



BMDCA Info Series

BMD Clubs, Resources and More

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Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America ► The BMDCA is recognized as the official national breed club by the American Kennel Club. The BMDCA was formed in 1968 to bring together BMD owners and breeders from across the country. From its original 33 members, the Club grew slowly, reaching 100 members by 1971. Today the BMDCA is well established and growing steadily with more than 1,000 members. In addition, the BMDCA has recognized more than 20 regional Bernese Mountain Dog clubs across the U.S.

The BMDCA membership is very diverse. There are many long-time stewards of the breed as well as newcomers interested in learning and getting involved. Some members are breeders, others are active in competition (conformation and performance events) or community services such as therapy dog work, but a large number are devoted pet owners. The focal point that unites this diverse group is their *love for the breed*. All too often “pet” owners view dog clubs as only serving “show people” and nothing could be further from the truth. Like other national breed clubs, the BMDCA exists to protect and advance the well being and interests of the breed. To fulfill this mandate, the Club focuses extensively on education for all who are interested in Bernese Mountain Dogs. The BMDCA and the regional clubs offer many valuable, easily accessible resources.

Website: By browsing the BMDCA website it quickly becomes apparent that the Club supports its membership as well as the general public. The website hosts a wealth of information on a wide variety of topics – breed information, health issues, breeder referral, rescue, Club activities, news, events and more. Moreover, it contains links to other sites that may be of interest to the general public.

Activities: The BMDCA sponsors an annual National Specialty dog show that is in a different location every year, moving around the country for easy access by many people. Additionally, the BMDCA offers its own draft (carting) titles, thereby encouraging owners to develop the natural and historical working abilities of their dogs.

The Alpenhorn: This official bi-monthly publication of the BMDCA is “must reading” for anyone seriously interested in the breed for it contains a broad collection of articles on diverse topics of interest to the pet owner as well as those who engage in competitions and breeding. (Note: BMDCA annual dues include a subscription. Non-members may subscribe for a fee by contacting Jack Lytle at 1338 W. Park St., Arlington Heights, IL 60005 or via e-mail jackly@aol.com. Out-of-country subscriptions are available.)

Health: The BMDCA Health Committee is very active and guides the Club’s participation in important medical research that seeks to improve the health of the breed.

Legislation: The BMDCA is exploring ways to positively influence laws and regulations that protect the breed from those who seek to exploit it.

International Contacts: The Club has international liaisons with BMD clubs in other countries for the purpose of exchanging information and safeguarding the breed on a worldwide basis.

Berner-Garde Foundation ► Berner-Garde is a non profit foundation dedicated to accumulating and disseminating health information in BMDs and working with researchers to determine how genetic faults can be minimized or eliminated in the breed. All BMD owners are encouraged to report health information to this open database and are welcome to utilize its vast databank. To learn more, please visit its website at www.bernergarde.org. This can be a valuable resource for both breeders and puppy buyers alike. Research before you breed and before you buy!

Regional BMD Clubs ► One of the functions of the BMDCA is to encourage the organization of independent local BMD clubs. These clubs offer a wide variety of programs and services on a grass roots level all across the country. These include educational seminars and workshops on topics such as health, genetics, training methods, holistic care, breeding, showing, grooming, canine behavior and more. Most regional BMD clubs host several events a year where members and visitors participate in fun matches, AKC-sanctioned events and BMDCA Draft Tests. They also host social get-togethers for Berners and their people. Enjoying a day of dog-related activities is a rewarding benefit to participating in a regional BMD club. Plus, regional BMD events present excellent opportunities for learning more about the breed, making new friends and networking with responsible breeders. There’s probably a regional club near you! (See Important Websites on the next page.)

BMD Rescue and Re-homing ► The BMDCA and regional clubs have created a network to intervene on behalf of Berners needing help. Most of their efforts focus on rescue and re-homing. The goal in both situations is to place the dog in a suitable new home where it is loved and well cared for.

BMD Breeder Referral ► The BMDCA and most of the regional clubs have breeder referral programs. In addition, the Internet is becoming an increasingly popular tool for researching

For more information, please visit our website at www.bmd.org or www.bmdca.org.

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breeds and locating puppies. Never before has the saying "Buyer Beware" become so critical. Both responsible breeders and those exploiting the breed for profit alone are using this forum to connect with buyers. The public must learn how to separate the good from the bad. Responsible breeders will provide multi-generation health information and pedigrees, take the time to answer your questions, ask you questions about why you selected the breed, invite you to their kennels, and more. Don't be fooled by photographs of pretty puppies and slick ads. Contact the BMDCA or regional BMD clubs for breeder referral assistance.

Important Websites ► BMD Clubs & Affiliates

Website information changes from time to time so check the BMDCA website for the most current listings.

- **BMDCA** - www.bmd.org, soon to be www.bmdca.org
- **BMDCA Rescue** – e-mail bmdrescue@clearwater.net
- **BMDCA Breeder Referral** – e-mail wsmark1@aol.com
- **Berner-Garde** - www.bernergarde.org
- **Light One Candle** –
<http://141.211.110.76/candle/lightonecandle.jpg>
- **BMD of Canada** – <http://www.bmdcc.ca/>
- **Nashoba Valley** - www.bmdcnv.org
- **Watchung** - <http://BMDCofwatchung.homestead.com>
- **Finger Lakes** – e-mail grid555@aol.com
- **Helderberg** - <http://www.helderbergbmd.com>
- **Three Rivers** – <http://www.trbmdc.org>
- **Ohio North Coast** -
http://www.homestead.com/dollyn_mache/ncbmdco.html
- **Potomac** - www.pvbmdc.org
- **Mason Dixon** -
<http://members.bellatlantic.net/%7Evze296y3/BMDhome.htm>
- **Kentuckiana** – <http://www.bernese1.com>
- **Chattahoochee** – e-mail bernerhm@hotmail.com
- **Twin Cities** – e-mail pearsl@prodigy.net
- **NE Illinois** - <http://www.geocities.com/bmdcni/>
- **Heart of Michigan** - <http://www.hmbmdc.org/>
- **Wisconsin** - www.bmdcsew.org
- **Heartland** - www.hbmdc.org
- **Lone Star** - <http://www.angelfire.com/tx2/lbmdc/>
- **Rockies** - <http://www.bmd.org/bmdcr.html>
- **Inland Northwest** - <http://www.nwbernese.com/>
- **Grand Canyon** - <http://www.gcsbmdc.org>
- **Seattle** - <http://www.bmdcgs.org/>
- **Pacific Northwest BMD Fanciers** - www.pnwbmdf.org
- **Northern CA** - <http://www.norcalbernese.org>
- **(Northern) California BMD Rescue & Rehome Service** - www.bmdrescueca.org
- **Sierra West** - <http://www.sierrawest.org/>
- **Southern CA** - <http://www.bmdcsc.org/>
- **Alaska** - <http://bmdcofa.8k.com/>

Other Important Websites ►

- <http://members.rogers.com/bernerboris/bernerbooks.html> - a Berner-focused website that reviews books and has links for purchasing them. Any books bought through these links generate commissions that go to the BMDCA health fund.
- http://members.rogers.com/rcamken/BMD_Health_Info_Links.html - Robin Camken's site of health links
- <http://www.jersey.net/~mountaindog/berner1/> - Pat Long's information page, with articles on Bernese-specific health problems, resources, and a breeder checklist to assist the buyer in finding the right breeder for his/her specific needs.
- <http://berner.org> - BMD Home Page and the Berner-L - a

source of information about the breed, finding breeders, and the Internet mailing List, the Berner-L.

- <http://bernered.homestead.com/index.html> - Berner-L Education Fund (BLEF). Has a health disk (\$12) that contains Berner-specific articles about ED, HD, OCD, Bloat, Histio, UTI, Pano, and a host of other topics.

Reading Resources ►

These are just a few of the many books available in each category. We encourage you to seek out other titles as your interests lead you.

About Berners

[The Bernese Mountain Dog](#) (Cochrane)
[The Bernese Mountain Dog](#) (Crawford)
[Bernese Mountain Dog](#) (Ostermiller)
[The Beautiful Bernese Mountain Dog](#) (Russ & Rogers)
[The Complete Bernese Mountain Dog](#) (Simonds)
[The New Bernese Mountain Dog](#) (Smith)
[The Bernese Mountain Dog Today](#) (Willis & Davenport)
[A Berner Baedeker \(4th Edition\)](#) (BMDC of Watchung)

About Raising and Training Puppies

[Taking Care of Puppy Business](#) (Pivar & Nelson)
[How to Teach a New Dog Old Tricks](#) (Dunbar)
[How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With](#) (Rutherford and Neil)

Dog Showing

[Born to Win](#) (Craig Trotter)
[Dog Eat Dog: A Very Human Book About Dogs and Dog Shows](#) (Stern and Stern)
[Junior Showmanship from Hand to Lead](#) (Miller)
[Show Me! A Dog Showing Primer](#) (Coile)
[The Winning Edge](#) (Alston)

Dog Breeding

[Canine Reproduction](#) (Holst)
[The Whelping and Rearing of Puppies](#) (Lee)
[Practical Genetics for Dog Breeders](#) (Willis)
[Control of Canine Genetic Diseases](#) (Padgett D.V.M.)

Care/Nutrition

[Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs and Cats](#) (Pitcairn and Pitcairn)
[Pet First Aid](#) (Mammato DVM)
[Taking Care of Your Dog](#) (Gerstenfeld)
[Holistic Guide to a Healthy Dog](#) (Volhard and Brown)
[Give Your Dog a Bone](#) (Billinghurst)

Obedience Training/Behavior

[Canine Good Citizen](#) (J. Volhard, W. Volhard)
[Training Your Dog – The Step-by-Step Manual](#) (Volhard & Fisher)
[Best Foot Forward, Successful Obedience Handling](#) (Handler)
[Good Owners Great Dogs](#) (Kilcommons, Wilson)
[Positive Results](#) (Pivar & Nelson)
[Surviving Your Dog's Adolescence](#) (Benjamin)
[What All Good Dogs Should Know: The Sensible Way to Train](#) (Volhard & Bartlett)
[The Body Language and Emotion of Dogs](#) (Milani DVM)
[Dog Training in Ten Minutes](#) (Benjamin)
[Peak Performance](#) (Zink DVM PhD)