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Questions to Ask Before Buying a B&T Puppy

The best thing you can do for yourself and your puppy is to educate and commit yourself to finding the best, healthiest, most well-bred puppy you can find. Remember, you're in for a commitment of probably 10 to 12 years.

What should I ask the Breeder?

1. How many of the dogs within the pedigree, have you actually seen and had hands on? Tell me everything you know about the sire and dame. (You want to know more than what is on the pedigree)
2. What is the incidence of dysplasia, bloat, allergies, thyroid problems, heart problems, eye problems etc. within the pedigree?
3. Were there any temperament problems in the ancestry of the puppies?
4. Do you temperament test? What test do you use? How do you evaluate? (ask the Breeder to show you the results. Have the Breeder explain them. If they can't, what good is the test)
5. How much time do you plan on spending on the planning of the litter and the rearing of the puppies?
6. What are the sire's/dame's worst/best trait/fault?
7. Are the sire and dame OFA Certified? Do you have evidence? What about further back in the pedigree? (learn about dysplasia-prior to asking questions about it.)
8. Do you offer a Health/Temperament guarantee on your puppies? What is it? If I have a problem, will I have to return my pup? (This is emotionally traumatic, though with some health problems, it is necessary. You will want to find a Breeder who is not just committed to their litter, but to the breed as a whole)
9. Are you willing and able to answer my questions for the life of the dog?
10. Do you require a spay/neuter agreement on companion-quality dogs? (This is a good thing)
11. Are you knowledgeable about the B&T? Can you/will you answer my special medical, food and training questions? Will you be honest and tell me when you don't know the answer? Do you have access to resources when the questions stretch beyond your knowledge?
12. What are the most important things that you are striving for in your breeding program? (Temperament should be the first along with Health!) Why did you breed these particular dogs?
13. Will you supply at least a 4 generation pedigree, the puppy's health record and instructions on how to properly take care of my new dog?
14. What titles (conformation, obedience, hunting) titles are in the pedigree? How far back? How many dogs? What titles are you currently working on?
15. May I see/visit with both parents?

16. What is your philosophy on breeding in general and with respect to the B&T?
17. What Clubs are you active in?
18. What references can you give me of previous purchasers of your puppies?

What the Breeder should be asking you.

1. Are you the right kind of person for a B&T? Have you researched the B&T?
2. Are you the right kind of person for this particular litter of puppies?
3. What do you want to do with this puppy? What are your expectations?
4. What experience do you have with hounds, scent hounds, the B&T?
5. Do you plan on spaying/neutering the puppy?
6. Do you have the facilities to keep a B&T?
7. Do you have the financial means to feed and Vet a B&T?
8. Where will the dog live in the family?
9. What kind of exercise will the dog get?
10. Do you have references from a Vet, neighbors etc?