



CODE OF CONDUCT

The mission of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities is to preserve and protect the health, heritage, and type of the Bernese Mountain Dog.

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to provide club members with guidelines for living with and breeding Bernese Mountain Dogs responsibly. Members should bear in mind that a Code of Conduct is more than a set of rules. It is a commitment to a high standard of practice in owning, exhibiting, and breeding Bernese Mountain Dogs. Adherence to the spirit of the Code of Conduct is as important as adherence to its specific guidelines.

In keeping with this mission,

Each Club Member agrees to:

1. Insure that all dogs in my care are provided with adequate food, shelter, human companionship, veterinary care, basic obedience training, and socialization.
2. Maintain control of my dogs in public.
3. Become more educated about the Bernese Mountain Dog and the fundamentals of dog ownership, support public education programs, and honestly represent the breed by sharing my knowledge with others to help to make informed decisions in choosing an appropriate pet for their family.
4. Take actions that are in accordance with the best interest of the club and the breed.
5. Display good sportsmanship and conduct myself in a manner as to reflect credit on the club and the breed.
6. Participate in dog-related events for the glory and benefit of the dog and the breed.
7. Actively support the club's activities and attend its meetings.
8. Make available any information that might aid in improving the breed by sharing health information (e.g., hip and elbow screenings, medical conditions, etc.) through Berner-Garde Foundation's Open Database.

Each Club Member who breeds agrees to:

1. Strive to bring the Bernese Mountain Dog's natural qualities to perfection through breeding selection, using the standard of the breed as approved by The American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence for the breed.
2. Become more knowledgeable regarding responsible breeding practices, canine genetics, and proper conformation and temperament of the breed.
3. Exhibit potential breeding dogs in AKC conformation events with the intended pursuit of AKC Championship titles.
4. Register all breeding dogs with the AKC and keep complete and accurate records of all matings, litters and pedigrees.
5. Plan breedings to assure that a sufficient number of good homes are available for the resulting puppies, and be willing to accept the return of placements which do not work out for the owners or for the puppies.
6. Keep the health and well-being of the individual dog in mind when making decisions regarding breeding age and frequency.
7. Breed only physically and temperamentally sound dogs that have been evaluated for heritable disorders through recognized registries such as OFA and CERF.
8. Follow ethical practices in sales and breeding contracts and honor all agreements, whether written or oral.
9. Provide only truthful representation about the sire, dam, and siblings of both (as known) when selling or advertising any puppies/dogs and provide full disclosure regarding any health concerns.
10. Guarantee the health of the dog subject to a veterinarian's examination within 72 hours of placement.
11. Maintain contact with the dogs and their owners to better evaluate the development of my breeding program and remain available for advice and mentoring.
12. Refuse to sell or consign puppies or dogs to any known retail, wholesale, or commercial dealers, or brokers, and will not knowingly supply dogs for raffles, contests, giveaway prizes or other such events, be it for charitable causes or otherwise.
13. Supply buyers with:
 - A four generation pedigree,
 - Copies of reports of health evaluations of sire and dam,
 - A written contract for all transactions including puppy sales and breeding agreements,
 - A copy of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities Code of Conduct.

14. Employ careful screening practices for potential puppy owners.
15. Sell any puppies not intended for breeding on an AKC limited registration and assure (to the extent possible) that these animals will be spayed or neutered.

Signature

Date

This Code of Conduct has the approval of the members of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities and its Board.