

Sphinx Breeder Health-Screening Checklist

A buyer's checklist for evaluating health-testing claims before choosing a Sphinx kitten.

Use this as a conversation tool, not a guarantee. No breeder or test can promise that a cat will never develop disease. Look for transparent, repeated, evidence-based screening and responsible follow-up.

1. HCM & Cardiac Screening

- ☐ Breeding parents receive echocardiograms for HCM/cardiomyopathy screening.
- ☐ Cardiac screening is repeated while cats remain active in the breeding program.
- ☐ The breeder can tell me when each parent was last scanned.
- ☐ The breeder can explain who performed the scan and the examiner's cardiology credentials or experience.
- ☐ The breeder understands that a normal scan is a snapshot in time, not a lifetime guarantee.
- ☐ The breeder does not claim that a DNA result makes echocardiography unnecessary.

2. DNA & Genetic Screening

- ☐ The breeder uses a recognized feline DNA panel and can identify the panel or laboratory.
- ☐ The breeder understands that DNA panels test only for specific known variants included in that panel.
- ☐ Carrier or risk results are used thoughtfully in breeding decisions rather than treated as a simple pass/fail label.
- ☐ The breeder does not use “DNA clear” to imply the cat is free of every hereditary condition.

3. FIV / FeLV & Breeding-Cattery Health

- ☐ The FIV and FeLV status of breeding cats is known.
- ☐ New cats entering the breeding program are appropriately screened before integration.
- ☐ The breeder has a plan for retesting after meaningful exposure risk or other veterinary indications.

4. Parent Testing vs. Kitten Veterinary Care

A responsible breeder should clearly separate screening performed on breeding parents from routine veterinary care provided to kittens before placement.

Breeding Parents	Kittens Before Placement
HCM echocardiograms	Veterinary wellness examinations
DNA/genetic screening	Age-appropriate vaccinations
FIV/FelV status	Deworming / parasite management
Ongoing breeding-health evaluation	Microchip and veterinary records
Health history used in breeding decisions	Health certificate / go-home documentation when applicable

5. Questions to Ask the Breeder

- ☐ When were the kitten's parents last screened by echocardiogram?
- ☐ Who performed those scans?
- ☐ Do you repeat HCM screening on active breeding cats?
- ☐ What DNA panel do you use?
- ☐ How do you use carrier or risk results when planning breedings?
- ☐ Are your breeding cats tested for FIV and FeLV?
- ☐ What veterinary care will my kitten receive before going home?
- ☐ What records will I receive with my kitten?
- ☐ How does your health guarantee address hereditary conditions?
- ☐ What is your policy if a breeding cat later develops a concerning or equivocal cardiac finding?

6. Health-Testing Red Flags

- ☐ “The parents are DNA clear, so HCM is impossible.”
- ☐ No dates are provided for HCM screening claims.
- ☐ A routine physical exam is presented as equivalent to an echocardiogram.
- ☐ A single young-age scan is treated as sufficient for the cat's entire breeding career.
- ☐ The breeder refuses to discuss parental health history or testing.
- ☐ “Health tested” is used without explaining what was actually tested.

7. Quick Decision Checklist

- ☐ Repeated HCM echocardiograms on active breeding cats
- ☐ DNA testing used as an additional tool, not a substitute for heart imaging
- ☐ FIV/FelV status of breeding cats is known
- ☐ Clear distinction between parent screening and kitten veterinary care
- ☐ Veterinary and vaccination records provided at go-home
- ☐ Health guarantee available to review before purchase
- ☐ Breeder tracks health findings across generations
- ☐ Breeder answers health questions clearly and without vague claims

Read the complete guide:
purradoxsphinxery.com/health-screening-guide/

Notes
