

Buying a Bernese Mountain Dog Puppy

What to expect from a Breeder who puts
Health, Welfare and Temperament First



✓ **Essential Documents**

- Signed AWF Puppy Contract
- KC Registration Certificate (if applicable)
- Microchip Registration Certificate
- Temporary Pet Health Insurance
- Vaccination Certificate
- Copies of Health Certificates

A good breeder will

- have socialised and habituated the puppy
- provide a supply of food
- provide a blanket smelling of Mum
- follow the Code of Practice for Dog Breeding



Health Certificates (Both Parents)

Official Health Schemes

- BVA/KC scheme for hip dysplasia (HD)
- BVA/KC scheme for elbow dysplasia (ED)
- BVA/KC screening for eye disease; full ophthalmological testing before breeding (includes checks for multiple inherited diseases)

DNA tests relevant to breed

- **DM - degenerative myelopathy**
- **Histiocytic sarcoma complex (risk grading test)**

<http://bernese.co.uk/health/>
http://bernese.co.uk/health/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/Bernese_-FINAL_BHCP.pdf
www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html



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Brief explanations and other diseases that may be more common in the breed – if in doubt then consult your vet for guidance

Official Health Schemes

Hip dysplasia - abnormal formation of the hip joint - pain and lameness

Elbow dysplasia - abnormal formation of the elbow joint - pain and lameness

DNA tests relevant to breed

DM - degenerative myelopathy – progressive weakness and paralysis of back legs

Histiocytic sarcoma complex (risk grading test) – aggressive cancer of immune system

Other Diseases - no current health scheme or DNA test available

Cancers (various)

GDV - Gastro dilatation/volvulus ('bloat') - stomach fills with air and twists, can be fatal

Short lifespan – ask about life expectancy in the puppy's relatives