

















Contract and Guarantee: (continued from page 1)













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

-  Companion pup sold with limited registration, only
-  Companion pup sold with spay neuter requirement, only
-  Companion pup sold with Ltd reg, and sp/n req, both
-  Hip and elbow x-rays required by age of two

Breeder Knowledge:

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

Temperament:

-  Dam not shy (this is NOT the same as aloof)
-  Sire not shy
-  Dam not aggressive or nippy (Note: if the dam is pregnant or the pups are on the ground, this cannot always be determined)
-  Sire not aggressive or nippy
-  Breeder thoroughly socializes puppies
-  Sound and tactile stimulation
-  Mental development, overcoming obstacles
-  Exposure to other dogs
-  Exposure to people
-  Exposure to children (Note: add your own special requirements here)
-  Breeder won't release puppy before 7 weeks
-  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!