

“...BUT I ONLY WANT A PET...”

This is an all-too-common response when the subject of where to purchase a puppy is discussed. Think about what you really mean by that statement.

Does it mean you will be happy with a Bernese Mountain Dog which doesn't look much like the dogs which initially attracted you to the breed?

Does it mean you will be happy with a puppy from a breeder whose sole motivation for breeding is to make money? Consequently, whether your puppy has genetic problems, like crippling hip displasia, or eye problems, or worse still, temperament problems, is left entirely up to chance.

Does it mean your expectations from a breeder are so low that you are OK with the idea that the breeder takes no responsibility for their puppies once they have been sold? That a breeder's indiscriminate overbreeding has strained the efforts of the Breed's rescue program to the limit?

If you have answered YES to these questions, then check out the ads in the local newspaper, or those pretty websites. This is where most bad breeders find their puppy buyers.

If, however, you have answered NO to these questions, then you need to think about what you are really looking for in your berner pup.

DON'T SHORTCHANGE YOURSELF!!

Your requirements are VERY demanding. As a family pet, your dog should be sound in body and brain. You want a healthy dog that will hopefully live a long, pain-free life. And how about temperament? You want a dog you can trust to be stable and non-aggressive around yourself, your children and their playmates, your family and friends. You want a dog that won't bite the mailman.

Don't be intimidated about talking to "show" breeders. Most ethical breeders do show their dog, and while they are hoping to produce the next show champion, most of their puppies go to pet homes like yours. **JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT A PET** is no excuse for you to buy from a bad breeder.