

## Buyer's 6 Point Checklist

*The ADCA's Buyer's Checklist was created to help guide you towards a successful experience when purchasing your first Dexter Cattle.*

*These six questions can help you to make a well informed decision.*

### 1. Have you seen the animal?

- ✓ Familiarize yourself with good breed conformation and acceptable Dexter temperament so you can make an evaluation of these things:
  - Overall condition
  - Topline and barrel
  - Feet and legs
  - Neck and head
  - Udder or scrotal package
  - Temperament and response to human contact
- ✓ If at all possible, visit the farm where the animal resides. The best way to evaluate any Dexter is to physically see it and handle it. Ask the owner these types of questions:
  - Is this animal halter trained or has it had any show experience?
  - What type of temperament does he/she have?
  - What is your typical feeding routine/nutritional regimen?
  - What is your evaluation of this Dexter's
    - ⇒ overall condition?
    - ⇒ topline and barrel?
    - ⇒ feet and legs?
    - ⇒ neck and head?
    - ⇒ udder or scrotal package?
    - ⇒ temperament and response to human contact?
- ✓ If you are unable to visit the farm prior to your purchase, ask the seller for photos to evaluate the things listed above. A responsible breeder will not be offended by this request and many Dexters owners may already have pictures of the animals they are selling. Here are the types of photographs to ask for:
  - Full body photo of the front, left side, right side, and back of the animal.
  - A photo of the front, back and side of the udder or scrotal package.
  - A photo of the animal's sire and dam.
  - Photos of offspring produced from this animal's sire and dam.
  - Photos of the offspring of this animal if they are a mature Dexter.

### 2. Is the animal ADCA registered?

- ✓ Ask the seller for the animal's ADCA registration number and a snapshot of the animal's registration certificate.
- ✓ Look at the animal's pedigree page on the ADCA website :
  - Go online to <http://www.dextercattle.org/> .
  - At the ADCA website , click the **Pedigrees** tab located on the menu bar.
  - Type the animal's registration number in the **ADCA Reg. No.** box & press the "Enter" key on your keyboard.
  - You will see a "family tree" for this animal, beginning with its sire and dam.
- ✓ If the animal is NOT registered, ask for it to be registered BEFORE you purchase it. Some Dexters do not qualify for registration in the ADCA. At the very least, make sure the animal you want to purchase CAN be registered. A full explanation of registration requirements can be found on the ADCA website. General requirements include:
  - The animal must be a purebred Dexter from purebred, ADCA registered parents.
  - Animals registered with the PDCA might qualify for ADCA registration if all ADCA requirements are met.
  - Bulls born after 12-30-2009 and females born after 12-30-2015 must have a genotype on file at an approved lab. The two ADCA approved labs are:
    - ⇒ Texas A & M (TAM)
    - ⇒ University of California, Davis (UCD)

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## 3. Is the animal healthy?

- ✓ Make sure the animal meets your **state's health requirements**.
  - The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) provides information about state requirements on their website: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/home> . Some things to check include:
    - Brucellosis testing
    - Tuberculosis testing
    - Trichomoniasis testing for mature bulls
    - Vaccination requirements
  - Your State Animal Health Official is a good resource for information about state requirements. You can find a list of officials and their contact information here: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>
- ✓ Requesting a Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection is a good idea, and it may be required by your state if you plan to transport that animal within the state or across state lines.
- ✓ If you are purchasing a mature bull, you can request a breeding soundness exam (BSE). A BSE checks the bull's overall health to assure that they are fertile and in good breeding condition. It is done by a local veterinarian.
- ✓ If you are purchasing a mature cow, you should inquire about her breeding history.
  - How old is she?
  - How many calves has she had?
  - Were the births easy and unassisted?
- ✓ If you are purchasing a bred cow or heifer, you may want a copy of a positive pregnancy test.

## 4. What form of permanent identification does the animal have?

- ✓ Different states have different animal identification requirements for transporting livestock within state lines and across of state lines. Make sure the animal meets not only your state's requirements, but also meets the requirements of the states you will travel through.
- ✓ Typical forms of permanent identification can include tattoo, Brite tag (metal ear clip), Brucellosis tag, or USDA-approved 840 tags.

## 5. What genetic testing has been done?

- ✓ Ask to see copies of all genetic testing that you deem important.
  - Genotype (required for ADCA registrations of all calves)
  - Parent Verification
  - PHA
  - Chondrodysplasia
  - Color
  - Milk proteins (beta casein, kappa casein, and/or beta lactoglobuline)
  - Polled/horned
- ✓ Ask the seller to give you a copy of the test results as a part of the sale. Although this is not required, it is considered customary to do so.

## 6. Is the price right?

- ✓ Price is dependent on a number of factors that are often quality and/or market driven. Some ways to ensure you are getting a fair price are:
  - Shop around.
  - Contact other breeders in your Region.
  - Talk with your Regional Director.
- ✓ Make sure that you and the seller discuss who will be paying for the ADCA transfer of ownership. It is generally accepted that the seller pays for the transfer of ownership but this is not required. The seller is required to submit the transfer to the ADCA. Always use a sales agreement or contract to record the terms of the transaction. Sample contracts are available on the Registration and Transfer page of the ADCA website.
- ✓ Make sure that you and the seller discuss any additional items to be included in the price of the animal and any items that might incur an extra charge to you:
  - Certificate of Veterinary Inspection
  - Any necessary vaccinations
  - Brand inspections
  - Pregnancy tests
  - Additional genetic testing
  - Transportation to your farm

**Just remember that there is always someone available from the ADCA if you have questions.  
Your Regional Director is always happy to help, particularly *before* you buy!**