

# Bedlington Terrier Stud Dog Evaluation Checklist

## BTCA Breeder Education Resource

This checklist is designed to help Bedlington Terrier breeders make informed, ethical, and breed-preserving decisions when selecting a stud dog. It is not intended to rank or endorse stud dogs, but to encourage thoughtful evaluation based on health, genetics, structure, temperament, and long-term breed impact.

**Name of Stud Dog:** \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION 1: Purpose of the Breeding

Before evaluating any stud dog, clearly define the goal of the breeding.

- What are the **primary strengths** of the bitch?
- What weaknesses should **not be doubled**?
- Is this breeding intended to:
  - Improve breed type
  - Maintain a valuable bloodline
  - Introduce genetic diversity
  - Produce future breeding stock

**Successful stud selection begins with understanding the bitch.**

## SECTION 2: Health & Genetic Considerations

Health evaluation must include both **testing and family history**.

### Required Knowledge

- Copper Storage Disease (DNA status known)
- Understanding of CSD within the **extended pedigree**
- Kidney, cardiac, eye, and neurological health history reviewed
- Longevity trends in parents, siblings, and offspring
- No pattern of unexplained early deaths in the line

## Genetic Risk Assessment

- Risk is evaluated across generations—not just individual test results
- Carrier status understood and managed responsibly
- Avoidance of doubling known problem lines

**Health is not a checkbox—it is a pattern.**

## SECTION 3: Pedigree & Production Evaluation

A stud dog should be evaluated for what he *produces*, not only how he looks.

- Pedigree studied at least **three generations back**
- Strengths and weaknesses common to the line identified
- Linebreeding vs. outcross strategy understood
- COI reviewed and placed in context (not used in isolation)

### If Proven:

- Offspring evaluated at maturity (2–4 years)
- Consistency of type noted
- Structural or temperament patterns identified

### If Unproven:

- Sire and dam quality evaluated
- Littermates assessed
- Risk acknowledged and planned for

## SECTION 4: Breed Type & Structural Soundness

Stud dogs should exemplify correct Bedlington Terrier type and movement.

### Type

- Correct pear-shaped head
- Proper expression
- Balanced outline with correct arch over loin
- Masculinity without coarseness

## **Structure & Movement**

- Clean front assembly
- Strong, flexible topline
- Light, springy, effortless movement
- Structural soundness maintained under motion

**Flash should never replace function.**

## **SECTION 5: Temperament & Trainability**

Temperament is heritable and critical to breed preservation.

- Stable and confident temperament
- Appropriate terrier character without sharpness
- Comfortable in a family environment
- Trainable and manageable in grooming and showing
  
- Reports from owners of offspring reviewed
- No pattern of nervousness, aggression, or instability

## **SECTION 6: Genetic Diversity & Breed Impact**

Each breeding decision affects the future of the breed.

- Stud is not overused within the breed
- Breeding supports genetic diversity
- Avoidance of popular sire syndrome
- Long-term impact considered beyond the immediate litter

**Preservation breeding requires restraint as well as ambition.**

## **SECTION 7: The Stud Dog Owner Partnership**

The relationship with the stud owner matters.

- Open and honest discussion of faults
- Transparency regarding health and production
- Clear stud contract and expectations
- Shared commitment to ethical breeding practices

## **SECTION 8: Ethical Responsibility**

- Breeding contributes positively to the Bedlington Terrier
- Puppies placed responsibly
- Breeder stands behind what is produced
- Willingness to share outcomes—good or bad—with the breed community

## **Final Evaluation Summary**

- This pairing has been evaluated holistically
- Risks are understood and accepted
- Benefits outweigh potential drawbacks
- The breeding supports the long-term health and integrity of the Bedlington Terrier