

Puppy Grading

By [Dean Perrin](#) on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 9:44am

At 7 weeks we usually start the grading process. What we want to determine is the temperaments of the puppy and the drive levels, play drive, prey drive, bite strength, looks, stacking, pigmentation, teeth, height, weight, movement, and more. We have an internal chart we use.

There are 2 classifications right now we use. Select and Excellent. Ultimate is in the future. An Excellent pup is in every litter. Sometimes one male, one female, sometimes 2.

We want to ensure that we have the absolute top pick females or males in case we want them for breeding, show, schutzhund work etc... Most customers want the first pick Excellent because they want the satisfaction of knowing they got the breeder's top pick.

Let's talk about that. Top pick to me will be the highest ranking ones in all the categories. AND CAN depend why or what or who I am picking it for. But rest assured it will have the best pigmentation, movement and beauty at minimum. Here are some examples.

If someone states they want a show dog to actually show. Movement, stacking ability, pigmentation, beauty and drive are important to get this dog titled. Beauty alone will not do it. And to have a nice title on an adult dog you must have at least such I or IPO 1 title to get a V rating.

If someone is not showing but wants to do schutzhund work, then they will need the highest prey drive, biting puppy we have. No point in entering if you do not have a talented dog in this area. He is also rated excellent because he is agile and gifted in these areas but should also have the other qualities of an excellent as well.

If someone just wants the top breeder's pick it will not matter about drive level. The other qualities mentioned will be there for an excellent. Temperament will also not matter. AND if they pick the excellent they will have NO CHOICE when picking time comes. The excellent is the excellent and you cannot pick a different one because you think it looks cuter or blacker etc...

Once graded they will be select or an excellent. If you are a select customer and you wish to get the top pick or just to bump yourself up to first, you can as long as there is not an excellent already purchased of that sex. Again in some cases there could be 2 females that are excellent. We have some litters the whole litter are V quality to rate like GINA. These pups are more expensive and other breeders, show people or people who want the best of the best would buy from this litter.

After they are graded, I will tell you they are select or excellent and the temperaments of each dog OR just categorize them as a med tempered, med drive female or male for example. This is what most people want. When that happens I will say to the picking people one of 3 of these dogs would be suited for you and they can literally pick which one they want in the order the deposits came in

and whether they are 1st, 2nd or 3rd pick. If you like yellow collar and you have a family with kids under 5, and yellow collar is a Shutzhund puppy with high prey and bite drive, I will not let you take him! We must match the puppy with the appropriate home and vice versa.

Hopefully all this makes sense, if I forgot anything I will update the doc, or if you have any questions please feel free to ask right here and I will leave the comments for the other customers to see.

Thank you

Dean.