



Understanding the Registration Process for Puppy Buyers

Why the Registration (Pedigree) Certificate may not be ready when I collect my puppy?

It's quite common for registration (pedigree) certificates to still be in progress when you collect your puppy. This is because several important steps must be completed by the breeder before the certificate can be issued.

1. Microchipping

Your puppy must first be microchipped. This provides permanent identification and ensures that all future records and testing are linked to the correct dog.

2. DNA profiling and testing

A DNA sample (usually via cheek swab or blood test) must be collected and sent to a laboratory.

- The DNA profile acts like a unique fingerprint for your puppy.
- Processing typically takes **3–4 weeks**.
- Some breeders also carry out additional DNA testing (such as disease or coat/colour testing), which may extend this timeframe.

3. Breeder assessment of the litter

Breeders often wait until the puppies are old enough to properly assess them before deciding:

- Which puppy they may keep
 - Which puppy is best suited to each new home
- They may also seek advice from mentors or other experienced breeders before finalising these decisions.

4. Submission to Dogs Victoria

Once all requirements are complete, the breeder submits:

- DNA results
- Microchip details
- Pedigree names

to Dogs Victoria for processing. The registration certificates are then created and sent to the breeder.

5. Occasional delays (DNA re-testing)

In a small number of cases, a DNA sample may fail to produce a result and must be repeated.

- This can happen even after the puppy has gone to its new home.
- If so, the breeder and new owner will need to arrange a quick cheek swab through a vet or approved collector.

Important to know

Under Dogs Australia and Dogs Victoria regulations:

- All puppies must be **microchipped and DNA parentage verified** before a litter can be registered.
- Litters are ideally registered by **3 months of age**, but delays can occur (especially if DNA retesting is required).
- Once the breeder receives the certificate, they must complete the buyer's details and provide it to you **within 1 month**.

What DNA testing provides to the Puppy Buyer

- Proof of your puppy's parentage verified by DNA testing with results connected to your puppy's microchip.
- In some breeds where disease or trait testing has been carried out it can also provide assurance that your puppy is not going to develop any health problems that can be detected on DNA testing – ask your breeder for information about your chosen breed.
- DNA Parentage testing provides verification of “Clear By Parentage” disease testing results that may be provided for your puppy.