

January/February 2020

The Berner Blatt

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley

THE CLUB FOR NEW ENGLAND BERNERS & THEIR FAMILIES



***Congratulations to Buffy Bell on her new Champion and Versatility dog, Rain!
CH Tennescott Green Mtns Summer Rain CD RE NDD TDI FDC CGC VD***

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BMDCNV *Calendar of Events*

~ 2020 ~

July 25
Summer Picnic
Vermont

September 26
Fall Fun Day
Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds
Westford, MA

September 26 & 27
Fall Draft Tests
Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds
Westford, MA

Note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all upcoming events are tentative and subject to change.

FMI: www.bmdcnv.org/events.html

Share photos & videos of your Berners!
Join the Facebook group at



fb.com/groups/BMDCNVMembers

Welcome! New Members

William Flynn
Stoneham, MA

Jean Bambara
North Kingstown, RI

Lorraine Salter
Reading, MA

Linda Hill
Hingham, MA

Nicole Burbridge
Weymouth, MA

Jessica Foley
Hingham, MA

Jacqueline Robertson
Norwell, MA

Charlene Bregoli
Braintree, MA

Rebecca Fay & Scott
Jansen
Holbrook, MA

Wendy Barrett
Lexington, MA

Submitting Info to the Blatt is EASY!

The BernerBlatt is your newsletter and we love your submissions! Birthdays, memorials, brags and anything you think is interesting to the members is not only easy, it's recommended and encouraged. Type your message in the body of an email and attach your favorite, high resolution jpeg photo.

Be sure to include complete name(s) and where you are from. That's it! We'll do the rest.

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from the President...

As we are now into Spring, we begin with a rough start with the Coronavirus reaching and affecting every corner of our country and globally. I hope that you are all keeping safe and that we are all able to get through this tough time together.

As I reflect on 2019, I want to thank all our membership and non-members as well for making 2019 a great success for Nashoba Valley! We had many great events that were made possible by the dedication of so many of you! It was also a learning curve for those of you who made the 2019 Back-to-Back Draft Tests in October possible. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the hard work of Anya Wittenborg, who stepped up as Secretary, and Draft Committee members Susan Nowak, Julie Mott, Lynn Jones, and Marge Bumen who helped to meet deadlines and keep things organized and moving, and appreciate all that you and the draft committee are doing to prepare for our 2020 Fall Draft Tests. Nashoba also held wonderful Spring and Fall Fun Days, Summer Picnic, Farm Dog Certification Testing, OFA Clinic, and finished with a successful Retreat Weekend in November! Huge thank you to all our chairs and volunteers for helping with these events, we truly couldn't have done it without you!

We had many great events and training opportunities planned for 2020 that are now being scaled back as a result of COVID-19 but will hope to be able to hold some of them in 2020 and hope that if you are able that you might consider participating in and/or consider stepping up to chair or be on a committee! It takes a village and love of Berners to make our events run smoothly and

we can't do it without your help!

We unfortunately had to postpone the Annual Meeting from April 19th to our Spring Fund Day which was scheduled for Saturday, June 6th, but were contacted by the Middlesex County 4-H to advise the club that they have cancelled all events at the 4-H Fairgrounds indefinitely due to COVID-19. The Spring and Fall Fun Days are our major events for our members and we will remain hopeful that by September things will be back to some sort of normalcy and that we will be able to have our Fall Fun Day and be able to celebrate Fall and being able to get back to socializing with all of you and your Berners!

I also would like to apologize for the delay in getting the Blatt out on a regular and timely basis. We all look forward to receiving them and our goal is to get back on track for 2020! Please send any brags, birthday photos, articles of interest to our editor anytime throughout the year and we thank you for your patience!

A schedule of events for 2020 has been posted on our website, FB page, and in the 2020 Blatt newsletters and will be updated as we navigate through the next few months. Again, please consider donating your time – it is a great way to get an inside view of what skills are needed to run the event, and to learn what kinds of training and equipment is needed for different events and working as a team with your dog.

Please stay safe and thank you again for a great 2019 and we look forward to seeing you and your beautiful Berners at some upcoming events!

Your club President,
Jean Michael

Annual Meeting Info

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak and the current state of emergency, Nashoba Valley will not be holding its Annual Meeting that was scheduled for Saturday, April 19th at the Boxborough Regency Hotel & Conference Center in Boxboro. The Board met on March 11, 2020 and due to the risks and uncertainty involved with this disease, we are unsure of a meeting date and must wait until the danger of the Coronavirus has passed. More information will be forthcoming in the Blatt and social media platforms.

Thank you for your understanding and we wish you all the best of luck as we get through the next few months!
Jean Michael, President BMDCNV

For title certificates for Annual Meeting: To have your dog recognized for a title they earned in 2019 at the Annual Meeting please send copies of certificates to Barbie Beck-Wilczek by April 20th. AKC or BMDCA titles. Must have been earned in 2019. Please send a copy of the

certificate showing dog's registered name, owner, award. Can be sent to barbieandbill@wilczekwoodworks.com (pdf or photo) or mailed via USPS at:

Barbie Beck-Wilczek
1786 Broomstick Hill Rd
Littleton, NH 03561

Deadline: April 20, 2019



BMDCA Info Series #212: Learning About the BMD Through Berner-Garde

The Berner-Garde Foundation (“BGF” or Berner-Garde – www.bernergarde.org) was established to collect, maintain, and disseminate information about genetic diseases observed in the Bernese Mountain Dog. BGF is an independent, tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization with its own Board of Directors. Its mission is “... to ensure that all Bernese Mountain Dogs (BMD) have a long and healthy lifespan of twelve-fourteen years.” According to the most recent BMDCA Health Report, the dogs included in that analysis, on average, lived to be a little less than eight years old. (http://www.bmdca.org/health/Miscellaneous/2005_BMDCA_Health_Survey.pdf) The BGF database contains information that has been compiled over many years from voluntary submissions received from owners and other public information sources, including the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) and the Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF). The information in the BernerGarde database is publicly available online, free of charge to everyone. Puppy buyers, owners, and breeders can use the database for a wide variety of purposes, as can all veterinarians and researchers, especially those who are working to reduce genetic disease in the breed.

Among the critically important features to ongoing users and those that delight new users are the system’s ease of use, robust search capabilities, and evergrowing database. Mining meaningful information has never been so easy! The primary focus of this Info Sheet is to describe some of the BGF database search capabilities and suggest how the information gathered might assist in breed and breeder research. Remember that the results of this research should be combined with insights gained through initiatives such as discussions with others knowledgeable about the breed, interviews with breeders through which you can assess rapport and fit with your expectations, networking, kennel visits, and reference checking. Other roles and resources provided by Berner-Garde also will be outlined, and the ease and importance of inputting data into the database are highlighted.

BGF Database & Learning About BMDs

There are several “Reports and Queries” categories that might be of interest to those wanting to get insights about the breed. All of the BGF database queries utilize drop-down menus and are “select-and-click” simple to use. Once the user has selected the parameters for a search and hits “submit,” a list of dogs meeting the search criteria will be shown on the computer screen. Within each dog’s listing, there are active links upon which the viewer can click if additional information is desired about that dog, its owner, or breeder. This includes access to the dog’s pedigree, photo if on file, health information, etc. As an example, an individual contemplating the breed who is interested in competitive/performance activities, such as Agility, could click on the “Dogs By Title/Award Query” button, select “Agility Excellent Preferred” from the extensive drop-down menu, and then view the list of records that will appear.

The menu contains virtually all of the recognized titles and sponsoring organizations in obedience, rally, agility, tracking, draft/carting, herding, conformation, etc. in which Berners and their owners compete in the US, Canada, UK, and many other countries. A similar search capability can be found in the “Health Query” section. From drop-down menus, the individual first selects data elements by category, such as “Cancer/Neoplasms/Tumors,” then selects a diagnosis such as “Osteosarcoma,” and then selects a “Location,” such as “Legs.” In this case well over fifty records appear that provide the individual with access to the files of each dog, owner, and breeder for further information if desired. Currently, there are 14 health categories, and when combined with the drop-down menus in “Diagnosis” and “Location,” the ability to “slice-and-dice” this data is almost endless.

Another valuable research tool is the “Certification/ Test Query.” Here the drop-down menus are organized by the following categories: “Evaluated by”; “What was tested”; “Findings”; “Sex”; and an optional “beginning date” and “end date” so that items within a specific time period can be isolated. An example of how this resource might be utilized would be to query BMDs having been evaluated by PennHIP (Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program) or a subset thereof. All of the health certifications that are recommended specifically for BMDs by the BMDCA, in addition to others, are included in this portion of the database. Again, this query capability offers answers to endless questions with only the effort of a little thought and a few clicks. Another feature is the ability to search for veterinarians and vet hospitals that have been entered into the system. From that information you can access the dog’s record. Irresistible! But what facts can be learned through the BernerGarde database?

BGF Database & Learning About BMD Breeders

Again, the old saying of “let your fingers do the walking” applies. If you attended a dog-related event, for example, and saw a Berner in which you are interested but only managed to get its registered or call name, you might not know how to find contact information for the breeder or owner. If the dog has been entered into the BGF database, there are several ways you can try to find this information. Once you have entered the online database as a “Guest,” click on “Dogs,” and enter the dog’s registered or call name and any additional information you have. Hopefully its record will appear. If you are a BMDCA member you also could use the “Kennel Name Report,” for often times the first “word” in a dog’s registered name is the kennel name of the breeder. If you managed to get all or part of the owner’s or breeder’s name but not the dog’s name, you would click on the “People” button and follow a similar process to find the information you are seeking.

The BGF database is a great tool for puppy buyers who want to learn about BMD breeders and some of their breeding practices. For Bernese, there are several health-

tests and certifications that responsible breeders are sure to complete, consider in their breeding decisions, and disclose to others. While responsible breeders often complete and share the results of additional tests (e.g., thyroid and Degenerative Myelopathy screening), the current BMDCA-recommended health and certification information for Berners is: AKC DNA profile, von Willebrand's Disease, Hip Dysplasia, Elbow Dysplasia, Eye Clearance, and Congenital Heart Disease. All of this information is maintained in the BGF database. Breeders and owners also are encouraged to enter health information, including cause and date of death, throughout the dog's life. By searching through the "People" function to locate the breeder, a puppy buyer can mine considerable information. The first red flag should be if the BMD breeder and his/her dogs are not entered into the BGF database. The next thing to verify is whether a BMD breeder is consistently completing and reporting health-test and evaluation results. The database user also can see what the results are for that breeder's dogs over time, the longevity of that breeder's lines, health issues that have been reported, and other information that is contained in the various dogs' records under that breeder's name.

Another powerful tool for puppy buyers, breeders, and others is the "Litters Bred" query through which one can navigate to gather information about health-evaluation results, health information, longevity, etc. for any dog's dam, sire, half-siblings from other litters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc. Two quick things to look for are completeness and absence of data. This can help verify a breeder's participation in open information sharing and preliminarily assess claims made regarding his/her dogs and/or breeding history (e.g., "my lines are cancer-free and long-lived"). For example, if there is data on only one puppy out of a litter of eight, or if there is no multi-generational data on related dogs, these statements seemingly lack substantiation and should prompt you to ask for additional details.

All of this information can be helpful to a puppy buyer who is gathering facts and trying to find a responsible breeder. All of these insights should be combined with knowledge gained from a personal visit(s) to the breeder's kennel where rapport with the breeder can be assessed, as can the temperament and type of the litter, dam, and sire, if he is available.

BGF Database & Running Simple Reports

Once it becomes apparent how simple the Berner-Garde database is to use, the fact-based buyer, owner, and breeder might wish to explore its other capabilities, for they are equally easy and intuitive. Reports by offspring, owner, breeder, stud book, and other categories can be generated. Through "The Bernese Mountain Dog Stud Finder" one can run a report with search parameters that include drop-down menu selections for age/health, certification testing, location (where the dog resides), and other criteria (champion/non-champion and photo availability). Also, functionality has been built into the BGF database so the user can run "Trial Pedigrees" and evaluate a multi-generation pedigree as if a breeding had taken place between the selected sire and dam.

Other Berner-Garde Roles & Resources

On the Home Page on the BGF website, there are navigation buttons allowing easy access to other important and helpful information. The current health studies that target Bernese Mountain Dogs are listed by category with information that includes the disease(s) being studied, researcher(s), and contact information for participation and more information. Additional research studies of interest to the BMD community also are listed with links. As part of its mission to improve the health and longevity of Berners, Berner-Garde and Michigan State University, with support from the BMDCA, have established a Repository that collects, stores, and maintains DNA and tumor tissue samples from Bernese Mountain Dogs. The goal of the Repository is to facilitate research on serious genetic diseases affecting the breed. The samples collected, along with the health and pedigree information in the Berner-Garde database, will assist researchers who have been hampered in the past by the lack of samples as well as insufficient medical and pedigree information. Everyone who has a Berner can help, as DNA samples are needed from both healthy and affected dogs. Information about how to submit samples is provided on the website.

Inputting BMD Information into the BG Database

While the focus of this Info Sheet has been on retrieving and using data from the BGF database, it is important to note how quick and easy it is to enter information about your Berner into the system. One simply clicks on "Submit Data," then selects "Individual Dog Submission Form" and completes the short electronic form, which only takes a few minutes. The task will be even faster if you have your dog's AKC Registration Form and breeder's name and contact information handy when you do this. It is important that every Berner's information is entered into the system, even if the dog is not going to be used for breeding, since one of its close relatives might be. Obtaining and reporting health-evaluation results for hips and elbows, heart disease, eye disease, etc., on all BMDs is critical in assessing health advancements over time. As your dog ages, be sure to enter health updates including the cause and date of death. If your Berner has a tumor or illness that is the subject of a research study, please consider participating in that study and submitting tissue to the Repository. All of these actions are part of responsible ownership, and with the collective impact of Berner owners working together, we can achieve the goals of steadily increasing the breed's average length of life while also enhancing the breed's quality of life.

For more information, please visit our website at www.bmdca.org. The information provided in this Info Series is reliable but not guaranteed. It is for educational purposes only, and the BMDCA assumes no liability for its use. No alterations may be made to this material without permission from the BMDCA, and the document must be reproduced in its entirety.

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The Annual BMDCNV Winter Walk

What an amazing winter walk! We had a really good day for it, and we had 80 people and 53 dogs signed in, from six states: MA, ME, NH, CT, RI & NC. Over \$600 was raised for the club through raffle and donations.

Eight new members joined BMDCNV and many new entries to Berner garde. Thanks to Adam Conn for entering the information!

Huge shout out to my girls, Jessica & Nicole for organizing all the raffle donations into beautiful baskets and setting up ticket sales and welcome table!

Thanks to my husband Richard and all his siblings for the many trips to and from the car & truck!

Thanks to Stephanie and Bill Freeman for bringing the clubs Paws N Shop items for us to shop, such a big job!

Big shout out for hands on help the day of the walk... Dawn Flaherty, Anya Wittenborg, Allison & Ray Harding, Sheila Durfee and Cici Tolman.

It takes a village, and Berner folk are the best! I am afraid to list all the people that donated to raffle and brought food. I can't remember you all and I would hate to forget anyone. You know who you are, thank you!!

— Alise Burbidge





Show Results



Champlain Valley Kennel Club BMDCNV Supported Entry

December 6, 2019

JUDGE: MRS. MARY ALICE ESCHWEILER

BEST OF BREED

CH RIVERWOOD'S NIGHT WIND

Owner: Laurel Wood Breeder: Laurel Wood

BEST OF OPPOSITE

CH PLAINSONG'S CLASSIC COUNTRY

Owner: Wendy Bennett & Pam Swisher Breeder: Pam & Kevin Swisher

WINNER'S DOG/BEST OF WINNERS

HARRY POTTER DE LLOBU ASTUR

Owner: Wendy Bennett Breeder: Ana Belen Alvarez Gutierrez

RESERVE WINNER'S DOG

WINTERGREEN'S EVERY SAILOR'S DREAM

Owner: Susan Van Ocker Breeder: Susan Van Ocker

WINNER'S BITCH

REDBARN ONE FOR THE ROAD

Owner: Joan Diers & Diane Caldwell Breeder: Diane Caldwell

RESERVE WINNER'S BITCH

TENNESCOTT GREEN MTNS SUMMER RAIN CD RE CGC TKI FDC

Owner: Wynanda Bell

Breeder: Wynanda Bell & Barbara Beck-Wilczek

BEST OF BREED OWNER HANDLED

GCHB WINTERGREEN'S AUTUMN CELEBRATION CD RN BDD CGCA

Owner: Susan Van Ocker

Breeder: Susan Van Ocker

SELECT DOG

GCHS MARBENS A TRUE SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN

Owner: Kim Dekker-Collins & Tiggy Gerli

Breeder: Tiggy Gerli

SELECT BITCH

GCHS SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE SOULBERN

Owner: Linda O Sullivan

Breeder: Anna Kochanowska

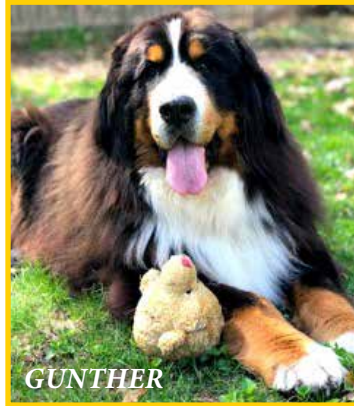


BERNER INC. SAYS GOODBYE TO TWO OF OUR VETERANS

By Linda DeCelles, Rescue Chair

The new year began with the loss of 9-year-old GUNTHER and 12-year-old JACK. Both were big Berner boys with big hearts and large personalities. Both represent what we do at BERNER INC: Place needy Berners in homes where they will be cared for and loved for the rest of their lives.

GUNTHER came from a bad domestic situation. He was in terrible shape, weighed 174 pounds and could barely walk. His coat stunk and was inches thick with dirt, twigs and seashells. It took four people to lift him into the car when Gib Otten and I went to pick him up. But from the minute we met him, Gunther was smiling and loving. It took our groomers over eight hours to clean him up. A handsome but obese Berner was revealed! Heather Hovley and Thomas Dumas had the perfect home for Gunther. There was an instant connection between them and their Great Pyrenees rescue. With a diet and exercise (including swimming pool therapy) Gunther lost over 40 pounds and became a healthy, active dog. Gunther and Heather became especially close and she nicknamed him "The Muppet." After many happy, healthy years, Gunther succumbed to severe arthritis and other older Berner ailments.



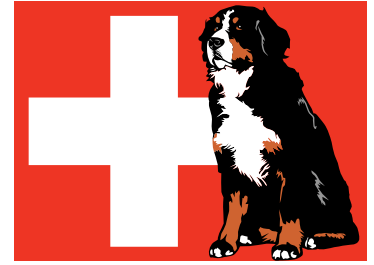
JACK was given by his original owner to his mother due to various life problems, but she was physically incapable of caring for a big dog. Jack was the first Berner Gib and I

fostered for BERNER, Inc. He was a delightful and companionable boy. After many healthy years with his adopters, the Giannelli family, Jack began to develop the typical ailments of an aging Berner. But Mark and Cindy Giannelli were determined to keep him healthy for as long as they could. Jack and Cindy were constant companions as she found every possible supplement and medication to keep him going. He amazed his veterinarians with his resiliency and youthful outlook. Sadly, though, Jack got cancer, and though the Giannellis and their two other Berners continued to help Jack enjoy life, at Stage 4 he could no longer go on.

The families who adopted **GUNTHER** and **JACK** represent the committed and devoted people BERNER Inc. looks for when we rehome the Berners in our rescue program. Many of our dogs come into rescue with health and behavior issues. Their adopters provide all the resources and funds that these Berners need to be healthy and happy for life. Above all, their adopters give them the unconditional love and attention all Berners need. A BIG thank you to all of our BERNER Inc. adopters!



BERNER INC



EDUCATION & RESCUE
WE ARE THE RESCUE ARM OF THE NASHOBA CLUB
bernerinc.org

BERNER INC

BERNESE EDUCATION & RESCUE NORTHEAST REGION

In 2008, the BMDCNV membership established a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to address the needs of the ever-increasing number of Berners being relinquished by their owners and to educate the public in the responsible care of this wonderful breed. The work of BERNER, Inc. is supported by the generous donations of people like YOU!

Please consider honoring the achievements or the life of your dog (or of a friend or family member) with a tax-deductible donation either by Paypal on the web site, or by mail to:

BERNER, Inc. P.O. Box 202
South Berwick, ME 03908



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Service Dogs, Therapy Dogs & Emotional Support Animals: What's The Difference?

Many people think that the terms Service Dog, Therapy Dog and Emotional Support Animal can be interchanged, and that they are all the same thing. This is incorrect: each is a distinct category of dog that has different rights and rules.

Service dog as defined on the AKC website: As defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service dogs are individually trained to perform specific tasks and to work with people with disabilities. According to the ADA, disabilities can be "physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability."

The work of the service dog must be directly related to the handler's disability. Examples include seeing eye dogs for the blind; dogs that assist wheelchair bound people by opening cabinets and other assorted tasks; and dogs that alert their diabetic owners to changes in their blood sugar.

Therapy Dogs are also known as comfort dogs, and they are not trained to work with one individual, but many in public settings. They are often seen in hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. Therapy dogs are used to calm people and bring comfort. Studies have shown that time spent with the dogs can lower blood pressure, heart rate, and relieve anxiety.

Emotional Support Dogs (ESD) provide therapeutic benefits to one individual, their owner. They are not generally trained to assist in day to day activities like a Service Dog would be.

Differences In Rights:

Service Dogs have the most rights as they are considered therapeutic aids by the ADA. Neither Therapy Dogs or ESA are protected under ADA laws, and have less rights in the public space. Service Dogs are allowed into businesses and many other places that non service animals are not allowed. By law: no one may ask you what your disability is, but they may ask if the dog is necessary due to your disability, and what tasks it performs. Due to the abuse of the ESA, many public places are tightening restrictions.

Can Your Dog Be A Therapy Dog?

If visiting hospitals, nursing homes, and schools to comfort others with your dog sounds appealing to you, and your dog is mild mannered and well trained, maybe a Therapy Dog certification is your next dog activity. Many people start out with getting their dogs Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Certified.

According to the Canine Journal, this is **How To Certify A Therapy Dog**

Depending on where you plan to take your therapy dog, you may not need to register him/her. Therapy dog certification can be achieved through various organizations but we recommend the AKC. To earn the AKC Therapy Dog title, you and your dog must do the following:

1. Be certified by a therapy dog organization that is recognized by the AKC
2. Perform the required number of visits:
 - AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished (THDD) – 400 visits
 - AKC Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX) – 200 visits
 - AKC Therapy Dog Advanced (THDA) – 100 visits
 - AKC Therapy Dog (THD) – 50 visits
 - AKC Therapy Dog Novice (THDN) – 10 visits
3. Dog must be registered with AKC (both purebred and mixed breed dogs are eligible)



All information sourced from AKC.org (<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/lifestyle/service-working-therapy-emotional-support-dogs/>) and Canine Journal (<https://www.caninejournal.com/service-dog-vs-therapy-dog-vs-emotional-support-dogs/>)

Reminder...

Family Dog Training,
located in Hudson, MA
*is offering the following
benefits to BMDCNV,
BMDCA and BMDCC members:*



Rescue Bernese Mountain Dogs owned by members: (verified through the rescuing organization)

- Free tuition in any training classes at Family Dog Training
- Free telephone/email behavioral consultation
- 50% discount on in-home consultation within service area

Other Bernese Mountain Dogs owned by members

- 50% discount on all Family Dog Services including training

Visit us at:

<http://www.family-dog-training.com>

Contact Paul Emerson

at bernerfur@charter.net or 508-243-3922

Birthdays, Congratulations and Brags...



FIVE IS FINE

Happy 5th Birthday, Cava! May all your dreams and wishes always come true!

— Angel and Chris Petrone; Alexandria, VA



New Champion and Versatility Dog!

CH TENNESCOTT GREEN MTNS SUMMER RAIN CD
RE NDD TDI FDC CGC VD

At just 2 1/2 years she has made one of our dreams come true-our first home bred Versatilty dog! We owe many thanks to Sue Burrell for handling her through her Championship. We are delighted with this smart, sweet, spunky girl.

— Buffy Bell; Reading, VT



Litter Announcement

Kelley Neill & Laurel Wood are proud to announce a beautiful litter out of dam CH Spellbound's Legend of Lucchese (Kacey) AKC #WS54148405, BG# 132660 and sire CH Riverwood's Night Wind (Icculous) AKC #WS51944505, BG# 128577. We are very proud of this litter of 3 boys & 3 girls. All puppies are spoken for.

— Laurel Wood; Deep River, CT

New Members Showcase



Are you a new Member?

Tell us about yourself in our New Member Showcase. Click on this link...

<http://bmdcnv.org/newmember.html>

Complete the quick summary, hit submit, email your pic and you're done! Please complete your submission by the 20th to be included in the next issue of the Berner Blatt.

We look forward to meeting you!



Berner Recommended Tests

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America recently rolled out a new “gold star” indicator on their Berner-Garde Database to show which dogs have had all the recommended health testing done. Don’t know if you have done all the recommended testing on your dog? Continue reading for more details! (Source: Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America Facebook, 2020)



Berner Recommended Tests - BRT

As Barbara Packard insisted many years ago, improvements in health cannot be done effectively without testing and openly sharing those test results. In the spirit of the need for open sharing, the BMDCA is implementing a method for identifying dogs in the Berner-Garde database that have met the recommended testing criteria established by the Health Committee. It is called a BRT number, an acronym for Berner Recommended Testing. Along with a gold star on the dog page, a number will automatically be assigned to all of those dogs that meet the following criteria:

Up until 12/20/2017 have all of the following:

- AKC DNA profile number
- Hip evaluations from GDC, OFA, OVC, or PennHIP
- Elbow evaluations from GDC, OFA, or OVC
- CERF eye examination
- OFA Heart evaluation by a cardiologist
- von Willebrand's DNA test, or one generation result by Parentage

For all dates have all of the following:

- AKC DNA profile number

- Hip evaluations from GDC, OFA, OVC, PennHIP, or board certified radiologist
- Elbow evaluations from GDC, OFA, OVC, or board certified radiologist
- CERF or OFA eye examination, or board certified ophthalmologist
- OFA Heart evaluation, or board certified cardiologist
- DM DNA test for SOD1-A and SOD1-B (both are not needed if either is at-risk)
- and at least one of the following:
 - von Willebrand's DNA test, or one generation result by Parentage
 - Thyroid certification (based on the OFA certification requirements: FT4, cTSH, TgAA
 - Histiocytic Sarcoma Pre-Test from Antagene

Dogs that have met these requirements will be shown with a gold star on the dog in the Dog Detail Display area. Under the Certs/Tests tab, a BRT number will be shown, and will be searchable.

If you think that your dog should have a BRT number and doesn't, feel free to contact Pat Long at pat@bmdinfo.com and she'll be happy to help try to sort out any issues.

The BMDCNV chairpeople

These dedicated chairpeople provide essential services to you, our membership. Please feel free to contact them with your questions, concerns, suggestions, requests for help or offers of help. Our mission is to provide the best for Berners and their families.

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It's a good thing!

Monthly Health Tip for keeping our Berners in tip-top shape!

Portion Control

Practice portion control — usually a morning and evening meal, carefully measured. A high protein, low carb diet with the right amount of calories for weight loss, controlled through the portions you feed, is what will take the weight off your Berner.

Factor treats you feed your pet into the daily calorie plan. Keep in mind pre-packaged commercial treats are a primary reason for excess weight in many pets. Check the labels... These snacks are loaded with carbs, sugar and fat and are specifically designed to create intense cravings in your dog.

Use smaller feeding bowls to serve the new smaller portions of food. From a psychological perspective, this may prevent you from piling on additional food because the bigger bowl looks 'too empty.'

Use the right measuring tools to portion out your pet's meals. Grabbing what ever is convenient, like a coffee mug or a soup spoon, will not allow you to measure the portions correctly. Use standard cooking and baking measuring tools.

The key to keeping your Berner nutritionally fit at the cellular level is with a high protein, moisture rich diet fed in controlled portions, and augmented with physical activity. Always consult your veterinarian regarding any significant change in weight, diet and exercise for your dog.

Reference: Dr. Karen Becker at mercola.com

<http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/dr-karen-becker.aspx>

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