

Kentuckiana Bernese Mountain Dog Club



Code of Ethics

1. Mission

The Kentuckiana Bernese Mountain Dog Club (KBMD) is committed to protecting and advancing the interests of the Berner Sennenhund (Bernese Mountain Dog). In order to do everything possible to bring the natural qualities of the Bernese Mountain Dog breed to perfection, the KBMD has adopted this Code of Ethics to urge the highest standards among its members be they owners and/or breeders.

Note: When reading this document, please pay special attention to the statement type and selected wording. Vision and goal statements provide utopian and general statements. Member's views on how to achieve the visions and goals may differ. Rule statements, however, are specific and the words "shall", "will" and "should" were chosen carefully and for a purpose. "Should" indicates a suggestion or guideline that is recommended and desirable, but not mandated, "shall" and "will" indicate those rules which must be followed in the best interest of the breed. Violations of any rule having the words "shall" or "will" in it constitutes conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the club as that phrase is used in Article VI of the KBMD Bylaws and the member/member household committing such violations may be subject to disciplinary actions in accordance with Article VI of the KBMD Bylaws.

2. Members

2. A. VISION - That all Bernese Mountain Dogs in the care of Members be physically and temperamentally sound companions.

2. A.1. Goals

- a. That all Bernese Mountain Dogs owned or cared for by members be provided with a proper, healthy and safe environment.
- b. That all Bernese Mountain Dogs owned or cared for by members be given proper nutrition and care.
- c. That all Bernese Mountain Dogs owned or cared for by members be properly socialized both with respect to humans and to other dogs.

2. A.2. Rules

- a. Members shall ensure that all Bernese Mountain Dogs in their care are vaccinated in accordance with governing law.

2. B. VISION - That all Members govern their actions according to what is for the good, protection and betterment of the breed.

2. B.1 Goals

- a. That the welfare of the Bernese Mountain Dog take precedence over ambitions and desires of individuals and organizations.
- b. That no Bernese Mountain Dog, adult or puppy, be sold to any known retail or wholesale pet outlet.
- c. That Members always exhibit good sportsmanship at all events related to the KBMD and at other events wherein their affiliation with the KBMD or Bernese Mountain Dogs is or may be known.

2. B.2 Rules

- a. At no time shall any Member sell, donate, barter, or consign any Bernese Mountain Dog to any known retail or wholesale pet outlet or its agents.

- b.** At no time shall any Member donate or give any Bernese Mountain Dog as a prize for any activity such as, but not limited to, contests, raffles or fundraising events.
- c.** Members shall at a minimum abide by American Kennel Club and Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America rules applicable to activities in which they engage.
- d.** At no time shall any Member degrade any other Member or Member's kennel.
- e.** At no time shall any Member publicly criticize any Bernese Mountain Dog in a non-constructive manner.
- f.** Members should have all Bernese Mountain Dogs in their care checked for individual physical soundness. Members are encouraged to use organizations/registries/certifications such as OFA, PennHip and CERF.
- g.** Members should notify the breeder of the Bernese Mountain Dog of all findings from paragraph 2.B.2.f and enter all findings in open registries such as the OFA and Berner-Garde Data Base.
- h.** Members should have all Bernese Mountain Dogs in their care spayed or neutered if the Bernese Mountain Dog is not intended to be used for breeding or to be shown in conformation classes.

3. Breeders

3. A. VISION - That all breedings of any Bernese Mountain Dog result in offspring which maintain or improve upon the official breed standard set forth by the American Kennel Club.

Note: As used herein, the term "breeders" means any owner or co-owner of a Bernese Mountain Dog whose animal is or may be used to produce a litter, regardless of the manner in which insemination is effected. For artificial insemination and the like, "date of breeding" with respect to the dog shall mean the date of semen collection and with respect to the bitch the date of egg harvest or insemination.

3. A.1 Goals

- a.** That only physically and temperamentally sound stock be used for breeding.
- b.** That the health history of a prospective sire and dam be fully reviewed and understood prior to breeding.
- c.** That breeders be available to those in charge of the care of Bernese Mountain Dogs from their breedings for whatever advice, reasonable aid or assistance may be needed.
- d.** That breeders stay in touch with the progress of dogs of their breeding to better analyze their own program.

3. A.2 Rules

- a.** Breeders shall ensure that all Bernese Mountain Dogs to which they intend to breed, as well as Bernese Mountain Dogs in their care that may be or are to be bred, have had an eye screening exam for hereditary eye disease conducted by a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists within one calendar year prior to the date of breeding.
- b.** Breeders shall ensure that all Bernese Mountain Dogs to which they intend to breed as well as Bernese Mountain Dogs in their care that may be or are to be bred have been x-rayed for evidence of hip and elbow dysplasia prior to the date of breeding.
- c.** Breeders shall not breed or allow a Bernese Mountain Dog within their care to be bred with any Bernese Mountain Dog which exhibits the following defects:
 - 1)** Is not registerable
 - 2)** Is not in good health
 - 3)** Shows obvious defects
 - 4)** Is known to have serious hereditary defects
 - 5)** Evidence of severe dysplasia
 - 6)** Evidence of hereditary eye disease
- d.** Breeders shall not breed or allow a Bernese Mountain Dog within their care to be bred with, any other Bernese Mountain Dog when the pairing would result in a doubling up of known or visible faults.
- e.** Breeders shall ensure that when a Bernese Mountain Dog in their care is to be bred, the bitch is in her second or greater season, preferably waiting until at least 18 months of age at the time of insemination.
- f.** Breeders shall ensure that when a Bernese Mountain Dog in their care is to be bred, the bitch has produced a litter in no more than two out of three seasons, this depending upon the size of the litter whelped and her condition.

- g. It is suggested that in most cases, a period of one year should lapse between litters.
- h. Breeders shall guarantee the health of their litters subject to a veterinarian's examination for 72 hours after possession of the puppy is transferred. For purposes of this paragraph, a litter is to be considered a litter of the member if either Bernese Mountain Dog if the pairing was in the care of the member at the time of the breeding.
- i. Breeders should maintain health and temperament related records of all Bernese Mountain Dogs from their breedings.
- j. Owners of both bitches and stud dogs have an obligation to all puppies that their dogs produce. Therefore, if the breeder of record (usually the bitch owner) refuses to take responsibility for the puppies produced, the stud dog owners should assume the responsibility.
- k. Breeders should exhibit, or cause to be exhibited, the products of their breedings at dog shows and matches where feasible
- l. Breeders shall perform all required actions to allow AKC registration of dogs from their litters within 4 months of the whelping date.
- m. Breeders shall assist transferees of dogs from their litters in finding a suitable new home for the dogs at any time the transferee wants to relinquish the dog. Should no suitable home be found, the Breeder shall assume physical and/or financial responsibility for the dog.

4. Transfers of Ownership (permanent and temporary)

4. A. VISION - That all Bernese Mountain Dogs and those in charge of their care be in a loving and caring symbiotic relationship.

4. A.1 Goals

- a. That all transferors of Bernese Mountain Dogs perform sufficient due diligence on potential transferees to assure there is sufficient knowledge, resources and facilities to care properly for a growing or grown dog.
- b. That all transferees of Bernese Mountain Dogs are informed of the needs and characteristics of the dogs to assure a loving, caring and permanent home for the dog.

4. A.2 Rules

- a. Members shall transfer ownership of a Bernese Mountain Dog along with a four generation pedigree, if known, to the purchaser along with a full health history of the dog to include, at a minimum, information on inoculation history, other veterinary care and instructions on the care, feeding and training of the Bernese Mountain Dog.
- b. No member shall effect or affect a transfer of a Bernese Mountain Dog by material misrepresentation of the health, temperament or pedigree of the dog.
- c. Members shall transfer dogs only in conjunction with the signing of a written contract. Said written contract shall include any pertinent information known about the dog including any guarantees, a description of the dog, the whelping date, the name and AKC registration numbers of the sire and dam, the litter or individual registration number if available and any known health defects. Members should ensure that the transferee clearly understand the implications of the contract terms.
- d. Members should assist transferees of their dogs in finding a suitable new home for the dogs at any time the transferee wants to relinquish the dog. Should no suitable home be found, the Member should assume physical and/or financial responsibility for the dog.
- e. Members should assume the responsibility to assist in finding a suitable new home for any Bernese Mountain Dog that comes into the possession of any rescue network or shelter at any point in the dog's life.

I/we agree to abide by the KBMDC Code of Ethics.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____