

The Breeder Checklist

Health Issues:

Sire's hips x-rayed after the age of 18 months	+2
Each hip certified excellent	+2
OR each PennHIP DI < 0.55	+2
Dam's hips x-rayed after the age of 18 months	+2
Each hip certified excellent	+2
OR each PennHIP DI < 0.55	+2
Each parent's littermate with CHD (max of -5)	-1each
Parents' littermates' hip status not known (max of -5)	-1each
Sire's elbows x-rayed after the age of 18 months	+2
Each elbow certified normal	+2
Dam's elbows x-rayed after the age of 18 months	+2
Each elbow certified normal	+2
Each parent's littermate with ED (max of -5)	-1each
Parents' littermates' elbow status not known (max of -5)	-1each
Parent's eyes tested clear within the past year	+2
Either parent has produced a pup with PRA	-5
each pup produced by dam and sire tested clear within the last year (max of +5)	+1
(if any pup with PRA was produced, no addition here)	
Sire's thyroid tested normal	+2
Dam's thyroid tested normal	+2
Sire's heart tested normal	+2
Dam's heart tested normal	+2
If breeder knows age and cause of death of any of the 28 grandparents, great-grandparents, great-greats	+1each
(Note: don't be scared by mention of specific health problems. All dogs have health problems in their pedigree. It is more important to know what the problems are, and whether the breeder knows what they are!)	

Contract and Guarantee:

Guarantee given	+1
(Note: look very carefully at any guarantee. For example, if the breeder will replace your pup if it develops hip problems, but you have to return it to the breeder, could you give up your two year old dog, or would you decide instead to get expensive surgery without any financial help?)	
Contract available before sale	+5
Any co-ownership costs & responsibilities clearly spelled out and reasonable for you both	+5
Requires dog to be returned to her if you are unable to keep it, and spells out terms costs/refunds of the return	+5
Sells a bitch as a breeding bitch with puppy back requirement to anyone - whether they are knowledgeable about breeding issues or not!	-5

Does not urge you to breed a dog if you have no interest in a lifelong commitment to the dogs you might produce	+5
Won't sell a breeding potential dog unless you demonstrate knowledge, and have breeding goals that work well with hers	+5
Requires demonstration of breed knowledge, desire to learn more before breeding, and dedication to any pups produced before selling you a breeding potential pup	+2
Contract stipulates that dog will be assessed at 18 months or older before it is deemed suitable to breed	+2
If you want a show quality pup and are willing to pay for it, great! But if the breeder's contract requires you to complete the requirements for an AKC championship ("finish") the pup even if you don't wish to do so	-5
Companion pup sold with limited registration, only	+2
Companion pup sold with spay/neuter requirement, only	+2
Companion pup sold with both limited reg and spay/neuter requirement	+5
Hip and elbow x-rays required by age of two	+5

Breeder Knowledge:

Goes to shows regularly	+2
Has dogs that have finished (CH)	+0
Member of national or regional Berner club	+1
Holds or has held active club position	+2
Actively does obedience/draft/agility	+2
Knows and freely discusses breed health problems	+5
Openly discusses these problems are in her line, or in dogs she has lived with	+5
Pedigree not supplied before sale	-10
Questions you thoroughly on the things you have to offer a puppy and on qualities you hope to find in your pup	+5
You like her and get along - want her as your adopted mother!	+10
Information from her is free flowing, and you perceive her as a good mentor and educator	+10
Wants you to visit her home or kennel	+2
Dogs are all clean and well cared for	+2
Dogs are all indoor dogs and well behaved	+2
Claims every dog in the litter is a show dog	-5
Takes time to explain how she determines if a pup is show potential, breeding potential, and will discuss qualities of specific puppies with you if you ask	+5

Temperament:

Dam not shy (this is NOT the same as aloof)	+5
Sire not shy	+5
Dam not aggressive or nippy	+5
(Note: if the dam is pregnant or the pups are on the ground, this cannot always be determined)	
Sire not aggressive or nippy	+5
Breeder thoroughly socializes puppies	+5
Sound and tactile stimulation	+1
Mental development, overcoming obstacles	+1
Exposure to other dogs	+1
Exposure to people	+1
Exposure to children	+1

(Note: add your own special requirements here)

Breeder won't release puppy before 8 weeks +5

Breeder seems to have sound basis for, and recognizes differences in each pups temperament, has plans for helping pups with any problems to develop weaknesses into strengths +?

(Note: you won't be able to judge how accurate the breeder is with this until you've had one of her pups for at least a year, so who knows? So get references, particularly for any pups she considered a difficult or challenging placement, or a pup placed with someone who wanted a different one, but took the one the breeder recommended instead.)

Add points for each reference that you contact and get good feedback from, extra points if the owner had a problem dog and still likes the breeder!