



BerNews

Spring 2016

Bernese Mountain Dog Club Of The Greater Twin Cities

The BMDCGTC was formed in 1988 to help promote the best possible breeding, training, health, and well-being of the purebred Bernese Mountain Dog.



It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of one of our members; Jim Gilroy, husband of Deb Gilroy. Our thoughts are with Deb and family members as they go through this difficult time.

President's Message:

Wow. Spring has arrived in grand style. I hope you and your Berners are getting out to enjoy this great weather.

I am thrilled that Lynn Nelson has stepped forward as Newsletter Editor; she'll have lots of fun and interesting -news to share with you as she gets her feet wet with this new position.

Our first Club event of the year was our annual Awards and Member banquet held on 3/19. Many of us enjoyed a great meal and good conversation at Buca's and Awards for titles earned in 2015 were handed out.

Our next planned event is an Introduction to the sport of K9 Nose Work on Saturday, 6/4. Please see the Club's Website <http://twincitiesbmd.org/events.php> for details and the signup form. Other events will include the Regional Specialty on August 26th and the Draft Tests on October 22 and 23rd.

I'd love to hear from you about what kind of events you'd like to see planned by the Club. Feel free to send me an email with suggestions at peckdbmd@gmail.com.

Denise Peck
President

Brag:

We love our Berners and what a better way to share your Berner with others than in our “Brag”. Maybe your Berner earned a special title, obtained their “veteran” status milestone, accomplished a feat you have been working on together, or maybe they just did something special – this is the place to share that information so we can all celebrate with you! Please send your brags to Lynn Nelson at BernerMom585@aol.com

“ Arlo” (Bernergardens Happy Hippie) with KARE-11 TV personality Belinda Jensen. Belinda Jensen generously donated 2 autographed sets of her 6 book series to our club. They are about the weather, but prominently feature her BMD. We plan to donate 1 set to the Health Auction at the National Specialty in Frankenmuth and stay tuned to information about the other set. Arlo enjoyed meeting Bel. And of course he got drool all over her lovely gray suit.



Boo (Avalon Mist Boojum Blooms at Nighttime TD, NDD) , owned and loved by Denise Peck, earned her Novice Draft Dog title at the Arizona draft test in January.



Lynn and Lance Nelson are happy to announce their “Bristol” (Kitzbuhel’s Bristol Bay) handled by Jeni West, received her championship in February with a 4 pt major.



Upcoming Events:

Introduction to the sport of K9 Nose Work on Saturday, 6/4. Please see the Club's Website <http://twincitiesbmd.org/events.php> for details and the signup form.

Lucy Fund: There is work underway for a new re-vamped Lucy Fund. An event will be planned for late summer or early fall. There will also be 1 set of Belinda Jensen's books available at the Lucy Fund get together --- Stay tuned for more information

Friday, June 10, 2016 - Sunday, June 12, 2016

BMDCA/BMDCGTC Superintendent: Jan Richards

Email: janice1@hickorytech.net

Location: Animal Inn Training Center

8633-34th Street North

Lake Elmo, MN 55082 [See Map](#)

3-day outdoor AKC Agility Trial. Entries close 5/25/16. Come on out to support the Berners in agility.

Friday, August 26, 2016 8:00 AM

BMDCGTC Regional Specialty

Superintendent: [Onofrio](#)

Location: Washington County Fairgrounds

12300 North 40th Street

Lake Elmo, MN [See Map](#)

BMDCGTC Regional Specialty is part of the SCVKC four day show cluster: Puppy and Veterans Sweepstakes, Junior Showmanship, Regular and Intersex Classes. Enjoy our raffle, Silent Auction and potluck lunch. Please see the trophy sign up sheet in this newsletter.

Friday, September 23, 2016 - Sunday, September 25, 2016

[BMDCGTC Agility Trial](#) Superintendent: Kris Osojnicki

Location: Animal Inn Training Center

8633 34th St N

Lake Elmo, MN 55042 [See Map](#)

Three day outdoor agility trial.

Saturday, October 22, 2016 - Sunday, October 23, 2016 8 AM to 5 PM Draft Test

Superintendent: Draft Test Secretary - Nancy Mayer

Email: jnbmd@hcinet.net

Location: Hansen Park

1555 5th Street NW

New Brighton, MN [See Map](#)

Plan to join us for the BMDCGTC Annual Draft test. Note that a club meeting will be held on Saturday, 10/22 during lunch.



Did you know ?

The American Kennel Club has announced a point schedule change effective May 11, 2016 for Division 15, which includes Minnesota. Per AKC:

SCHEDULE OF POINTS

For complete Conformation Championship requirements see Chapter 16 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows

The Points toward a Championship shall be awarded to the Winners Dog and Bitch of each breed or variety based on the actual number of dogs or bitches competing in that breed or variety. If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Breed or Variety, the dogs of both sexes that have been entered for Best of Breed or Variety competition and that have been defeated in such competition, shall be counted in addition to the dogs that completed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points. If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed or Variety, the dogs of its own sex that have been entered for Best of Breed or Variety competition that have been defeated in competition for Best of Opposite Sex, shall be counted in addition to the dogs that completed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points. After points have been computed for Winners Dog and Winners Bitch subject to the above two stipulations, the dog awarded the Best of Winners shall be credited with the number of points calculated for Winners Dog or Winners Bitch, whichever is greater. In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused or ordered from the ring by the judge, or from which all awards are withheld shall not be included. Any dog which shall have won fifteen points shall become a Champion of Record, if six or more of said points shall have been won at two shows with a rating of three or more championship points each and under two different judges, and

some one or more of the balance of said points shall have been won under some other judge or judges than the two judges referred to above.

SCHEDULE OF POINTS FOR DIVISION 15 - EFFECTIVE MAY 11, 2016

Division 15 is comprised of: Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin

1 Point		2 Points		3 Points		4 Points		5 Points	
Dogs	Bitches	Dogs	Bitches	Dogs	Bitches	Dogs	Bitches	Dogs	Bitches
2	2	5	7	7	11	13	18	17	27

If desire more information on other breeds please see the AKC website for additional information:

http://images.akc.org/pdf/events/conformation/point_schedule/2016/ScheduleofPoints_Div15.pdf?_ga=1.265039366.806125341.1457217751

Grand Championship levels become titles

Effective April 1, 2016 the Grand Championship levels will become titles. The change will be retroactive to the beginning of the program. Dogs that earned an achievement level (Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum) in the past, will have it officially added on their record. Going forward, title certificates will be issued when a dog achieves the required points needed.

Additionally, dogs can earn multiple levels of the Grand Champion Platinum title for every 800 GCH points earned. This will be displayed by a multiplier such as GCHP2. Below is a simple table of the new title abbreviations and the number of points needed for the title.

Title Abbreviation	Points Needed
Grand Champion GCH	25
Grand Champion Bronze GCHB	100
Grand Champion Silver GCHS	200
Grand Champion Gold GCHG	400
Grand Champion Platinum GCHP	800

BMDCGTC Regional Specialty, August 26, 2016

in conjunction with the Northstar Working Group and St Croix Valley Kennel Club
4-DAY SHOW CLUSTER, Lake Elmo, Minnesota

For more information please contact

Karen Johnson, Trophy Chair, northforkkaren@yahoo.com,
Sarah Tennesen, Fundraising, tennessee@charter.net

Thank you for supporting the BMDCGTC Regional Specialty with your trophy sponsorship.

Please review the classes and fees

Best of Breed (\$75.00) SPONSORED, Club

Best of Opposite Sex (\$65.00)

Awards of Merit or Select (2 of each are available) – \$50.00 per AOM/Select

AOM- ,

AOM,

Select-

Select,

Best of Winners- (\$50)

Winners Dog- \$40 Julie Rivers

Winners Bitch- \$40

Reserve Winners Dog- \$35,

Reserve Winners Bitch- \$35

Best in Puppy Sweeps- \$70

Best of Opposite in Puppy Sweeps - \$60

Best in Veteran Sweeps- \$60, SPONSORED, BMDCEW

Best of Opposite in Veteran Sweeps - \$50, SPONSORED, BMDCEW

Classes in conformation or juniors \$25.00 per class:

6-9 mo. Dog

6-9 mo. Bitch

9-12mo. Dog

12-18mo. Dog

Am. Bred Dog

AOH Dog –Sarah Tennesen, Snowbound Bernese

Bred by Dog

Open Dog

7-9yr. Veteran Dog

9-11yr. Veteran Dog

11 & over Veteran Dog

Stud Dog

Juniors (\$40 for all): Novice Junior or Senior, Open Junior or Senior and Intermediate Junior or Senior.

9-12 mo. Bitch

12-18 mo. Bitch

Am. Bred Bitch

AOH Bitch

Bred By Bitch

Open Bitch

7-9 yr. Veteran Bitch,

9-11 yr. Veteran Bitch

11 & over Veteran Bitch

Brood Bitch & Brace

Saturday, Supported Entry-\$70

Please make checks out to **BMDCGTC** and mail to:

Sarah Tennesen, N4801- 430th Street, Menomonie, WI 54751

Trophy Recognition (name, in memory etc):

Address

BLOAT: A Major Breakthrough!

<https://greatdanegnosis.wordpress.com/2016/03/19/bloat-a-major-breakthrough/>

Canine Bloat Study

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Michael A. Harkey

Beverly Torok-Storb

3/15/16

Bloat, known to veterinarians as gastric dilatation-volvulus (or GDV), is an acute, life-threatening condition that occurs at high frequency in many large and giant breeds of dogs. Great Danes are unusually susceptible to this condition. About 37% of Great Danes will experience bloat at some time in their life, and the majority of them will die without immediate medical intervention. Other large and giant breeds are also way too prone to this condition. Yet the causes of this condition have remained a mystery for decades. The goal of our study is to identify the causes of bloat. This information could then lead to diagnostic and therapeutic strategies to minimize the occurrence of this deadly condition.

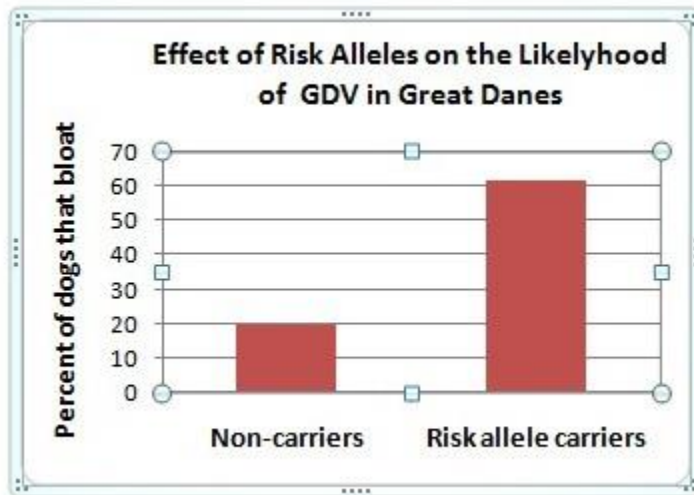
Our effort over the last two years has been supported by donations from generous pet owners who care deeply about dogs and want to find a cure for bloat. This study could not have happened without the help of all the Dane owners that enrolled their dogs, answered lots of questions, and sent samples for testing. We focused on Great Danes, because the high frequency of bloat in this breed guaranteed a large group of affected animals and increased the statistical power of the analysis. This effort has already

produced results that will profoundly affect the community of Great Dane owners, who deal with this disease constantly. Hopefully, these results will soon translate to other breeds.

Importantly, bloat correlates strongly with an underlying condition of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), suggesting a possible pre-existing state in the gut that contributes to bloat. We hypothesized that, since IBD and bloat are co-existing conditions, they may have the same root causes. In both humans and dogs IBD is linked to specific genes of the immune system. It is thought that molecular variants of these genes (alleles) cause changes in the bacterial population of the gut (the gut microbiome), which in turn, sets up an unhealthy condition in the gut. This unhealthy microbiome contributes to chronic, low-level IBD. According to our hypothesis, it also predisposes a dog to bloat. While the causes of bloat are not clearly understood, several risk factors have been described in the scientific literature, including age, dietary, behavioral, pre-existing health and genetic factors. The most significant risk factors appear to be genetic, since strong correlations with bloat exist for breeds, families and gender. The best way to combine all of these factors is envision a genetic predisposition in some dogs, and a non-genetic trigger, such as stress, that sets off the bloat event.

To test this hypothesis, we enrolled two groups of Great Danes, a “bloat” group in which all members survived bloat through surgical intervention, and a “control” group that had never experienced bloat. In a genetic study, five immune genes were sequenced from each dog, looking for genetic variations that associate with bloat. In a microbiome study, the gut bacterial population of each dog was analyzed from stool samples, looking for particular species that are unusually low or high in the bloat group.

We have just submitted the genetic study to the scientific journal, **PLoS one**, to be reviewed for publication. We have established three genes that contribute to bloat in Great Danes. For each of these genes, several alleles (molecular variants) are found in the Great Dane population, and in other breeds. One allele from each gene was found to significantly increase the risk of bloat in Great Danes. As shown in the graph below, those Danes that carried at least one of these risk alleles had a 3-fold higher risk of bloat. In fact, 62% of the dogs carrying a risk allele had to undergo emergency surgery to survive a bloat episode. This information will be crucial for owners and breeders that are trying to decide if preventative gastropexy surgery is appropriate for their dog, or if their dog should be bred. For this reason,



The life-time risk of bloat in Great Danes rises from 20% in dogs that do not carry a risk allele, to 62% in dogs that carry one or more of the three identified risk alleles

we have designed genetic tests for these risk alleles. The tests will be offered to owners and breeders of Great Danes.

The second study, microbiome analysis, should be completed in the next couple of months. Since the genetic side of our hypothesis proved to be true, we have reason to expect to see specific microbiome abnormalities in the bloat group. If we do discover that bloat is caused by specific imbalances of the microbiome, then a whole array of therapeutic strategies will be available to combat the disease. For example, probiotics or specific dietary changes may be used to re-balance the microbiome, and thus, prevent bloat.

As you can see, the study has already generated some very significant results and we are excited to push forward with the next phase. We could not have done this without the generous support of our sponsors, and the efforts of all the Dane lovers who contributed their time, information and enthusiasm to this study. Thank you!!!

Many questions still remain: Will the findings for Great Danes carry over to other breeds? Are additional immune genes involved? Did we miss risk factors from very severe cases that were not survived? Will the microbiome data point to therapeutic strategies? All of these questions can be addressed in future studies, if we can find additional funding. We are asking the AKC to help us with the next phase.

For the most up-to-date club information, please check the website or the club's Facebook page.

National Specialty : Good Luck to everyone traveling to Frankenmuth, MI for the National Specialty! Have Fun and Travel Safe,

