

Tips for Buying from a Kitten Breeder

1. **Buyers beware.** Not all breeders know the health problems of the breed, or the available genetic testing. It is the buyer's task to research all important information.
 2. **Ringworm is a big concern.** Not all catteries will admit to this problem. I have heard from numerous breeders, who say, "Any breeder who claims they have not had ringworm is lying." Additionally, one breeder said, "I purchased a kitten without knowing it had ringworm. It took me a year and a half to completely clear it out of the house."
 3. **Read the buyer's contract carefully.** On one breeder's web site, they claimed that the kittens were ringworm free. However, the contract stated that it could not guarantee that the kittens were fungus free. Yet ringworm is a type of fungus.
 4. **Don't buy a purebred animal without registration papers.** One breeder sells her "purebred" kittens for the full price without their registration paper. When asked why the kittens did not have their registration papers, she replied, "I was not supposed to breed the mother so that is why I do not have the papers. People don't really care about the registration papers."
- It is not uncommon for people to pick free purebred pets without papers for them and then breed them.
5. **Ask for a health guarantee.** It varies from breeder to breeder.
 6. **Beware of the bait and switch method.** The breeder might tell you one thing and change their story after receiving your deposit. A reputable breeder will not sell their animals to just anyone if they care about the welfare of their animals. They usually require a signed contract with a return clause if things don't work out.
 7. **Pick of the litter is too often a joke.** The breeder will sell you an animal that they do not want.
 8. **Do not take the breeder's word on genetic testing. Ask for documentation.** Testing should be done every year and documented through a verifiable source.