



THE Bernerblatt

The Newsletter of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley



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Winter Walk	12-13	Veterans Parade	18-21
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UPcoming EVENTS

bmdcnv.org/events

Saturday, February 8

Winter Walk

Harkness Memorial State Park
275 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Saturday, March 1

BMDCNV Regional Specialty & Sweepstakes & Versatility Showcase

Eastern States Exposition
1305 Memorial Ave.
West Springfield, MA 01089

Sunday, March 2

Supported Entry & Sweepstakes

Eastern States Exposition
1305 Memorial Ave.
West Springfield, MA 01089

Saturday, March 15

Novice Obedience and Rally Workshop

Blue Rock Training Center
Orange, MA 01564

Saturday, April 12

AKC Obedience Trial & Rally Trial

Warner Brook Training Center
Pittsford, VT 05763

Sunday, April 13

Annual Meeting

Via Zoom

Saturday, May 17

Spring Fun Day

4-H Fairgrounds
Westford, MA 01886

Saturday, June 7

AKC Scent Work Trial Pending AKC approval

Warner Brook Training Center
Pittsford, VT 05763

Saturday, June 14

AKC Farm Dog Test

Timberlost Farm
Ashburnham, MA 01450

Sunday, June 15

Draft Workshop

Timberlost Farm
Ashburnham, MA 01450

Saturday, June 28

2028 National Specialty Kickoff Party

Timberlost Farm
Ashburnham, MA 01450

Saturday, August 2

BMDCNV Supported Entry

Franklin County Fairgrounds
Greenfield, MA 01501

Saturday, September 20

Fall Fun Day

4-H Fairgrounds
Westford, MA 01886

Saturday, October 18 &

Sunday, October 19

BMDCA Draft Tests

4-H Fairgrounds
Westford, MA 01886

These dedicated club members provide essential services to 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.

OFFICERS:

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On the Cover:

OLEKA FIND'N YOUR TRUE NORTH V SNOWPAWS "Icelyn"

BG# 163998

Owned by Heidi Henderson

Photo by Jessica Moore

The masthead & newsletter design are by Nancy Hoyt.



PRESIDENT'S *Message*

Dear BMDCNV Members,

Welcome to our Winter Bernerblatt. Winter is such a favorite time for our Berners. Finally, it's not too hot. And the snow. We've been blessed with multiple light and fluffy snows, which are such fun to play in. Nothing goes together quite as happily as a bouncing Berner and a snowy day!

This is a special issue of the Bernerblatt, featuring and honoring our incredibly special Veterans. They are truly worthy of celebration.

I'm a firm believer in the older dog. It rankles that we consider them Veterans when they reach 7, but I've been around long enough to remember when the official Veteran age was raised from 6 to 7. Age is only an impediment if you let it be. Firn never stopped trying new things. She earned her NDD at age 8. Since we already had a few conformation points, I turned her over to a wonderful professional, and she earned her Championship at age 9 in two weekends, cementing forever any notions of my skill as a handler, and achieving that most coveted of titles — BMDCA Versatility Dog.



We had plans to move on to nose work. But after missing her weekly Agility class because it fell on Christmas, Firn quite suddenly took a bad turn, and we had to help her over the Rainbow Bridge. I'm sure it's better for the dog to go suddenly at the end of a healthy, active life, but it's pretty hard on the family. We miss her! The older dog shows the younger one so many things. Firn would calmly let me clean her ears so Truly could watch and learn by example. Truly has lots more to learn, and we wish her teacher could be here. Treasure all those moments.

Please remember that I'm here for you and we are all here for the dogs we so love. My goal is to treasure, protect, and celebrate the Bernese Mountain Dog. I know you'll join me in this.

All the best,

Mary Durham & Truly

Welcome

NEW
MEMBERS

Marianne DiTaranto & Alan Huntley
Chichester, NH

Rick & Dee Ann Donnelly
Laconia, NH

Leo Fondriest & Emma Stone
Cambridge, MA

Leslie Judice
Laconia, NH

Cheryl & James Kleva
Biddeford, ME

Jane Kondev & Mariela Petkova
Winchester, MA

Amanda Wescott
Milton, VT

We invite all to join the members-only [bmdcnv.org](https://www.bmdcnv.org) group. Follow the instructions at <https://www.bmdcnv.org/become-a-site-member>

Tell us about yourself in our
New Member Showcase.

Click or copy this link, complete the summary, upload a pic, click submit, and that's it!

[bmdcnv.org/new-member-showcase](https://www.bmdcnv.org/new-member-showcase)



★ VOLUNTEERS WANTED ★

Our club is full of wonderful, fun, talented people ... YOU! From time to time, we need to ask for help with specific things. Here are a few ways that you can join in the fun and help your club. Please contact Mary Durham, BMDCNV President, or any Board member with your questions and interest. Thank you!

Fun Day – We want to hear from you! The BMDCNV hosts two Fun Days each year (one in May and one in September). We try to feature new and different events at each Fun Day (matches, games, demonstrations, discussions, parades). We are always seeking new event ideas. Better still ... come help us. We hope to solicit new folks to help plan and volunteer at our events. If you can help, please contact Allison Harding (director_harding@bmdcnv.org) or Melissa George (director_george@bmdcnv.org).

Ways & Means Fun Day Leads – Fun Days are big events for our Ways & Means. We'd love to build a team of folks who focus on these twice-yearly events: staffing the table, coordinating transportation of our great merchandise, managing our sales transactions, and so on. If you can help once or on an ongoing basis, please contact Mary Durham (clubpresident@bmdcnv.org), Julie Mott (secretary@bmdcnv.org), Melissa George (director_george@bmdcnv.org), or Anya Wittenborg (director_wittenborg@bmdcnv.org).

What Can I Do with My Dog?

Novice Obedience/Rally Workshop—*You asked for it, here it is!*

We all want to keep our dogs (and ourselves) mentally and physically active. There are countless ways to engage with your Bernese Mountain Dog: hiking, swimming, mountain climbing, or simply lounging on the couch. But maybe you're looking for more?

Join us for a Novice Obedience/Rally Workshop in Central Massachusetts led by Allison Harding on **March 15, 2025**, from 1 pm-5 pm at Blue Rock Dog Training, 115 New Athol Rd., Orange, MA 01364. This introductory workshop is a fantastic opportunity to review the basics of both sports and take the mystery out of entering trials. Come practice new skills or brush up on rusty skills, have a little fun, and bond with your dog!

During the workshop, you will:

- Learn how to submit an entry for competition
- Master heeling patterns and proper etiquette for both you and your dog
- Familiarize yourself with Obedience/Rally signage
- Practice a sample Obedience/Rally pattern

Important Details:

- To Register (**by March 8th**):
 - Contact Candace Wright at 978-815-7956 or candy.wright25@gmail.com to secure your spot (limit 8 teams).
 - Pay **\$15** via Venmo @BMDCNV or check made out to BMDCNV (mail to Candace Wright, 327 Ashby Rd., Ashburnham, MA 01430). Registration is not complete until payment is received.
- Bring the following equipment to the workshop:
 - A flat collar (no tags)
 - A 6-foot leash
 - Small, high interest treats for your dog
- Crating will be outside or in your vehicle (to allow plenty of space inside for working teams)
- For questions or more information, call or email Candace Wright.

For more information about Rally and Obedience, see:

AKC Rally Guidelines
(<https://www.akc.org/sports/rally/>)

AKC Obedience Guidelines
(<https://www.akc.org/sports/obedience/>)

Berners and Hypothermia

Our dogs absolutely love the cold weather and playing in the snow (well, most of them do). Their soft, dense undercoat provides plenty of warmth, while their long outer coat repels water and snow, making their thick, long double coat perfect for the great outdoors. However, our beloved Berners can still suffer from hypothermia during extremely low temperatures, especially with the winds we have been experiencing.

Signs of hypothermia to watch for include:

- Shivering
- Pale gums
- Cool body temperature (mild 90-99°F, moderate 82-90°F, severe less than 82°F). Normal temperature is 101°F.
- Lethargy
- Muscle stiffness
- Difficulty walking
- Confusion
- Dilated pupils
- Rapid breathing, then shallow breathing
- Weak pulse

If you suspect hypothermia, bring your dog someplace warm. While mild hyperthermia can be treated with blankets, heating pads, and insulation, seek immediate veterinary attention in cases of moderate to severe hypothermia.

So, monitor their time outside, especially if they are sitting still on a pile of snow instead of bouncing around chasing snowflakes. Watch out for icy, cold, wet fur, skin, and paws. Be aware of how long they are in a very cold car while you might be off on errands. Let's keep our beloved Berners safe during their favorite time of the year.



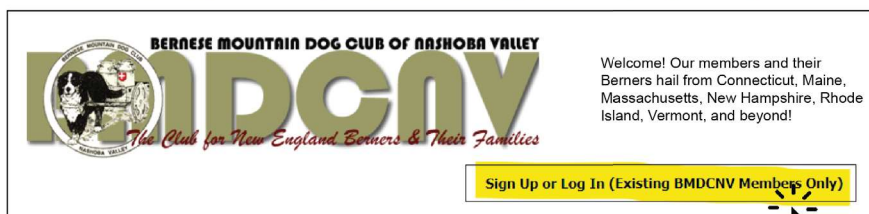
Members-only Access to our Website

Did you know that by becoming a member of our website:

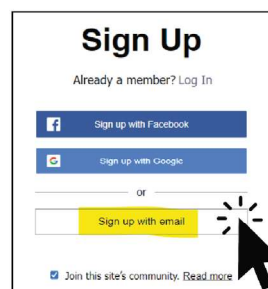
- **You'll have access to** all sorts of great information, such as the current and back issues of the Bernerblatt (even if you didn't get an email notice), our By-Laws, Board meeting minutes, Lending Library, and more. These are all available in the FILES section at bmdcnv.org/file-share.
- **You'll also be added to** the BMDCNV Members Group, which serves as a message board and forum where you can exchange posts, and upload photos and videos to share with other members.

Get access to these **Members-only** features by creating a Login ID on bmdcnv.org

1. Go to bmdcnv.org. At the top of the home page, click "Sign up or Log In."



2. Click "Sign up with Email."





AKC FARM DOG CERTIFICATION TEST

The BMDCNV is offering an official AKC Farm Dog Certification Test on June 14, 2025, at Timberlost Farm, Ashburnham, MA. There will be two AKC testers, since each dog must pass two legs of the test under two different Farm Dog Judges to receive Farm Dog Certification. The AKC Premium is available online at https://www.infodog.com/show/club_page.htm?ev=2025278505

Skills tested include: greet a stranger (judge), walk by farm objects, jump on a hay bale, walk by farm animals, walk over unusual surfaces, one-minute supervised separation, pass through a gate, wait while handler feeds livestock, reaction to another dog, reaction to noise distraction, approaching livestock, and an examination by the handler for objects that may have been collected while on the farm.

Traits observed during the AKC Farm Dog Certification Test are designed to emphasize a dog's ability to demonstrate self-control, confidence, and trust necessary to succeed in a canine/human partnership. The Farm Dog Certification Test applies basic training and situations that a dog would encounter in a farm environment. These skills demonstrate the fundamental training and temperament necessary for more advanced skills such as herding and barn hunt.

FARM DOG PRACTICE AT FUN DAY!



Does your dog want to be a Farm Dog? How would they like to hang out with farm animals, collect eggs, help feed the livestock, and work in partnership with their owner in a farm setting? Want to give it a try?

Join Candace Wright during the Spring Fun Day on May 17th at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Westford, MA.

A faux farm setting will be set up with pretend farm animals, hay bales, farm implements, sounds often heard on the farm, a variety of unusual surfaces, and more. This will be a perfect opportunity to have fun with your dog and maybe practice for the AKC Farm Dog Certification Test.





What's In Your First Aid Kit?



Most of us have a medicine cabinet with first aid supplies for the humans in our homes. We have Band-aids, thermometers, and maybe Neosporin. But, what's in your cabinet in case your pet has an emergency?

I ask because my three adventurous Bernese Mountain Dogs seem to know how to find mischief and occasionally need first aid. They can't wait to find a porcupine, run through the woods and get a thorn in a paw, or chew and consume some undesirable item. I felt I was prepared: first aid items in my bathroom closet, some in the horse barn, and a few in the dog supply closet. But, when I needed a thermometer or vet wrap, which direction should I go to find it? It's time to get organized and be prepared for my next Berner adventure.

Club members, Dr. Lauralyn Brown, Diane Smith, and I have created a list of suggested items to have on hand. A First Aid Kit for my pets gives me peace of mind, knowing I have items that might save my pet's life.

Join us at the 2025 Spring Fun Day in Westford 4-H Fairgrounds as we learn the importance of being ready and prepared to help our pets. We will discuss the items suggested for a canine first aid kit.

—Canadce Wright, Public Education Committee

We have compiled a list of suggested items to keep your pet safe. Always consult with your veterinarian regarding the care of your pets and know where the nearest emergency pet clinic is located. Please consider creating your own Pet First Aid Kit or purchase a pre-made kit. You never know when or where you will need it.



Canine First Aid Kit

- Benadryl – know the correct dosage
- Charcoal
- Cooling pad
- Eyewash
- Ear cleaner
- Emergency Warm Blanket
- Exam gloves – disposable
- Gas-X – chewable
- Gauze pads
- Hemostat
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Instant cold packs
- Mini light/Penlight
- Muzzle
- Neosporin
- Povidone/Betadine or Chlorhexidine (Hibiclens)
- Prescription medication
- Q-tips
- Saline
- Self-warming blanket
- Sling
- Splint
- Styptic powder – blood clotting agent
- Syringe (needleless)
- Thermometer – Rectal
- Tick remover
- Tongue depressor
- Towels
- Tums
- Turkey baster (liquid meds/wound flushing)
- Tweezers
- Vaseline
- Vet Wrap
- Water bowl
- Yunnan Baiyao (herb mixture to control bleeding)

Celebrating Our Berners!

Birthdays!

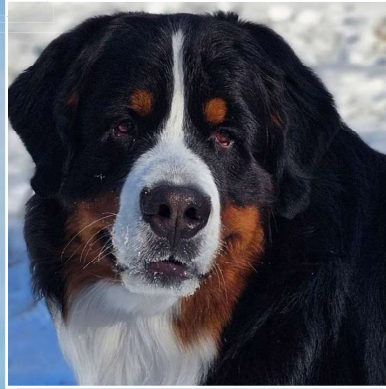


Flora

MAINE'S FLORA OF EDGEHILL
10/03/18 BG# 156849

Flora is all about love! She visits the local elementary school each week, where the children read to her, and she enjoys going weekly to the Adult Day Center to see the seniors there. She is just the best companion!!

*Leslie Johnson
Tamworth, NH*



Kenai

GCH CH LUCCHESSE'S BEAR HUG
FROM CYPRESS BN RI THDN CGCA
CGCU TKA ATT FITB
01/17/23 BG# 211625

Happy 2nd Birthday to our special boy, Kenai, who has accomplished so much already at such a young age! We look forward to continuing this amazing journey with you for many years to come! We love you and are beyond proud of you!!!

*Sue & Randy McEvoy
Bellingham, MA*

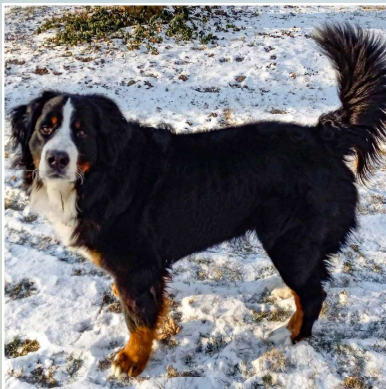


Lyra

TRAILBOUND'S MORE THAN WORDS
TKA ORT NW2 RE CGC CGCU CGCA
NW3-E NW3-C NW3-V NW3-I
02/08/21 BG# 191109

Four the first time in Four-ever, Lyra turns four. There'll be magic, there'll be fun!

*Nancy & Linda Bates
Old Orchard Beach, ME*

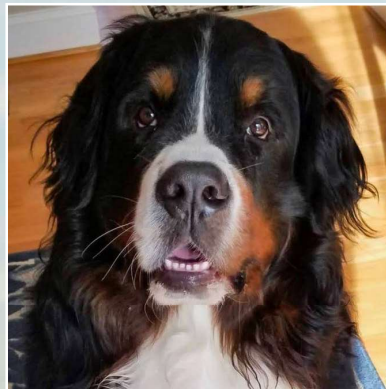


Odi

ELYSIAN'S ODYSSEY
12/23/23

Happy one-year birthday to the happy-go-lucky puppy.

*James & Patricia Buickerood
Pepperell, MA*



Remy

SEAWIND FARM'S SUNNY DAY CHASING
THE CLOUDS AWAY
02/07/23 BG# 213871

Remy's favorite thing is being outside in the cold and playing fetch. He actually brings the ball back! He loves to run full tilt. He is so fast; I think we might have our first agility Berner! Happy Birthday, Remy!

We love you!

*Fran & Phil LaFlamme
Salem, CT*



Tobi

01/12/20 BG# 208234

Tobi loves romps in the woods, car rides, and putting both paws on Charlie's lap. He loves his little brother, Roo, and sister Allie-cat.

*Roberta French & Charlie White
Sandwich, NH*

Birthdays!

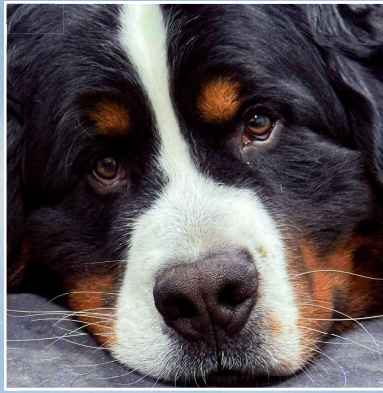


Wesley

FOUR SEASON'S VIVALDI'S DREAM
01/21/21 BG# 191582

Happy 4th Birthday, Wesley, and to
all your litter mates!

*Pam & Charles Swearingen
Belmont, MA*



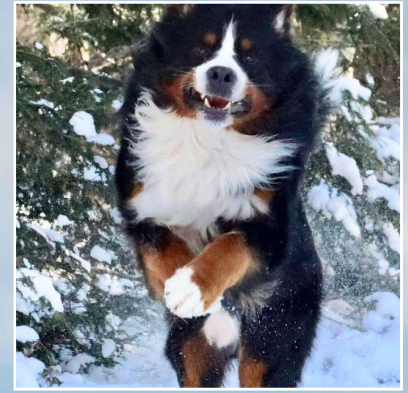
Wyatt

CH LUCCHESI'S CATTLE DRIVE
TO SNOWDIN

01/17/23 BG# 211621

Happy 2nd Birthday to
CH Lucchese's Cattle Drive
to Snowdin!

*Melissa & Matt George and
Kelley Neill
Alton Bay, NH*



Zuber

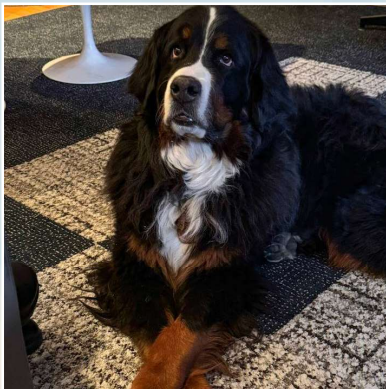
KAIBAB'S LUMINOSITY ANDD
ABNDD MDD BDD

01/21/21 BG# 190200

Zuber celebrated his birthday by
romping in the newly fallen five
inches of light fluffy snow. He then
crowned his four years by earning
his Novice Jumpers Preferred agility
title in his Agility debut the weekend
after his birthday.

*Alison & Tom Jaskiewicz
Mason, NH*

Braggs!



Zuzu

GLENMEGAN'S WONDERFUL LIFE
12/16/17 BG# 147329

Zuzu turned 7 in December 2024.
She has loved all the smells and
occasional street food of the city
her whole life.

*Diane Goldberg
Boston, MA*

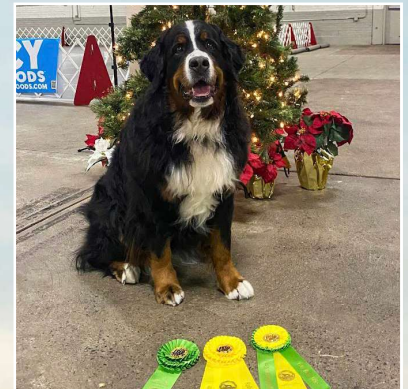


Bella

NUTMEG ACRES BELLA
02/26/22

I recently underwent hip
replacement and Bella was the best
nurse ever. She kept a close eye on
me and was so patient as
I maneuvered through the
healing process.

*Lucinda Longo
Litchfield, CT*



Deseray

LUCHESE'S RAY OF SUNSHINE OVER
SNOWDIN RN

05/29/19 BG# 157096

On 12/7/24, Deseray earned her
Rally Novice title at the
Eastern Dog Club rally trial in
Springfield, MA.

*Melissa & Matt George and
Kelley Neill
Alton Bay, NH*

Celebrating Our Berners!

The **Berner-Garde Foundation** was established to assist in efforts to improve the health of Bernese Mountain Dogs. The Foundation maintains the most extensive collection of BMD health and pedigree information available in a computerized database. Every BMD entered into the system is given a unique identifier (BG#). The Foundation seeks information on as many Berners as possible to benefit genetic health research, so if your dog isn't entered, please consider doing so. To learn more, go to <http://bernergarde.org/home/>.

Celebrating Our Berners! Braggs!



Grigio

Grigio and her passion for digging holes in the family yard inspired a recently published children's book written and illustrated by her owner!

*James O'Brien
Farmington, CT*



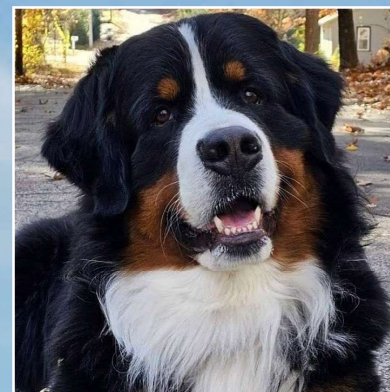
Isla

LUCCHESE'S DARK DIVA CGCA
CGCU TKN FITB
09/04/23 BG# 217817

So proud of our special girl Isla for earning her AKC Canine Good Citizen Urban Title and her AKC Fit Dog Bronze Title as she continues to work hard to overcome health issues. Truly, the strongest girl we know!

We love you and are beyond proud of you!

*Sue & Randy McEvoy
Bellingham, MA*



Kenai

GCH CH LUCCHESSE'S BEAR HUG
FROM CYPRESS BN RI THDN CGCA CGCU
TKA ATT FITB
01/17/23 BG# 211625

We are so proud of Kenai earning his AKC Fit Dog Bronze Title as well as his AKC Therapy Dog Novice Title. He truly enjoys visiting the elementary school classrooms and having children read and learn new skills with him.

*Sue & Randy McEvoy
Bellingham, MA*



Lancy

CH TIMBERLOST LANCY'S DUMPLING
01/30/23 BG# 211408

Congratulations to Lancy. Earned her Championship at the Framingham District Dog Show – November 2024.

*Candace Wright
Ashburnham, MA*



Leroy

LEROY ELT-CH SMT L3C L3V L3I L3E
05/11/18

Team Leroy traveled to Plant City, FL, over Thanksgiving to compete in an NACSW Summit trial. Leroy came in third place overall, had a third-place search, and became the first Berner ever to earn a Summit title!

*Amy & Mark Matthieu
Brimfield, MA*



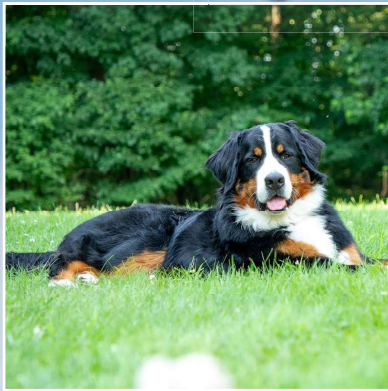
Tessie

SNOWPAW'S NUF CED BN RI FDC RATI
RATN CGCU TKA ATT VHMA FITS
08/30/19 BG# 159681

Tessie is super excited to announce she (finally) earned her Barn Hunt Novice Title. Super fun sport, and we've had a great time learning the nuances of rat hunting!

*Lisa Freed
Bedford, MA*

Remembering



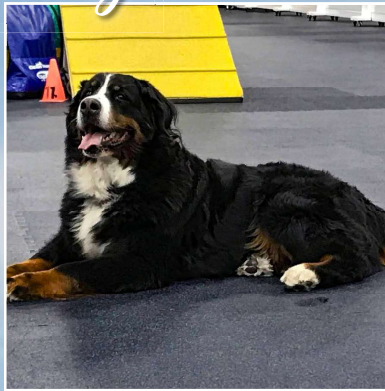
Eloise

MAD MAPLE'S ELOISE OF
THE MOUNTAIN

10/02/22-12/03/24 BG# 221835

We were looking for a puppy, but Eloise, an 11-month-old ball of energy, decided we should be her forever home. How lucky we were that she picked us! Though we only had you for a year, you forever changed us. We miss you every day, sweet Eloise.

*Julia & Brian Cronin
Ledyard, CT*



Firn

CH URSLI FIRN AXP AJP NFP NDD
CGC BMDCA VERSATILITY DOG
02/16/13-12/28/24 BG# 97891

Quite recently, puppy Truly and 11-year-old Firn had begun snuggling up together. I wonder what Truly knew. Firn was doing Agility one day, and we had to say goodbye to her the next. She lived life to the fullest. We miss you, Baby Rosebud.

*Paul Emerson & Mary Durham
Groton, MA*



Halle Berner

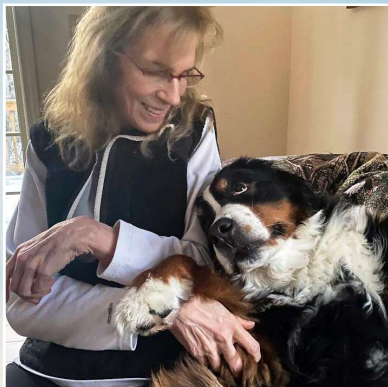
BLACK 'N GOLD'S HOT IN HERRE
OA OAJ NJP

02/23/03-09/30/14 BG# 18737

Halle was an amazing and rewarding Agility dog. Like Billie Holidog before her, she easily soared high over jumps, maneuvered with speed and precision through weave poles, and finished almost every course with perfection. A beautiful spirit she was and so loved.

*Nancy Hoyt
Torrington, CT*

Welcome!



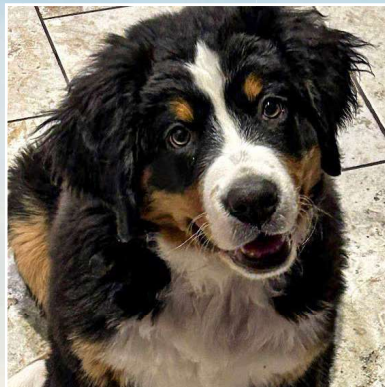
Madden

HOOSIER ROOS MARVELOUS
MADDEN V TRIO CGC FDC

10/16/14-02/07/24 BG# 125039

My dear Madden, I can't believe it's one year since you left us. Life was perfect with you in it—now, there isn't a day that goes by that we don't think of you with a smile, a laugh, or a tear. Hope you're tearing up the heavens with your goofiness.

*Nancy Hoyt & John Osthoff
Torrington, CT & Becket, MA*



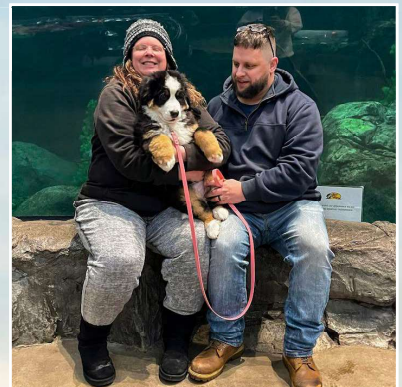
Ally McBerner

TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS OF
ALLY MCBERNER

10/26/24

Meet our newest addition, and oh, what a delight she is! Ally LOVES and kisses everyone she meets, and Watson adores her. Our hearts are full again.

*Nancy Hoyt
Torrington, CT*



Jade

TOWN & COUNTRY'S ANAHATA V
TRAILBOUND'S

11/19/24 BG# 226635

We would like to welcome the newest member of the Harding family! Jade!!

*Allison & Ray Harding
Milford, MA*

Celebrating Our Berners!



We had a lovely BMD CNV Winter Walk on February 8th at Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford, CT. It was the first time in several years that the Walk was hosted in Connecticut, and many people were excited about the beautiful seaside location. There were 50 attendees from five states with 36 dogs—including a Golden Retriever, a Newfie practicing draft, and a Corgi! That’s a pretty good turnout for a day with an impending snowstorm over Super Bowl weekend!

There were 50 attendees from five states with 36 dogs!

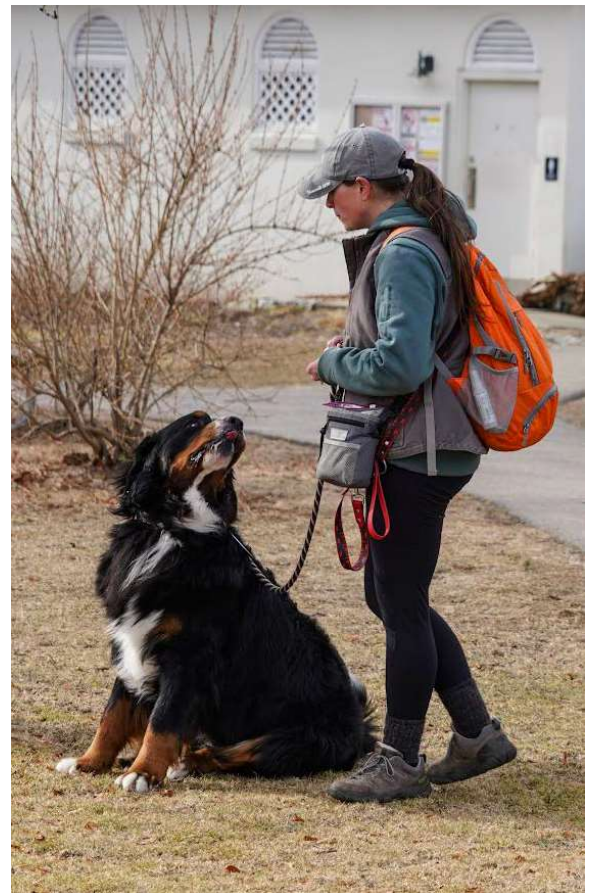
We set up a scavenger hunt around the park for attendees to do some wandering on their own to learn about the history of the park and mansion before embarking on a group walk by the water. There were some avid searchers and some more laidback lookers. All who returned a sheet with at



least one sticker were entered to win a custom 3"x3" pet portrait by a local artist who is also a Berner lover! We took an "organized" walk around part of the outer loop of the property and ended with a group photo opportunity at the amphitheater overlooking the sea. Hot chocolate kept the walkers warm, with churro bites and a variety of cookies providing energy in the chilly weather.

Ways & Means also set up shop with some very cute Winter Walk shirts—thank you to Anya Wittenborg for putting together items to showcase and to Julie Mott for staffing the table. Cindy Buhner and her trusty camera captured the scenic location and beautiful Berners. We want to thank everyone who came out to experience Harkness with us. We appreciate your sharing your time and your dogs with us.

—Sam & Tina Sirico, Winter Walk Co-Chairs





Scavenger hunt winners
Elise Youmans & Riggs



2025-2027 BMDCNV Board of Directors Slate

The 2024 Nominating Committee has submitted candidates to stand for election for open positions for the upcoming term—beginning at the Annual Meeting in April 2025 through the Annual Meeting in 2027—for the following positions:

Vice President: Sue Mahan (Incumbent) Ashby, MA

Secretary: Julie Mott (Incumbent) Sherborn, MA

Director: Heidi Henderson (Incumbent) Killington, VT

Director: Anya Wittenborg (Incumbent) South Berwick, ME

Director: Candy Wright (Incumbent) Ashburnham, MA

Each candidate has accepted their nomination, completed the BMDCNV Candidate Questionnaire, and agreed to make every effort to attend all board meetings and annual meetings during their term. Each candidate has a two-year term ending at the Annual meeting in 2027.

The 2024 Nominating Committee:

Jo Coniglio, Chair	Carolyn Massey (First Alternate)
Michelle Keck	Allison Harding (Second Alternate)
Joel Hedlund	

All Candidate Questionnaires can be found in the Files section of our website: [bmdcnv.org](https://www.bmdcnv.org) > Files > Board Members and Documents > Board Candidate Questionnaires > 2025 Candidate Questionnaires. As a club member, you must create a login and password to access these files. If you haven't done so already, please sign up to be a website member: <https://www.bmdcnv.org/become-a-site-member>.

This is also a reminder that additional nominations of any eligible member for open Officer and Director positions may be made by any club member in good standing. A written petition must be submitted to the Secretary at least eight weeks before the Annual Meeting, which is scheduled to be held on April 13. Written petitions were due February 16. Each petition must be accompanied by the nominee's written acceptance, signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate and, if elected, to attend all Board Meetings and Annual Meetings during their term. A Candidate Questionnaire should also be provided and is available from the club Secretary or on our website at [bmdcnv.org](https://www.bmdcnv.org) > Files > Board Members and Documents > Board Candidate Questionnaires > Blank Candidate Questionnaire Form. Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, at secretary@bmdcnv.org. Thank you.

Julie Mott, Secretary

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley

will be held
Sunday, April 13, at 10:30 AM

Join us on Zoom to discover more about our club, our beautiful breed, and to celebrate our collective accomplishments!

Zoom link will be available to club members this spring.

Special Presentation:

Bloat (GD) and Gastric Dilation Volvulus (GDV):

What is Bloat and How Does it Occur?

Can We Protect Our Dogs from Bloat and GDV?

We will explore causes, symptoms, diagnostic approaches, and possible treatment options for Bloat. We will also hear from club members who will share their Berners' experiences with Bloat.

Bloat is an acute, life-threatening condition where air accumulates rapidly in the stomach (GD), causing a sharp rise in pressure that can lead to shock. It can be accompanied by a twisting of the stomach (GDV), cutting off blood flow to the pancreas and spleen, weakening the pulse, and compromising the heart. Bloat is a medical and surgical emergency. Bloat can kill dogs quickly. Knowing the signs and symptoms, and acting quickly if it happens, may save your dog's life.

A quick reference guide for GDV symptoms can be found on our website: <https://www.bmdcnv.org/bloat-chart>

MEMBERSHIP Renewal

Hello! If you have not renewed, you should have received an email specifically sent to those who hadn't renewed. This is just one more reminder. If you KNOW you haven't renewed, please go to [BMDCNV.org/renew](https://www.bmdcnv.org/renew) and take care of that today. We would hate for ANY of you to miss out on this year's events.

Brenda Abrams

(1939-2024)

We were saddened to learn that long-time member Brenda Abrams of Marlborough, Connecticut, passed away in December. Brenda was an early member (1971) of the BMDCA. She was also a member of the Watchung BMDC from its inception and joined the BMDCNV in 1993. She bred Bernese Mountain Dogs under the Taliesin prefix. Berner-Garde shows 117 dog records, born between 1973 (with both parents coming from the legendary Sanctuary Woods kennel) and 1998. She and her late husband, Bob, traveled extensively. Bob was always taking photos and amassed a huge number of slides of early BMDs both from here and in Europe. Brenda graciously allowed Debbie Mulvey to use them in a slide show that was given during the 2008 National Specialty hosted by the BMDCNV in Rhode Island, and in another BMDCA Specialty slide show created for the 50th anniversary of the club. Brenda remained an avid student and supporter of the breed throughout her life.

2024 Title Recognition CERTIFICATES

By tradition, every year at the Annual Meeting, the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley recognizes members' Bernese Mountain Dogs who have earned AKC, BMDCA, or other titles in the previous year. If your Berner earned a title in 2024 and you would like to honor this achievement by receiving a title recognition certificate from the BMDCNV, please email a copy of your 2024 title documentation (a photo/scan) to secretary@bmdcnv.org. The deadline for submissions is April 1. Titleholders will be recognized at the Annual Meeting, which will be held on Sunday, April 13, via Zoom. Certificates will be mailed the following week. Please contact the club secretary with any questions.

—Julie Mott

The Shelley Tyre Outstanding Service Award is presented annually, and honors a club member who has made outstanding contributions and demonstrated exceptional service to our club and/or the breed. Originally the Kennel Ration or Gaines Good Sportsmanship Award, it was renamed the BMDCNV Outstanding Service Award in 1998 and later named in honor of club member Shelley Tyre, who unexpectedly passed away in March 1999.

The membership nominates a club member in good standing who has made an extra special contribution to the club either recently, in the past, or on a regular and consistent basis. Any club member may send their recommendation with a short paragraph on why they believe the nominee deserves the award. The board will consider every recommendation and decide on the recipient. The only restrictions are that the award may not go to a previous recipient nor to any Officer or Director of the club while they are serving. The award will be presented at the Annual meeting on April 13, 2025.

Nominations for the 2024 Shelley Award should be emailed to the club secretary, Julie Mott, at secretary@bmdcnv.org by March 1, 2025.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2023 Mie Kingsley | 2005 (not awarded) |
| 2022 Linda Bates and Nancy Bates | 2004 Martha Phelps |
| 2021 Patricia Buickerood | 2003 Marge Bumen |
| 2020 Karen Fox | 2002 Jean Bridge |
| 2019 Linda DeCelles | 2001 Abby Patrizio |
| 2018 Stephanie & Bill Freeman | 2000 Ellen Barnaby |
| 2017 Alise Burbridge | 1999 Elizabeth Malcolmson |
| | 1998 Marjorie Cottle |

Shelley Tyre Award 2024

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 2016 Barbara Beck-Wilczek | 1997 Lisa Allen |
| 2015 Steve Diers | 1996 Chris Cottle |
| 2014 Beth Atkinson | 1995 Carol Holden |
| 2013 Lloyd & Lynn Jones | 1994 Penny Petrone |
| 2012 Mimi Englander | 1993 Paul Emerson |
| 2011 Dawn Flaherty | 1992 Ellen Nott |
| 2010 Linda Botti | 1991 Amy Cohen |
| 2009 Jeff Nowak | 1990 Alison Jaskiewicz |
| 2008 Jon Cons | 1989 Beverly Barney |
| 2007 Anya Wittenborg | 1988 Debbie Mulvey |
| 2006 Michelle Keck | |

2028 BMDCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY



After time spent searching New England venues and hours of volunteer troubleshooting, the 2028 site committee is excited to announce our pick for the best location.

The **2028 BMDCA National** hosted by the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley **will be returning to the Crowne Plaza, Warwick RI!**

It is amazing how fun it is to get involved! We will be sending an email with a list of potential ways you can help/volunteer and a link to the job descriptions. It's okay if we have more than one person interested in the same job—many hands make for lighter work.

We are hosting a kickoff party along with Candy and Rich Wright at their farm in Ashburnham, MA. All club members and interested guests are welcome to attend and learn more about the event and possible ways to help.

You're Invited

Saturday, June 28

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Lunch will be served.

Let's get this party started!!

Heidi Henderson & Alise Burbridge
Co-chairs National Specialty 2028

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR BERNER ADOPTION STORIES

BERNER, Inc. would love to showcase your adopted Berner in The Bernerblatt. No matter where they came from, every adopted Berner is welcome on the BERNER, Inc.'s rescue page. In about 350-500 words, tell us anything you'd like to relate about your adopted Berner. Please include a photo of your Berner. Please email your story (Word format is helpful) plus your photo (jpeg format if possible) to Linda DeCelles, Rescue Chair, BERNER, Inc. at: phdog@gmail.com. Thank you!

WE THANK OUR GENEROUS DONORS! BERNER, Inc. depends on donations to care for our rescues. Please go to our website to donate: www.bernerinc.org.

BERNER INC



EDUCATION & RESCUE
Dedicated to the Well-being and Safety
of New England Berners



Detecting Berner cancer and other serious health problems with Rametrix[®] Molecular Urinalysis (RMU)

By John Robertson, VMD, PhD, President, Rametrix Technologies, Inc., Blacksburg, VA

Unfortunately, dogs get cancer. Nearly 50% of dogs over middle age (5-7 years) will either suffer from cancer or die as a result of cancer. In a study of malignancy (cancer) in Bernese Mountain Dogs, more than 58% of the dogs died from cancer (multiple types, including lymphoma and histiocytic/soft tissue sarcoma). Berner owners are well aware of the devastating toll that cancer takes on their dogs and the people/families that own them.

We would like to change this narrative. First, we need to understand the unique aspects of cancer in Berners, including onset, progression, and outcomes. Genomic studies, currently underway in the Berner-Garde Foundation, should help pinpoint specific genomic risk factors (mutations) driving cancer initiation and progression. We also need to develop tests to detect the onset of cancer and to find more effective ways to treat cancer once it is detected.

Rametrix Technologies, Inc., a medical/veterinary medical research and development company (www.rametrixtech.com), has developed a urine-based technology (RMU) to detect cancer in dogs (and people). The technology uses Raman spectroscopy to profile the molecular composition in urine – detecting changes associated with alterations in metabolism and inflammation associated with cancer. We published a paper (available on the website) describing cancer detection in dogs using this technology. We have been able to detect lymphoma, mast cell sarcoma, urothelial/transitional cell carcinoma, and osteosarcoma—using changes in the molecular composition of urine—with at least 90% accuracy using RMU technology. The urine-based test is simple (requires less than 10 ml of ‘free-catch/voided’ urine), fast (results within 30 minutes), and economical (about the same price as a standard urinalysis at the veterinarian’s office).

We realize that there are other common metabolic, digestive, and musculoskeletal problems in Berners. Some of these problems, especially affecting kidney function and metabolism (hypothyroidism) may be detectable as variations in the molecular composition of urine. For example, in studies we

conducted on human urine, we were able to detect diabetic nephritis, lupus nephritis, chronic kidney failure, and bladder cancer. We will use this translational information gained from humans in the proposed work on Berner health.

To further validate RMU and to precisely focus it on Berners, we are proposing to conduct a 500-dog study (250 healthy dogs, 250 dogs with cancer or other health problems, including kidney disease) in concert with the sponsorship of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) and Berner-Garde Foundation (BGF). The study would occur over 12-18 months and has these specific goals:

- ▶ Develop a Berner-specific molecular fingerprint of urine in healthy Berners; this will document normal metabolism, physiology, and state of kidney function.
- ▶ Determine how the urine molecular fingerprint of healthy dogs compares with the urine molecular fingerprint of dogs with cancer or other health problems.
- ▶ See if changes occur in the urine molecular fingerprint of dogs that were previously healthy (i.e., samples collected before disease) when dogs develop cancer or other diseases – this will result from the analysis of samples from the same dogs over time.
- ▶ Detect and profile (with RMU) other health problems that are or have been common in Berners, including renal disease (juvenile renal dysplasia, glomerulonephritis, acute/chronic kidney failure) and hypothyroidism.

Our goal is to develop a readily available technology for detecting cancer and serious health problems in Berners—with the ultimate goal of early disease detection and helping to develop effective treatments that can alleviate suffering and save dogs’ lives.

For more information, contact:

- ▶ **John Robertson:** robertsonj@rametrixtech.com
- ▶ **Pat Long:** pat@bmdinfo.com BMDCA Health Committee Chair
- ▶ **Lori Jodar:** lori@lorijodar.com Berner-Garde Trustees’ President
- ▶ (From the BMDCA Bulletin, December 2024. Reprinted with permission from the BMDCA Health Committee)

The BMDCA and Berner-Garde are splitting the costs of a new study, which will use an analysis of urine to detect cancers. The process is already able to detect lymphoma, mast cell cancer, and kidney diseases, so Dr. Robertson (a new BMDCA member) and his team will be collecting urine samples to determine if it is possible to also identify histiocytic sarcoma. The benefits to this are that it would be a relatively inexpensive test and is a non-invasive process to collect the samples. People will be available at the Berner-Garde booth in Gettysburg with information on participation in the study and to help you have your dog piss on cancer!

★ Veterans Parade ★



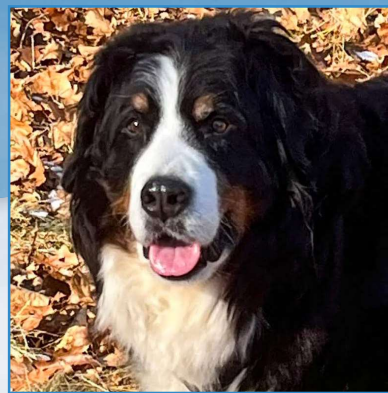
CHLOE ★ 14

NV RESCUE CHLOE

02/01/11 BG# 28852

Chloe has been a little more challenged with her mobility but continues to love her routines, short rides in the car, and always looks forward to neighborhood strolls. We cherish every moment with Chloe and love her more than words can say.

*Dawn & Jerry Flaherty
Plymouth, MA*



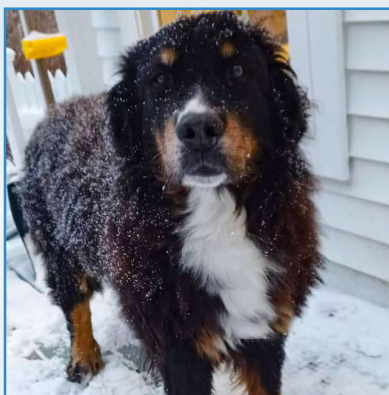
JEZABEL ★ 13

LINA-LEXA

10/22/11 BG# 225119

Jezabel is dear and sweet and the center of our lives. She spent her first seven years summering in Maine and living in Europe. When retirement came, we all moved here to Arrowsic. Jezabel still loves her daily walks in the woods.

*Jon Biehler & Karin Sadtler
Arrowsic, ME*



NESSA ★ 12

SPELLBOUND'S HARBOR
BARONESS CD RA OAP AJP PT
CGC TKI NDD ABNDD

12/03/12-01/23/25 BG# 90986

Sad news. Nessa has gone to the Rainbow Bridge. She was always so smart and funny. She always amazed me. It is very quiet here now.

*Barb Gibson
Edgecomb, ME*



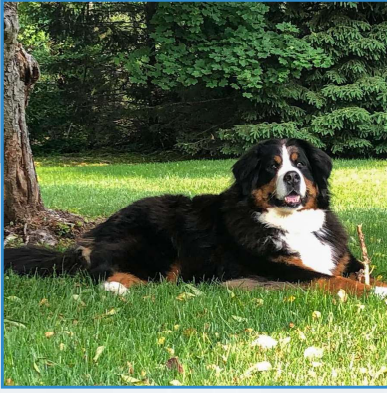
ROCKET ★ 11

SKYLYN-N-TRAILBOUND'S THE
ROCKET MAN

07/20/13 BG# 100808

Celebrating 11 ½ wonderful years with this big ham! Goes for a daily ride with Dad for a breakfast biscuit, woofs for everything, and smiles all the time. We are blessed!

*Jo Ann Coniglio
North Kingstown, RI*



LOLA ★ 10

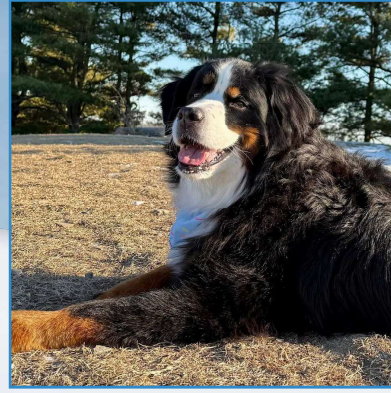
URSA MINOR'S SASSY, SWISS,
SEDUCTRESS

03/08/14

Lola is a high-energy Berner. It's incredible that she is almost 11 and is still mistaken for a puppy. She is a real hoot and provides us with endless joy and affection.

We love Lola!

*Cathy Robinowitz & William Stone
Newton, MA*



RUBY ★ 10

SPELLBOUND'S WITCHY WOMAN

01/17/15 BG# 120092

We're so grateful to be celebrating 10 years with Ruby! Often mistaken for a young pup, she still loves to go on adventures as much as she loves to snuggle. She's the sweetest soul and our constant companion—every day with her is truly a gift.

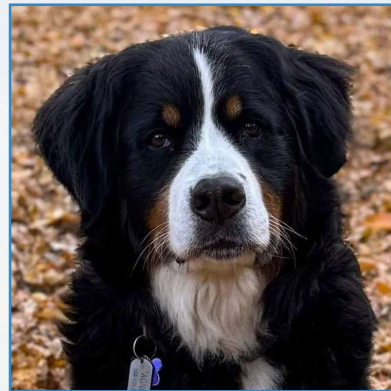
*Melissa & Jason Haenggi
Scituate, MA*



RORY ★ 9

Rory is a mountain of a dog with a heart of gold. He loves people, belly rubs, car rides, and Mom. He blocks doorways and pathways lest she gets by him. My love bug!

*Diane Caldwell
New London, NH*



AGNES ★ 8

TENNESCOTT GREEN
MOUNTAINS AGNES

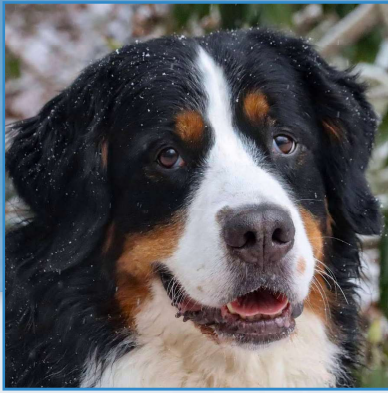
04/20/16 BG# 131931

Agnes takes advantage of her senior status to demand more attention and treats as well as hogging the most comfortable armchair. But she still enjoys playing with Isla and exploring the fields.

I am so grateful for her love and affection.

*Christine Navez
Hopkinton, MA*

★ Veterans Parade ★



KIRI ★ 8

GCHB PACH KAIBAB'S JIGSAW
PUZZLE UD MXP3 MJP3

12/20/16 BG# 136972

Kiri is lively, athletic, and loves to race, cavort, and explore on walks with her nephew, Zuber. She still competes in Obedience and, at home, is a first-class cuddler and master of the upside down, waggy tail, toothy grin, please rub my tummy pose.

*Alison & Tom Jaskiewicz
Mason, NH*



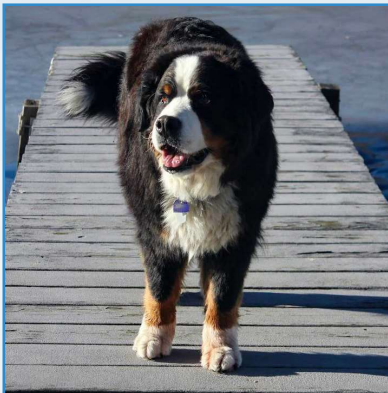
BOREAS ★ 7

09/21/17

Boreas is recovering from cruciate surgery, and we are confident he will soon be getting into mischief again.

“Veteran” is only a state of mind!

*The Malcolmson Family
Rockport, MA*



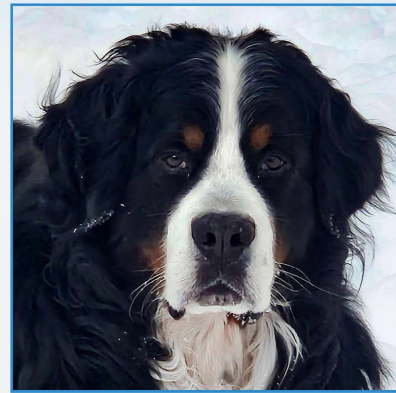
CULLY ★ 7

MICHAUDVILLE TIMBERLOST
CULLY

04/19/17 BG# 146820

Welcome to the Berner Veterans,
Cully is 7 ½ years old and still acts like a pup!

*Candace Wright
Ashburnham, MA*



ERAGON ★ 7

DREAM OF ERAGON'S SWISS KISS CGC,
CGCA, ATT, & NDD

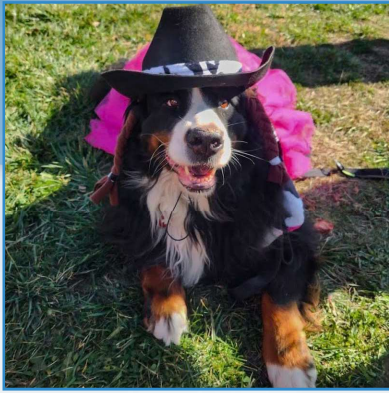
05/16/17-11/18/24 BG# 148782

Eragon was my heart & soul. He loved everyone, enjoyed traveling, learned to swim, camping, going to Specialties & drafting—getting his title on his first try.

Loved by his mom, dad, mate Lizzie, Newfie girl Treasure, and daughter Sephira.



*Cathy M. Sullivan-Neves &
Christopher J. Neves
Corinna, ME*



LIZZIE ★ 7

PEACEFIELD'S LOVELY LEGACY
10/23/17 BG# 149084

Lizzie (aka Queen Elizabeth) is our mama girl. Gifting the world with the Sweet #16 litter and two other litters after. She's beautiful, bold & feisty, loves taking charge with daughter Sephira & Newfie sister Treasure.

Loved by all!

*Cathy M. Sullivan-Neves &
Christopher J. Neves
Corinna, ME*



MOOSE ★ 7

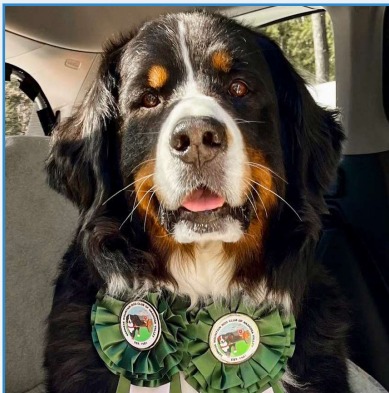
GLENMEGAN'S VERY
MERRY MOOSE

10/29/17-01/17/25 BG# 146473

Moose had tons of adventures his last year despite osteosarcoma, hiking in Mass. and VT (as a tripod!), and playing in the snow with his Briard brother Teddy.

We'll miss you forever, big guy.

*Laurie Bryce
Georgetown, MA*



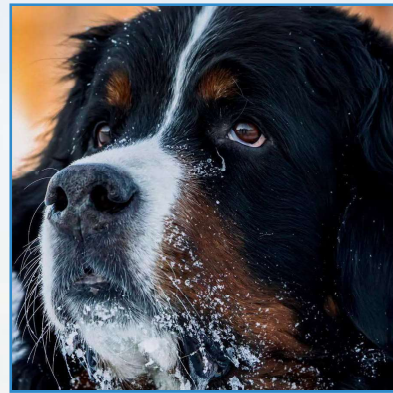
NIKKI ★ 7

MAINE'S JARDIN DES FLEURS RE
FDC CGC

05/01/17 BG# 142085

Nikki, who will turn 8 on May 1, 2025, has had a busy year, earning six Qs toward her Rally Master title. Very easygoing but loves to work, she is as sweet as she is pretty. So grateful to Libby Kesner for this precious girl.

*Terry Spies
Phoenicia, NY*



ZUZU ★ 7

GLENMEGAN'S WONDERFUL LIFE

12/16/17 BG# 147329

Zuzu turned 7 in December 2024. She has loved the smells and occasional street food of the city her whole life.

*Diane Goldberg
Boston, MA*

HISTORICAL HARVEST

30 Years Ago ... The year was 1994

Club officers were Chris Cottle, President; Lisa Seretto, Vice-President; Alison Jaskiewicz, Treasurer; Jane Hunt-Brackett, Secretary. Alison J. was also the Editor of the Bernerblatt. Amy and Lester Cohen did the printing and mailing.

The January issue included a description of the Canine Good Citizen test, told of a Winter Walk at Rocky Woods Reservation in Medfield, MA with 50+ Berners, and an article by Alison J. on exercising your Berner.

Tattooing your dog was a common practice at this time, subsequently replaced by microchipping. A full-page ad in the February Blatt was to recruit a Records Chair, to take care of data entry into the BMDCA Health Survey database. A Valentine's Fun Match in Worcester on the 13th was also advertised.

The March issue reported a missing Berner in Vermont named "Mr. Chips". A "What's on Your Mind" column, where members could send in a question was presented, along with an article on the AKC standard for the breed. Elizabeth Martin was voted in as President, Chris Cottle as Vice-President, Alison Jaskiewicz as Treasurer, and Co-Secretaries were Pat Underwood and Beth Atkinson.

The April issue highlighted successes from the Annual Meeting/Awards Ceremony that took place on March 20th, with 60 members present in Putney, VT. An article written by Lisa Allen talked about carting. "Life Proofing Your Dog" presented a summary of Dr. Myrna Milani's talk of the same name, and a reprint of "Breeder Ethics" presented three key elements – disclosure, responsibility, and a willingness to rescue. "Mr. Chips" was found three miles from his home after 50 days!!!

On May 7th-8th, a beginner workshop and draft match was held in Northfield, MA, and a beginner's agility clinic was held on the 21st in West Brookfield, MA. May's publication included a lengthy article on feeding by Susan Crissey, PhD.

The Summer Picnic was held on June 19th at Fort Foster in Kittery, ME. A Paws 'n' Shop order form was found in the June issue, and an article titled "Starving Cancer: A Special Diet for Hip Dysplasia" was written.

A Fourth of July parade, organized by Elizabeth Malcomson, was held in Rockport, MA. A banner was carried that read: "We are not Saints!" Ellen Nott resigned as Puppy Chair. There was a thank you by Bev Barney for all the help at the BMDCNV Specialty, held on June 4th.

On August 14th, a European-style match was held at the All-Dogs Gym in Manchester, NH. Judging for this is based strictly

on the breed standard, not in relation to other dogs. Debbie Mulvey led an interactive discussion, joined by Esther Mueller, judge. Seventy to 80 people and 26 dogs attended. It was noted that Sue Muick would be serving on the Board of Directors of the new Berner-Garde Foundation.

September brought a draft clinic at the Middlesex 4-H Grounds in Westford, MA on the 18th, and the 4th Annual Draft Test at Glen Park in Portsmouth, RI on the 25th. The judges were Beth Bradley and Paul Emerson. A hospitality BBQ was held at Chris and Marjorie Cottle's home the day before. An article told of the rules of carting, and another described CHD (Canine Hip Dysplasia), specifically PennHip, a method of evaluating radiographs.

Chris Cottle took on the job of Records Chair for the Nashoba Valley's entries in the Berner-Garde database, and Mary Durham as Associate Records Chair. An article about breeding by Leslie Abern, "It's in the Contract", was reprinted with permission of the author from The Bulletin, May 1994.

November's issue contained many articles: one by Paul Emerson about carting equipment, a follow-up to "Starving Cancer", and Alison Jaskiewicz's "Dancing with Dogs: Freestyle Obedience". A lengthy article "International Champion: A Myth Explained", by Bernd Gunter, was reprinted with permission by the author from The Alpenhorn, April 1994.

December brought two pages of Berner Christmas poems. An article by Elizabeth Taylor told how in late 1993 she became Public Education Coordinator for the club. The AKC developed this position to counteract anti-dog legislation and rising anti-dog sentiment nationally. The Senate and House passed a bill that was signed by President Clinton on October 22nd. This bill permitted veterinarians, under appropriate regulations, to use human and animal drugs on animal species for which drugs were not specifically approved, ninety percent of which were used in canine veterinary practice.

—Roberta French, BMDCNV Historian



Searching for Blatts

If you have any of the following Bernerblatts, please contact historian@bmdcnv.org.

1981 any except December

1982 any except February

1983 January thru May

1991 any except November

2006 December


Any 2007 through 2013

Bernerblatts can also be viewed in the Members Only section of the BMDCNV website under FILES.

Straight from the 1994 December Bernerblatt, some Berner Carols for you to enjoy!

Berner Smiles

Written by Kathy Amoroso
(Sing to the tune of Silver Bells)



City Berners,
Country Berners,
Dressed in silky black coats,
They know winter is just 'round the corner.

Let's go carting,
Winter's starting,
They just love that brisk air,
And on every street corner you see...

Berner Smiles,
Berner Smiles,
It's wintertime in the city.
Roll in snow,
They're all aglow,
Soon it will be wintertime.

Snow clumps on their feet,
When they come to greet,
And they give you're their paw,
But don't worry they'll eat it like candy.
(The snow that is)

Hear the snow crunch,
See the kids bunch,
Berners love this big scene,
And right through all the bustle you see...

Berner Smiles,
Berner Smiles,
It's wintertime in the city.
Roll in snow,
They're all aglow,
Soon it will be wintertime.

A Berner Midnight

By Nancy Bullard
(Sing to the tune of It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

It came upon a midnight clear
Those glorious barks of old.
From Berners bending near the earth,
To strike their bones of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From Heaven's all-gracious King"
It gives our hearts a gentle tug
To hear past Berners sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful paws uncurled.
And still their heavenly barking floats
O'er all the Berner world.
Above our sad and lowly plains,
They drift on heavenly wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sound
The blessed Berners sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on,
By Berners seen of old,
When with the ever circling years
Shall come the time foretold.
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole earth send back the song
Which now past Berners sing.



TWO CUTE BERNERS TO KEEP YOU COZY THIS WINTER!



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