

Be an Informed Buyer

Some questions to ask when talking to breeders.
(Make copies of this as you contact breeders so that you can keep your records straight.)

Breeder's name/Kennel Name _____
Phone number/email _____
Pups available **Y N** Next litter due _____

The breeder should have the official certificates available for these basic health clearances.

Dam Name _____ AKC# _____ Hips _____ Rating _____ Elbows _____ Rating _____ Cardiac _____ Eyes _____ DM Test A _____ DM Test B _____	Sire Name _____ AKC# _____ Hips _____ Rating _____ Elbows _____ Rating _____ Cardiac _____ Eyes _____ DM Test A _____ DM Test B _____
Dam's Dam Name _____ AKC# _____ Hips _____ Rating _____ Elbows _____ Rating _____ Cardiac _____ Eyes _____ DM Test A _____ DM Test B _____	Sire's Dam Name _____ AKC# _____ Hips _____ Rating _____ Elbows _____ Rating _____ Cardiac _____ Eyes _____ DM Test A _____ DM Test B _____
Dam's Sire Name _____ AKC# _____ Hips _____ Rating _____ Elbows _____ Rating _____ Cardiac _____ Eyes _____ DM Test A _____ DM Test B _____	Sire's Sire Name _____ AKC# _____ Hips _____ Rating _____ Elbows _____ Rating _____ Cardiac _____ Eyes _____ DM Test A _____ DM Test B _____

Important questions to ask

- Are you a member of any dog clubs? (They should be at least a member of the local or national breed club.)
- Are your dogs/puppies registered? (Dogs should be registered with the American Kennel Club or the Canadian Kennel Club. The breeder should not charge extra for registering the puppies, other than the fee to the kennel club.)
- Are your dogs shown & what titles do they have? (If the dogs aren't being shown, then why are they breeding?)
- Do you require spaying/neutering? (This should be a major point with the breeder, one that you need to agree on.)
- What health clearances/procedures do you require that puppy buyers do on their dogs?
 What about other breed specific issues that are not covered by current health testing? The BMDCA recommends that breeders have checked hips, elbows, heart, eyes, and degenerative myelopathy status. Additional testing may include checking thyroid levels, and genetic tests for vonWillebrand's disease and Histiocytic Sarcoma risk.
- What does the contract cover? Make sure that you review & understand the contract before purchase. (Contracts protect breeder, buyer, & puppy.)
- How old are the mother & father of this litter? (Are they at least 2 yrs, as required to get final health clearances?)
- What do I have to do to reserve a puppy and do you need a deposit?

RED FLAGS

Dogs are only listed by their call names.

WHY THIS IS BAD: Call names are simply the names that we use daily with our dogs. They are not unique. Every REGISTERED dog has a UNIQUE REGISTERED name. Using this registered name, you can check health clearances, health records, & titles on this dog through Bernergarde (www.bernergarde.org), OFA (www.offa.org), or AKC (www.akc.org).

Breeder charges more for females, for registered vs. non-registered, or for full vs limited registration.

WHY THIS IS BAD: First you should not be charged more to have a registrable dog registered. This is simply unethical. If a breeder is selling a dog on limited registration, that means that the breeder feels that this dog should not be bred or shown in conformation. This judgement should not be overturned by an additional payment. And females cost the same to produce & raise as males.

Background information, such as pedigrees and health clearances are not available until AFTER you have paid a deposit.

WHY THIS IS BAD: Ethical breeders want you to have this information so that you can make an informed decision on whether this is the right litter for you. If a breeder is trying to conceal this information, that usually means that there is a problem. This would include breeders who get angry when you ask for documentation of health clearances.

Breeder's only questions revolve around payment & s/he discourages you from coming to their kennel. Breeder requires non-refundable deposit.

WHY THIS IS BAD: Responsible breeders want to meet the whole family & make sure that breed & individual puppy are a good fit. You want to see whether the dogs are kept in a safe & clean environment & how the puppies are being socialized.

Breeder sells puppies through third parties (brokers, dealers, retail shops, auctions)

WHY THIS IS BAD: Responsible breeders want to make sure that their puppies are going to the right homes. Then they are available to the puppy's buyers if they have problems (training, health) to give support and advice. Responsible breeders will take back any puppies they produce for the life of the dog.



Breeder Info

Following is a list of breeders who are members of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Seattle. It is the sole responsibility of each individual breeder to follow a code of conduct, since the clubs do not inspect or otherwise approve the breeding practices of any particular breeder. If you are interested in buying a puppy, it is your responsibility to get the information you need to make that decision.

The BMDCGS DOES NOT endorse, inspect, guarantee or otherwise approve any particular breeders. We provide this list to help educate the public as they attempt to locate a breeder. This is not a comprehensive list.

Greg Cox
Onalaska, WA
(503)781-1794
snowypinesmtndogs@yahoo.com
snowypinesbern timers.com

Kathy Max
Snohomish, WA
(425)334-1029
maxberner@msn.com
cinnabarbmd.com

Susan Thompson
Snohomish, WA
(425)422-3008
forestwalkbmd@hotmail.com

Other resources for breeders in the Pacific Northwest:
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Oregon – bmdco.org
Inland Northwest Bernese Mountain Dog Club (E WA, ID, MT E OR) –
inlandnorthwestbmdc.weebly.com
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Northern California – norcalbern timers.org
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Alaska – bmdcofak.org
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Canada – bmdcc.ca
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America – bmdca.org

PLEASE NOTE: We have attempted to provide you with information that may assist you in making a well-informed decision. In the end, only you know what is best for you & your family. If, at any time, you are uncomfortable with a breeder, their answers to questions, or their facilities, we would encourage you to look elsewhere.