



BerNews

Fall 2006 Volume 3, Issue 3

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Letter
- News About Leptospirosis
- Regional Club Council Happenings

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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.

President's Letter: Health & Wellness Day 2006

-Shannon Cihlar (Eli, Brielle, & Chaska)

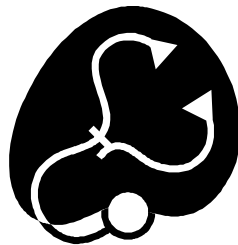
Well another summer is coming to an end. I hope it has been great for all. As we head into the fall, we have a couple of events coming up to plan for. On September 30, in St. Louis Park, is Doggie Palooza, a day of fun for dogs of all breeds, with many products available, and demonstrations of all types, including a draft demo. Our club will have a booth that day, and anyone who would like to come and help man the booth for an hour or two is more than welcome.

On October 28, we will be hosting our Health and Wellness day. We will have a speaker for the day and a photographer so you can get pictures of your beautiful berners. In addition, we will have professionals performing various services. Look inside for more information. Good for all berners, especially all those new puppies out there!

As the end of the year approaches, don't forget to be working on those titles for your dogs in order to earn awards at our annual banquet. All American Kennel Club titles, Canadian Kennel Club titles, herding titles, as well as Canine Good Citizen and therapy dog titles can earn awards. More to come on this event.

Yeah for the cooler weather coming for our dogs! ●

Tri-colored Trio in Autumn



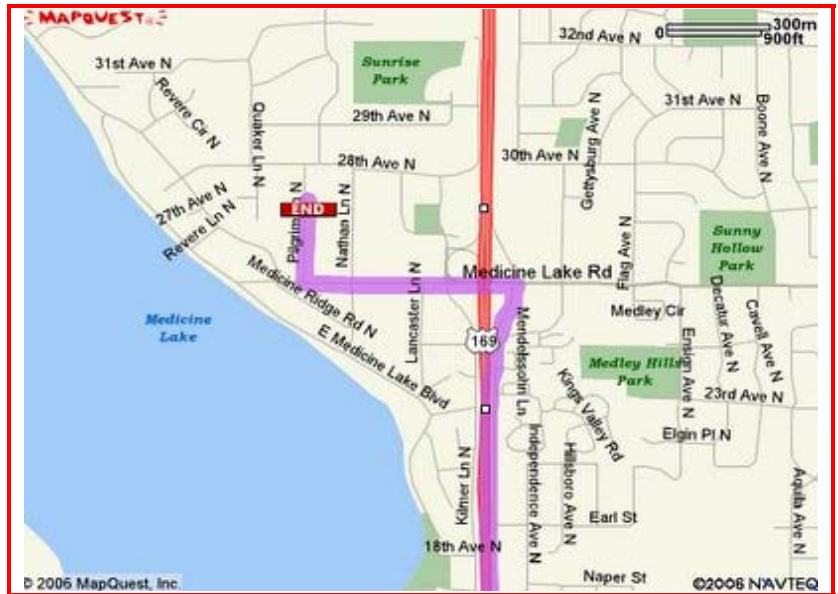
Club Meeting Announcement

Meeting Date/Time: Saturday, September 9, 2006
1:00 to 4:00

Meeting Place: Adam & Amy Conn
2740 Pilgrim Lane
Plymouth, MN
763-208-6278

Directions: Get onto Hwy 169 toward Plymouth.
Turn onto Medicine Lake Rd/CR 70
and drive west.
(CR 70 becomes 26th Ave N.)
Turn right onto Pilgrim Lane N.

* There will be a special presentation by Jan Heck on the subject of tracking.●



News About Leptospirosis

-Catherine Muenich (Chester)

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease carried by wildlife and rodents. The disease is transmitted through urine and can persist in the environment in water, moist soil, or vegetation.

Leptospirosis infection in dogs can result in fever, vomiting, jaundice, kidney failure, liver disease, inflammation in the eye and blood vessels, and in some cases death.

Vaccines for two strains of Leptospirosis have been available for dogs for many years and have significantly reduced the frequency of infections. However in the past decade, newer strains have emerged, and these strains are now a more common cause of leptospirosis infection in dogs. The traditional vaccines do not protect dogs against these newer strains. Fortunately, there is now a vaccine that includes the two new strains (L. pomona & L. grippityphosa), in addition to the two "traditional" strains (L. canicola & L. icterohemorrhagia).

All leptospirosis vaccines currently available for dogs are chemically inactivated (killed) whole culture vaccine, which unfortunately make them much more likely to cause vaccine reactions when compared to most other viral vaccines. In fact, leptospiral vaccines are blamed for many of

the vaccine reactions seen in dogs.

Leptospiral vaccines for dogs offer approximately 6-8 months of protection. Dogs that are at high risk of contracting leptospiral infections should be vaccinated twice a year. Generally, puppies are not vaccinated before 8 weeks of age. If leptospiral vaccines are used, the animal should receive 2-3 doses of the vaccine spaced several weeks apart. Because of the lack of cross protection between strains, the incidence of reactions, and the need for frequent vaccination, many veterinarians have begun to recommend leptospiral vaccination for those dogs at higher risk.

Is your dog active and spending a lot of time in the outdoors? Have there been confirmed cases in your area? If so, leptospirosis vaccination may be worth considering. Because this can potentially be a very serious disease, it is recommended that all pet owners consult with their local veterinarian to determine if leptospiral vaccination is necessary.

Sources:

*Handout. VCA Cedar View Animal Hospital,
Stephen Mitchell, DVM.*

www.peteducation.com●

ALL-BREED CANINE HEALTH AND WELLNESS DAY

Please go to www.twincitiesbmd.org to find out more details about the event or to pre-register--

When: Saturday, October 28, 2006

Where: Stone Mountain Pet Lodge
(<http://www.stonemountainpetlodge.com/>)
Blaine, Minnesota

▪ **Speaker: Dog Savvy by Anne Wolff Nichols**

Morning Session:

Foundation Dog training – presentation and demonstration

Anne focuses on training for control that truly opens up the human *AND* canine mind to learning, while helping owners develop a deeper relationship with their dog. She also focuses on training for people that think their dog is already "good"--and yes, old dogs *CAN* learn new tricks and discover a whole new life!!!

Anne will be available throughout the day for one-on-one discussions and training questions

Afternoon Session:

Basic Canine Grooming – how to keep your double-coated dog *looking* and *feeling* good!

▪ **Health and Identity Services Offered:**

- Cardiac Screening
- CERF Eye Exams
- Microchipping
- Von Willebrand's (vWB) (on a pre-registered basis only)
- DNA Test Kits (limited number available)

ATTENTION: Beginning in 2007, an AKC DNA Profile number is required for entry in the BMDCA National Specialty in all competitive events and/or events where a title may be obtained.

▪ **Pet Photos:**

Katie Larson, professional photographer, will be on hand to take photos of you and your favorite pet!

Lunch provided for pre-registered attendees!•

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.

Robb & Gail Simpson

Lakeland, MN
Berners: Dually
Sponsors: Coleen Carroll
Rick Bryan

Laurie & George Rose

Lake Elmo, MN
Berners: Windy
Sponsors: Kathy Pruno
Nancy Arndt

Dean White & Renee Boyd

Hugo, MN
Berners: ?
Sponsors: Coleen Carroll
Rick Bryan

Duane & Chris Shelley

Stillwater, MN
Berners: Dakota & Sammy
Sponsors: Julie Latterell
Nancy Mayer

Laurie & Jim Coleman

Richfield, MN
Berners: Buddy
Sponsors: Darwin Missling
Amber Loshbough

Shyan Fitzgerald & Jason Mikunda

Minnetonka, MN
Berners: Kato
Sponsors: Nancy Arndt
Darwin Missling

Amy & Martin Saar

St. Paul, MN
Berners: ?
Sponsors: Julie Latterell
Nancy Arndt●

“How Many Dogs Does It Take to Change a Light Bulb?”

-Catherine Muenich (Chester)

MALAMUTE: No, you change the light bulb. I just wanna play with the old one.

GREYHOUND: Only if it's near the couch.

GREAT PYRENEES: One. It sits patiently under the light bulb and waits for the world to revolve around it.

BULLDOG: Just one, but it takes them three years to do it.

BEAGLE: How many cookies do I get?

BORDER COLLIE: Just one. And he'll rewire the whole house while he's at it.

BOXER: If I could stop wiggling my butt long enough to quit falling off the chair...

DACHSHUND: Won't change the bulb, but he will dig the old bulb out of the trash and bury it here, no wait that's the wrong spot... this is better, no, maybe over there.

CORGI: I can't reach the stupid lamp!

GOLDEN RETREIVER: "I'll be glad to change the light bulb for you, but first can't we play catch with the tennis ball, or Frisbee – and then I want to lick your face and rest my head in your lap and look up at you with my sad eyes.

What? You're changing the light bulb yourself? You didn't have to do that – but I loooove you so much for being my friend and doing that.”

STANDARD POODLE: None. Go get human, sit under it, look up and point it out – then go lie down in disgust that it took so long.

GERMAN SHEPARD: “I'm kinda busy right now. I have to chase the cat, protect the kids, herd the horses, beg for food, and take a nap. I'll add the light bulb to my “To Do” list...”

PIT BULL TERRIER: Jump and take hold of old light bulb. Now, let go of old light bulb.....I said LET GO OF THE LIGHT BULB! Please??? Let go of the light bulb??? Let go?

Any ideas as to what a Bernese Mountain Dog would say? I'll include it in the next newsletter. How about:

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG: If that bulb is giving off any heat, I'm not going near it. I'll just lie in front of the central air vent while you do it.



*CAT: I don't waste my time with these childish jokes.

Sources:
SKIJOR@yahoo.com
Catherine's imagination●

Regional Club Council Happenings

-Julie Latterell & John Mayer, RCC Co-Representatives

The Regional Club Council (RCC) is a "grass roots" organization which acts as a liaison between the Regional Clubs and the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) Board. The purpose of the RCC Committee is to effect greater communication between the BMDCA Board and the BMDCA membership as well as between the Regional Clubs, thereby assisting the BMDCA Board to be more effectively responsive to the BMDCA members.

It may seem a bit tardy to be filling club members in on discussions that took place at the in-person meeting of the Regional Club Council (RCC) membership at the National Specialty held back in May in Frankenmuth, Michigan. However, the issues that were of concern to the RCC and the BMDCA in May are still of concern today.

Liability Insurance for Rescue

Are you aware that the majority of regional BMD Clubs across the country carry out rescue functions without liability insurance to protect themselves in case of a dog bite or injury related to fostering a rescue?

That is true of our own club and that of many others across the country. This is a major concern to not only regional clubs, but the BMDCA as well. The BMDCA feels that the rescue function is best carried out by regional clubs, but are concerned that regional clubs

lack the financial resources to purchase costly rescue liability insurance coverage. Most insurance companies that cover dog club activities have general liability policies that cover losses that occur at recognized club-related functions. However, when it comes to rescue coverage many insurance carriers do not cover rescue functions of dog clubs—or make it so cost-prohibitive that many clubs simply cannot afford it on limited budgets.

Most of the clubs that do have rescue insurance coverage currently either are AKC recognized (*Licensed* or *Sanctioned*) clubs, or have found creative solutions to secure rescue insurance coverage (e.g. partnering with another existing club that has rescue liability insurance to do BMD rescue for regional club, or forming a separate corporation to just do BMD rescue).

Certainly this is an issue that is of concern to the BMDCA as a whole, Regional Clubs and individual members.

AKC Recognition

A large number of regional clubs across the country are not recognized by the AKC. As of July 2006, of the 24 regional clubs across the country, 8 clubs are *licensed* by the AKC and 5 clubs are *sanctioned* by the AKC, leaving 11 clubs that are not recognized in any way by the AKC. This affects the availability and affordability of rescue insurance. Recognition by the AKC can come in two

forms—licensing and sanctioning. Licensing is the more stringent of the two, while getting your club sanctioned by the AKC is more easily achievable.

In order to address the issue of lack of rescue insurance coverage among regional clubs, the BMDCA recommended at the in-person RCC meeting that clubs that are not currently recognized by the AKC, consider becoming recognized, simply because it would allow them to continue doing rescue, while ensuring they can secure affordable rescue insurance coverage. The BMDCA has designated a point-person to help regional clubs interested in becoming recognized by the AKC go through the steps necessary to achieve that status.

Summary

At the BMDCGTC Board meeting in July, the board agreed to proceed with investigation the two options for AKC recognition—licensing and sanctioning. As this would be a significant undertaking and impact the direction the club would take for the future, the board will be seeking the input of membership on this question in the coming months. ●



Club Officers

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Secretary

Jim Sheehan
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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

Upcoming BMDCA Draft Test & Bernerfest Hosted by BMDCSEW

DATE

September 23 & 24, 2006

LOCATION

Nashotah, Wisconsin

JUDGES

Mary Alice Eschweiler
Fay Benson

For further information, go to:

<http://www.bmdcsew.org/>

Lunch will be available by ordering
through the premium list.

Come for the draft test on Saturday
Stay for Bernerfest on Sunday●



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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