

SCAMMER ALERT:

There are scammers all over the web and they target anyone and everyone. Fortunately they usually want you to accept or send payment overseas which is the first red flag. Never except payment from an overseas buyer. If they send an email that doesn't make a lot of sense use caution. We will keep posting warnings on this page and try to give you examples of scams we see on our site and from stories we come across on the web and in the news.

Examples from our site:

Username: youngebones

Ad placed:

"his Female Is Akc Registered And Blue And Tan In Color . Mom Was A 5 Lbs Black And Gold ,daddy Was A 3 Lbs Blue And Tan. She Is Current On Their Shots And Worming. She Has Had A Full Puppy Wellness Check All Passed With Flying Colors. If You Are Looking..."

Compliant from user that responded to this ad:

"I think this guy is a total scammer. Please check out his ad. He took all of my information, and would not even give me his name, and wanted me to SEND MONEY TO HIS DAUGHTER WHO IS STUDING OVER SEAS,VIA MONEY ORDER...WITH THE WRONG PHONE NUMBER TO CONTACT HER...THEN HE SAID HE WOULD DELIVER THE PUPPY TO MY HOUSE. HE CLAIMS HE TRIED TO CALL ME...NOT TRUE. I WAS AVAIBLE ALL DAY. HE WOULD NOT GIVE ME HIS NUMBER, JUST WANTED ME TO SEND THE MONEY.....!!!!!"

This is a very well designed ad – it looks innocent enough right? Make sure you check out the source before you give any of your personal information.

The safest way to buy is LOCAL. Never trust anything from over seas!!

Email Response to one of our ads:

"Hello I'm Mr FRANK, i work for Royal Property Consultants I came across your advert and am highly interested in purchasing the {HONDA REBEL} which you offer for sale, Please Kindly get back to me as soon as possible with the necessary answers to the question in mind, Are you the owner? The present condition? Your final asking price?. I await your urgent response so that we can proceed further.."
Regards,
FRANK JAMES.

Analysis:

Now looking at this ad the first thing that jumps out at me is Royal Property Consultants. When I respond to ads online I don't usually include my employer information in the email. This leads me to believe he is trying to make a case that he is from overseas and cannot find a Honda Rebel anywhere on his continent and just luckily he found our ad in Grand Rapids, MI. Right... The next step would be to give him all the information so he could cut a company check for prompt payment including shipping cost. Why not, he is just going to wipe out our account as soon as we cash his bogus check/money order anyway.

If you are accepting checks or money orders make sure you know the source and we would suggest local buyers only with the entire ID including MI Drivers License number.

Email Response found on a different site:

From felxy002@yahoo.com

"I am ready to buy this item Methods of payment with traveller's check and shipment to our mission house in Africa"

Analysis:

I know this one looks ridiculous but believe me people fall for this stuff all the time.

- Never accept payment by wire transfer, Western Union or Moneygram
- Never accept payment by an overseas buyer
- Never give out financial info
- Never deal with someone offering shipping or escrow services

Online Scam Articles:

http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune_archive/2006/05/29/8378124/?cnn=yes

Worldwide problem:

<http://www.cbc.ca/consumers/market/files/scams/phishing/index.html>