will be the single most important factor in determining the success of matching the needs of your family with just the right dog for your specific lifestyle situation.

Breeding healthy, beautiful Collies is a fine art with a background of science. It requires tremendous time, effort and commitment. The Collie Club of America is very proud of its corps of breeders, whose breed knowledge comes from years of study and experience with





A visit to the Collie breeder can be filled with wonderful surprises!

Collies. Your CCA District Director will refer you to breeders who are knowledgeable, responsible and involved in breed activities, all of which are the trademarks of breeder expertise. (For contact information on the District Directors in your area, click: [www.collieclubofamerica.org/ccadistrictdirectors.html](http://www.collieclubofamerica.org/ccadistrictdirectors.html))

### Breeder Responsibility

Responsibility to the Breed is reflected in the quality of the individual dogs, the limited quantity that is bred, and the breeder's lifetime commitment to their dogs regardless of where they may be living. Collie breeders care very much about placing their dogs in the right homes. When a puppy or adult dog is purchased, responsible breeders provide a contract that covers the dog for life. They provide detailed information to new owners on day-to-day maintenance and health care of the dog. And they are available to offer advice and help even after the dog has gone to its new home.

### Hallmarks of Quality

The traits that make your dog a wonderful family companion have been refined over the years by Collies of the same bloodline who have com-

peted on many different levels: Conformation (the breed show ring); Obedience, Agility and Herding activities; or as working dogs on farms and ranches, therapy dogs, service dogs, and even as guide dogs for the blind.

No single breeder can be involved in all of these time-consuming activities at the same time, but you should find involvement in some of them by the breeder and by dogs closely related to the ones you are considering. The Collie's extraordinary versatility is a hallmark of its good breeding, combining the qualities of physical soundness, beauty, good temperament and intelligence.

Good breeders also tend to be involved in dog clubs and organizations such as health foundations. **All breeders who are members of The Collie Club of America are bound by the CCA's official Code of Ethics:** your assurance that your journey to Collie ownership starts off successfully and concludes with a happy ending.



"This is the one!"



## CHAPTER 8: Choosing Your Collie

