

BEFORE YOU BUY A DOG . . .

Be aware that the State of Maine Title 7 MRSA Chapter 745 governing the sale of dogs and cats, effective 7/4/96 reads, in part:

§4152 Disclosure

1. **Required disclosure.** A pet dealer shall deliver to a purchaser of an animal a written disclosure containing the following:

A. An animal history that includes: (1) The name, address and United States Department of Agriculture license number of the breeder and any broker who has had possession of the animal; (2) The date of the animal's birth; (3) The date the pet dealer received the animal; (4) The breed, sex, color and identifying marks of the animal; (5) The individual identifying tag, tattoo or collar number; (6) For pure bred animals, the name and registration number of the sire and dam and the litter number; and (7) A record of inoculations, worming treatments, medication or any veterinarian treatment received by the animal while in the possession of the breeder or dealer.

B. A statement signed by the pet dealer that the animal at the time of delivery has no known health problem or a statement disclosing any known health problem. The statement must include the date at which the dealer is aware that the animal was last seen by a veterinarian;

§4160 Notice of consumer rights

1. **Written notice.** A pet dealer shall provide the purchaser a written notice of rights, signed by the pet dealer, certifying the accuracy of the information contained in the notice. The notice must be signed by the purchaser, acknowledging that the purchaser has reviewed and understood the written notice. A signed copy must be retained by the pet dealer and one copy given to the purchaser. The notice must be in a minimum of 16-point, bold-faced type and must state the following:

"A STATEMENT OF MAINE LAW GOVERNING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS:

The sale of dogs and cats is subject to consumer protection regulations. Maine law also provides safeguards to protect pet dealers and animal purchasers. Attached is a copy of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, Chapter 745. Contained in this law is a statement of your consumer rights and remedies. Also attached is your pet's health history and specific warranty information."

2. **Oral notice.** In addition, all medical information required to be disclosed pursuant to this section must be orally disclosed to the purchaser by the dealer prior to purchase. The statement of consumer rights must also contain or have attached the disclosure required under section 4152 and the name and phone number of the state agency to be contacted in the event of perceived violations of this chapter.

For a complete brochure:

*Maine Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources, Animal Health & Industry,
38 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0028. Or call 207/287-3846.*

**It is unlawful for any person to sell,
adopt or give away any dog (puppy) until
completion of its seventh week of life!**

