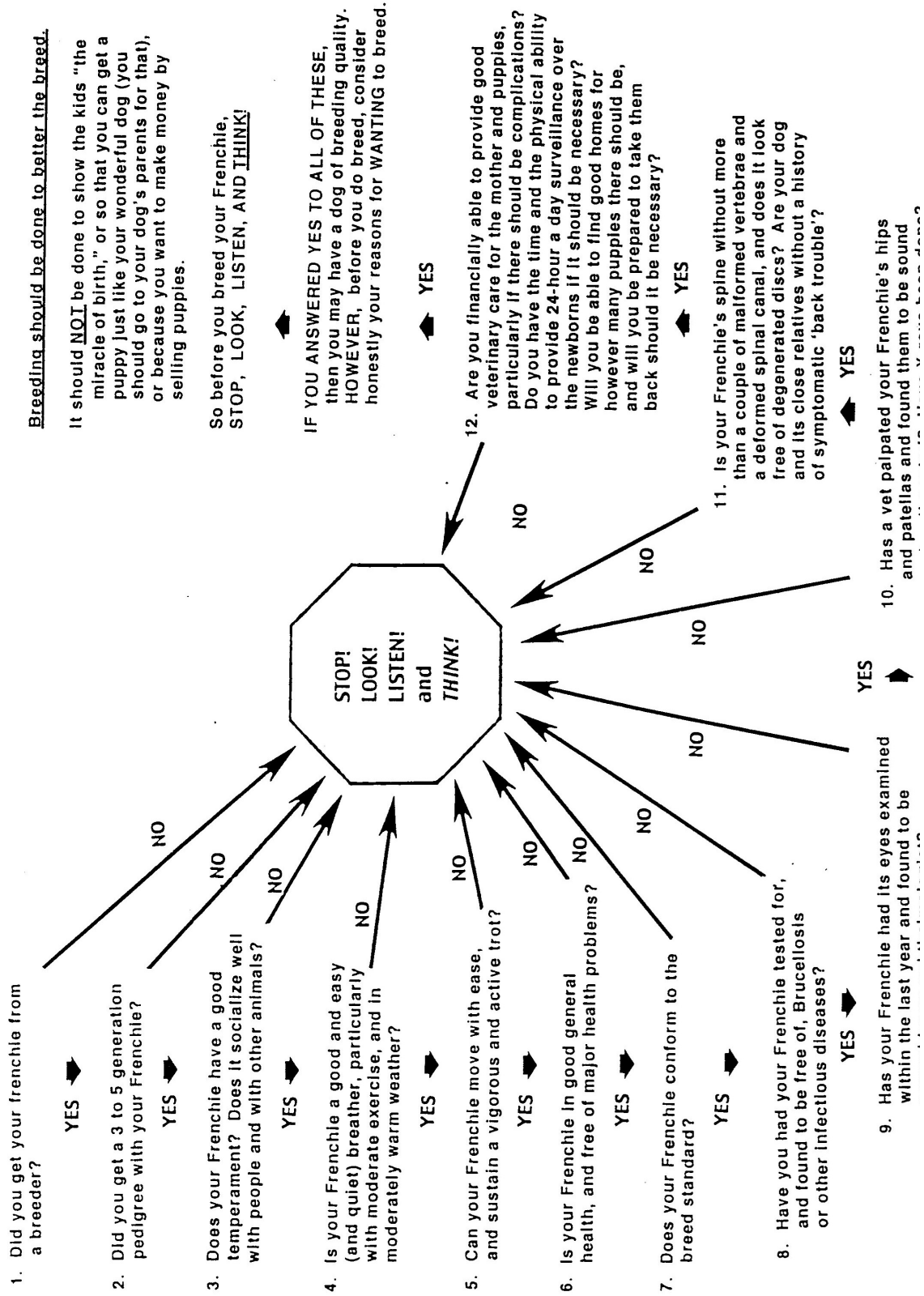


SHOULD I BREED MY FRENCH BULLDOG?



1. Did you get your frenchie from a breeder? Dogs sold in pet stores are seldom good specimens of the breed, and are often unhealthy.
2. Did you get a 3 to 5 generation pedigree with your Frenchie? A reputable breeder will always provide a pedigree so that you can see your dog's lineage.
3. Does your Frenchie have a good temperament? Does it socialize well with people and with other animals? If you can't tell, take the dog out to training classes. The instructor can help you evaluate the dog's temperament. Dogs with bad temperaments should not be bred, regardless of how good their conformation may be.
4. Is your Frenchie a good and easy (and quiet) breather, particularly with moderate exercise, and in moderately warm weather? Frenchies with bad airways are difficult to manage in hot weather and can have problems with any sort of stress or exercise. If you can't tell, have your vet evaluate the dog's airway.
5. Can your Frenchie move with ease, and sustain a vigorous and active trot? A variety of orthopedic problems contribute to poor movement, and may have an inheritable basis. If you can't tell, visit dog shows and compare your dog's gait with that of other Frenchies. Have a reputable breeder help you evaluate it.
6. Is your Frenchie in good general health, and free of major health problems? An unhealthy bitch is more likely to have trouble with pregnancy and whelping, and some health problems could be inherited by the puppies from either parent.
7. Does your Frenchie conform to the breed standard? Do not breed Frenchie who is not a good specimen of the breed, hoping that somehow the puppies will conform better to the standard. If you don't know whether your dog has good conformation, read and study the standard, talk with experienced breeders and ask them for an honest assessment of your dog.
8. Have you had your Frenchie tested for, and found to be free of, Brucellosis or other infectious diseases? There are infections of the reproductive tract that can be transmitted during a natural mating (or from dog to bitch during artificial insemination), and can also prevent or terminate pregnancy or cause problems for the puppies after birth.
9. Has your Frenchie had its eyes examined by an ophthalmologist within the last year and found to be normal? There are several eye conditions in Frenchies that are thought to be inheritable. Only a veterinary ophthalmologist with the necessary specialized equipment can detect some of these.
10. Has a vet palpated your Frenchie's hips and patellas and found them to be sound and well-seated? Have X-rays been done? Though hip dysplasia is not the problem in Frenchies that it is in larger breeds, it is a good idea to know the status of your dog's hips, so that if they are severely deficient you can take this into consideration when deciding whether, and to whom, to breed your Frenchie.
11. Is your Frenchie's spine without more than a couple of malformed vertebrae and a deformed spinal canal, and does it look free of degenerated discs? Are your dog and its close relatives without a history of symptomatic 'back trouble'? Most symptomatic back problems in Frenchies are due to premature disc degeneration and herniation, and other degenerative processes. Hemivertebrae are very common in the breed and do not usually cause any trouble unless they protrude into the spinal canal or impinge on the spinal nerves exiting the spine. It is a good idea to avoid breeding Frenchies with many malformed vertebrae or prematurely degenerated discs.
12. Are you financially able to provide good veterinary care for the mother and puppies, particularly if there should be complications? The tests for infections, eye exams and orthopedic exams that you should have done can be expensive, in addition to routine veterinary care and the added costs of prenatal care, possible cesarean section, and immunizations for puppies. If you are not prepared to make a financial commitment to a breeding that could end up costing you a significant amount of money, then do not breed your Frenchie.