

Health tests, Certifications & more

HEALTH TESTS, CERTIFICATES AND REGISTRATION, TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF HEALTH



Any self-respecting breeder must know the strengths and weaknesses of the race he raises. It is the same for the descendants he chooses to develop.

The breeder must make every effort to preserve the strengths and eliminate weaknesses that are present or appear insidiously against his will. It is not always easy to identify the origins of forces as the causes of weaknesses.

The priority is to ensure that known weaknesses are eliminated. In the case of the Bernese Mountain Dog, it was determined that the priority was to focus on the quality of the hips of the parents and the quality of the elbows, as well as hereditary eye problems and heart, which are much less common. More recently, breeders have attempted and continue to try to control the von Willebrand factor.

Cancer has unfortunately appeared in the Bernese Mountain Dog, as in many races and as equally in human beings. Research could lead us into the future toward a possible genetic selection for that matter, but if genetic is part of the problem, the environment is also not negligible and need to be taken into consideration.



THE SELECTION

The breeder selects the female and male parents on several bases. It starts when they are puppies. The breeder observes the dog's behaviour with its siblings, its qualities, and the consistency in the temperament. The breeder can only watch closely while the dog grows up to reach its adulthood. Between the age of 8 and 12 months, it will be the right time to check the quality of hips and elbows (x-rays by the so-called "preliminary").

Once the dog goes through this step and the breeder is pleased, it's not the end of the process since the final picture may change until the age of two. At two years old, new X-rays will be preferably done under sedation to obtain muscle relaxation. The veterinarian will first ensure the identity of the dog and then he

will complete the form of certification. The X-rays are then sent to the United States and the breeder will receive a certificate for hips and another for elbows.

A stallion can reproduce after its 12-15 months, often with dogs from the breeder of other lines. It will only be used moderately until two years of age or until the authority officially certifies that its descendants can demonstrate their qualifications.

A female is not mated before 18 months and preferably only after its 20-24 months. Before or after the certification of hips and elbows, the breeder may choose to do various tests, such as CERF, or cardiac testing. DNA tests can help certify the descendant's genetic, and may as well, indicate the presence of vWD.

One day perhaps, tests will allow breeders to do a genetic selection even more rigorous. We must however be realistic, we can't set tests for every little thing, there would be too many of them and in any case this would mean taking the risk of decreasing the genetic diversity and variety of dogs. And many specialists in the field of agriculture are trying to preserve the original line of descents without any outside intervention on the genetic.



YOUR HELP IS PRECIOUS

We consider very important to establish a relationship with the new owner of the dog, and this is part of our requirements on the contract. As it is important that the breeder complies with the warranty, we would like to believe that the owner will comply as well with the breeder's request. The breeders understand that the law considers a dog a "thing", a personal property, and it does belong to its owner without the right for others to scrutiny. However, even if this law is unset or unfit to protect the well-being of domestic animals, we have to accept it the way it is until it will be changed. But this is not a law issue. The main interest in keeping in touch is partially because the puppies are somehow part of the family, even away! But the most important is to be there when the owner has questions and comments. Don't forget that we need your contribution to share valuable information about your dog. It is an opportunity to share good news, experiences, the temperament of the dog all along, but also the health and longevity. These are important issues which can thus shed new light on future decisions of our dogs and litters.



REGISTRATION

The registration procedures are simple. The accredited body is the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). Each litter is registered and a document is signed by the owners of the parents.

The CKC sends the documents to the owner of the female with an individual record for each puppy. If a puppy dies, the form must be returned to CKC.

Once the puppies are sold, the breeder has the duty to register each puppy in the name of its new owner (the first being the breeder). The CKC then provides a certificate for each puppy in the name of its new owner. All are sent to the breeder and then the breeder will handle them or mail them to the new owners. The law requires that the new owner must have the registration in hand within six months from the date of purchase.

COST OF REGISTRATION

The cost of registering a litter is \$ 21.00. The cost of registration for each puppy is between 34\$ and 70\$, depending on the time taken by the breeder to complete its steps.

You may think that the price of a registered dog depends on these fees since there is a quite big difference with a non-registered dog. But this is not what justifies the price. The health tests are. The serious breeders consider health tests as a way to ensure that there are no unknown health issues and they provide a warranty for that matter. And health tests, as it was said above, helps to maximize the health of the breed.



IN CONCLUSION

An Imier Kennel puppy comes from a planned mating based on visible qualities, testing and certification of both parents and their ancestors. Then we count on the carrying mother and Mother Nature's goodwill to combine their efforts in the coming months in hope of watching a bunch of little miracles arriving to this world, all to become so lovely and lovable puppies.