



BerNews

Spring 2006 Volume 3, Issue 1

Special Interest Articles:

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- Lucy Fund – Kudos to Everyone
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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.

Letter from the President

-Shannon Cihlar (Eli, Brie, & Chaska)

A new year and a new president. I should probably tell you a bit about myself. I fell in love with this breed over 25 years ago, when I had my first obedience dog, a St. Bernard. I have shared my life with Berners for the last ten years. I have bred three litters. I currently have three Berners living with my family. I have participated and earned titles in conformation, obedience, rally, and drafting. Also, I have given herding, tracking and agility a try as well. I have been the club newsletter editor, secretary, and board member. I hope that I can continue the good work started by Julie Latterell, our former president. She has left some very big shoes for me to fill.

In 2005, the club continued with established events such as the Swiss Fun Match and the Health and Wellness Day. In addition, we had a contingent attending the

Swissfest in Berne, Minnesota. We were well represented at the Regional Specialty in Wisconsin and the National Specialty in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Berner Playpals has continued under the new guidance of Coleen Carroll. The Lucy Fund grew with the generosity of Shelley Strohm and Steve Boda.

We had new events in 2005 as well. Adam Conn organized a draft workshop, which had a nice turnout. In June, we will be holding our first ever Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America Draft Test followed by another workshop. We also started a new awards program in 2005 and held the first awards banquet February 4, 2006. We had quite a few Berners and their owners to honor and had a great time doing it.

With your continued support the club can offer

all these events and continue to expand. I would love to hear your ideas on what you would like to get out of this club. We need the participation of all club members to be successful.

Our next club meeting will be at a new location for us with details inside this issue. I hope you can all attend. The requirements of the facility are that **all** dogs remain on leash unless doing a demonstration.

Let's all work to make 2006 a most excellent year! ●



Club Meeting Notice

Meeting Date/Time: Saturday, March 11, 2006
Time: 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Meeting Place: Elk River K9 Training Center
9948 Hwy 10 NW
Elk River, MN
763-241-0066

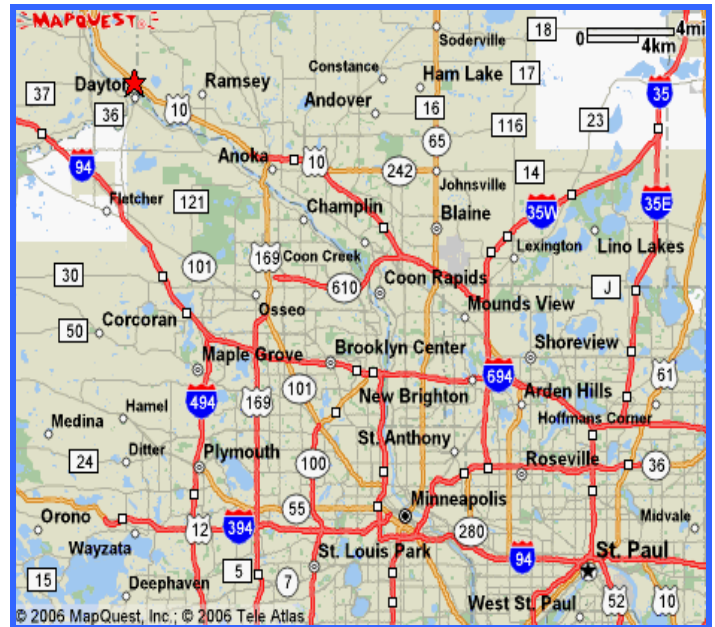
Directions:

Take US 10 West past US 169 towards Elk River
After Rest Area/Weigh Station, turn left at Edison St. to
cross US 10. Turn right onto the service road.

**Potty area/parking available behind building.
Do not exercise dogs in front of building.**

*Please note that all dogs must be leashed at all times
per facility requirements.

*The club will be holding its first official BMDCA Draft
Test on June 17, so we will be having a drafting
demonstration at the meeting. •



Lucy Fund – Kudos to Everyone

-Shelley Strohm & Steve Boda (Bella & Gwyneth)



“Party On”



“I’ll just hide in the bedroom and hope they don’t all move in.”

Hello all

I’m happy to announce that we raised over \$850 for the Lucy Fund at this year’s wine tasting event and judging by our house the next day, a good time was had by all, particularly Gwyneth, who could barely get off the couch!! But then again, nothing says fun like wine and Berners.

Thanks to everyone for their generosity. We look forward to the 3rd annual event, although we may reconsider moving the date to avoid the mud and rain of January. Who knew???

I’m looking forward to seeing you all at the next event.

The Lucy Fund

The Lucy Fund was established in January 2005 by Shelley Strohm and Steve Boda to aid BMDCGTC members and their Berners. The fund was

established with the donated proceeds from a fundraising event to honor the memory of Lucy, who died after a valiant struggle with cancer.

The fund is open to BMDCGTC members and their Berners. Please go to: <http://www.twincitiesbmd.org> and proceed to the Membership link. There you will find the detailed guidelines to apply to the fund for assistance and also application forms.

Thank you to Shelley, Steve, and Lucy for this legacy to BMDCGTC members in Lucy’s honor.

Source:

Julie Latterell email correspondence via President@TwinCitiesBMD.org, April 17, 2005 •

AKC Code of Sportsmanship

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance, and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions, and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decision or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulation, and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage, and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of his breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

Source: www.akc.org•



BRAGS

Star Magnolia (Pudlik) earned her first leg on a Rally Advanced title Jan 27. She got 87 points with a 2nd place finish. She did this at the Working Group only competition held at Total Recall in Hugo, MN.

More brags on the club website!•

BMDCW Spring Draft Test

-Beth Schmoyer, BMDCW Draft Chair

"Caution Berners at Work"...Come join us for a fun filled day in historic Bethlehem, PA on the Lehigh Canal, across the Lehigh River from Bethlehem Steel, where The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Watchung will be holding their 12th BMDCA Draft Test.

**Spring Draft Test, All Breed • Sat, April 22, 2006
Sand Island Park, Bethlehem, PA**

Judges: Sara Steele & Christopher Cottle

Premiums will be available at www.bmdcw.org

Or by contacting our secretary JoAnn Biercuk

biercuk@msn.com • (201) 794-1671

Entries close April 10th at the secretary's house. She will notify all of the entrants once the test is closed to their entry into the test. Spectators always welcome!

Then join us on April 23rd in Bridgewater, NJ for our Spring Fun Match. Contact Mike Lella for more info: mlella@epix.net

Letter from the Editor Regarding Dental Care

-Catherine Muenich (Chester)

What I learned in February

I learned that February is National Pet Dental Health Month, and if you take care of your dog's mouth, you can add 2 years to his/her life. That is quite significant period of time taking into consideration the average longevity of our beloved Berners.

That is because failing to care for your dog's teeth on a regular basis can lead to periodontal disease, which causes not only pain but also big health problems if left untreated. It's easy to keep your dog's mouth healthy with some simple routine care. Unfortunately, many owners don't know this, resulting in signs of periodontal disease in 85% of dogs 4 years of age and older, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. In fact, periodontal disease is the most commonly diagnosed health problem in dogs.

It all starts with plaque

Periodontal disease is simply the scientific term for gum disease. Essentially, when your dog eats, the meal leaves a coating on the teeth that can feed loads of hungry bacteria. That is plaque. If it is not removed, plaque hardens into a yellow or brown substance called calculus or tartar, which can only be removed by a veterinarian.

In the early stages of gum disease, plaque and tartar form, irritating tissue and causing inflammation along the gum line. This is called gingivitis. If it is caught early, the problem can be remedied with a professional

dental cleaning at the vet's office, followed by regular home care.

If it progresses to later stages, periodontal disease can cause bleeding, receding gums, loose teeth, and loss of bone. At that point, surgery is often necessary to clean out pockets of bacteria deep under the gum line and try to reattach gum tissue that has pulled away from the bone. The most serious cases sometime require extraction of the affected teeth. Once the teeth are removed the periodontal disease goes away. However, that's the last thing you want to have to do!

A disease of neglect

Major mouth issues do not happen overnight. They can take years to develop. Periodontal disease is actually a disease of neglect. Left unchecked, it can wreak havoc on the rest of your dog's body. Bacteria from the mouth can make its way into the bloodstream and harm internal organs. It can cause all kinds of issues, including problems with the heart, liver, kidneys, joints, and lungs. For example, it may turn out that the very same bacteria feasting away in your dog's mouth may be the same bacteria causing your dog's kidneys to fail. Fortunately, pain caused by periodontal disease can be prevented simply by stopping the disease before it starts.

Rx for a healthy mouth

Your vet can best determine when your Berner needs a professional tooth cleaning, but about once a year is a good guideline for healthy pets. Pets

with periodontal disease may need cleanings more often. A professional cleaning for your dog is similar to the treatment humans undergo at the dentist's office. After examining the dog's mouth, the vet removes the tartar from the teeth, both above and below the gum line. If the gums are diseased, removing some tissue may be necessary to promote better dental health. After that, the tooth surfaces are polished using an abrasive paste and then rinsed to remove residue and plaque.

To have a professional tooth cleaning, your dog will be administered general anesthesia. This can be the source of some worry. However, your vet should do everything to make undergoing anesthesia as risk free as possible. A pre-anesthetic exam that includes laboratory tests can be conducted to ensure that your dog is healthy enough to undergo the procedure. Talk to your vet about these and other protocols that ensure a safe, pleasant, and pain-free experience. That way, you can be confident that your dog is comfortable and well taken care of.

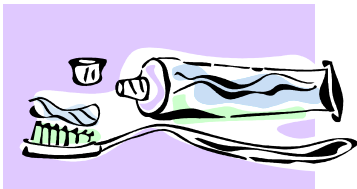
Affordability

While dental cleanings may seem like an added expense, they're actually a very cost effective investment in your pet's health. Since February is the celebrated month for National Pet Dental Health, many vet's offer discounts on dental care procedures during that time. Be sure to ask your vet for details. ►

Letter from the Editor continued...

What you can do right now

- Schedule a veterinary exam. It's easy to make your pet's dental exam part of your yearly wellness workup. Regular visits allow your vet to accurately monitor the progress of your dog's dental health.
- Improve your dog's diet including treats and chew toys. One of the most convenient and effective ways to combat oral disease is feeding your pet specially formulated foods and treats designed to combat plaque and tartar buildup. Properly designed chew toys can also help keep your pet's teeth and gums healthy.
- Begin a dental care regimen for your dog at home. This can begin with brushing your dog's teeth on a regular basis. Starting when your dog is young can make the task much easier.



Brushing at home

STEP 1 – Select a standard time to brush your dog's teeth. Brushing every other day is fine.

STEP 2 – Acquaint your dog with the process. For the first few sessions don't use a toothbrush. Try to hold your dog the same as when you are cuddling her. Place a dab of toothpaste on your finger and let her taste it. Poultry flavored enzymatic toothpaste should be available through your vet.

STEP 3 – Introduce the toothbrush by placing a small amount of toothpaste on the brush. In a slow circular motion, brush one or two teeth and the adjoining gum line.

STEP 4 – Over several days, gradually increase the number of teeth brushed. It is important to eventually brush the rear teeth too. Go slowly and gently. Stop brushing when you decide to stop, before your dog begins to fuss.

Remember to make tooth brushing a pleasurable experience!

Sources:

Healthy Pet, Winter 2005

www.vcapets.com

The Scoop Newsletter for Alimagnet Dog Park

www.alimagnetdogpark.org•

New Member Applicants

-Denise McCabe (Mick)

The following people have applied for club membership. They have attended at least one meeting and are eligible to be voted into the club at the next meeting, March 11.

Jim & Sharon Millard

Stillwater, MN

Berners: Sawyer & Morgan
Sponsors: Coleen Carroll & Denise McCabe

Duane & Chris Shelley

Stillwater, MN

Berners: Dakota & Sammy
Sponsors: Nancy Mayer & Julie Latterall

Dean White & Renee Boyd

Hugo, MN

Berners: ?

Sponsors: Coleen Carroll & Rick Bryan•



Berner Rainbow Bridge

Capezza's Pick Your Pockets CGC RN (ARPH 3964)
(Pockets) 1990-2006 (Australian Shepherd)
Adam & Amy Conn

Club Officers

President

Shannon Cihlar
320-283-5378
President@TwinCitiesBMD.org

Vice President

Coleen Carroll
651-407-8152
VicePresident@TwinCitiesBMD.org

Secretary

Jim Sheehan
612-701-4016

Treasurer

Nancy Arndt
763-783-1996

Board Members:

Julie Latterell
Peggy Bebeau
Darwin Missling
Adam Conn
Susan Acklen

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.twincitiesbmd.org



The Bernese Mountain Dog

Club of Canada

NATIONAL SPECIALTY

June 2 – 5, 2006

Tiger Goldstick Park
Ottewell Curling Club
4205 102 Avenue, NW

Edmonton, Alberta

Held in conjunction with the
Northern Alberta Canine Association
All-Breed Show and Trials

June 2 – 5, 2006

For more information, premium lists and entry forms please visit

www.bmdcc.ca/specialty_2006.htm

About BerNews

The content of BerNews represents the views and opinions of the authors, and not necessarily those of the BMDCGTC or its members, nor does publication constitute endorsement.

Articles written by members of the BMDCGTC on any subject that may be of interest to members are welcome. All works must be sited.

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