

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of South-western Ontario Code of Ethics

The membership of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of South-western Ontario (BMDCofSWOnt) is dedicated to:

- Promoting the standard of the breed
- Promoting the working heritage of the breed
- Advancing the objectives and integrity of the club
- Protecting the interests of the breed and individual dogs
- Promoting quality and integrity in breeding programs

This code is established to further the objectives of the club as set forth in Club Objectives of the BMDCofSWOnt Constitution. Members of this club recognize that we each directly affect the welfare of the breed by our individual practices of ownership, breeding, sportsmanship and ethics. We therefore acknowledge our actions are the truest reflection of our personal integrity, our commitment to the enhancement of our breed community and true concern for the welfare of the breed.

1. Promoting the Standard of the Breed BMDCofSWOnt members agree to;
 - a) use the breed standard as adopted by the Canadian Kennel Club for the Bernese Mountain Dog to assess the suitability of dog's conformation, type and temperament for exhibition in CKC and club events and for breeding,
 - b) participate in and/or support events which promote the breed standard and reflect the breed's history and heritage such as Specialty shows, performance events and BMDCofSWOnt Draft Tests.
2. Advancing the Objectives and Integrity of the Club BMDCofSWOnt members agree to;
 - a) adhere to all CKC rules, regulations and requirements pertaining to the sport of dogs, the Constitution, By-laws and Standing Resolutions of the BMDCofSWOnt and this Code of Ethics,
 - b) share knowledge truthfully, constructively and respectfully when conveying information about members and members' breeding programs, as well as about individual Bernese Mountain Dogs,
 - c) display good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in a manner that gives credit to the BMDCofSWOnt, the CKC and the breed,
 - d) encourage and promote public awareness of responsible pet ownership,
 - e) ensure that in all dog related activities, the dog's welfare takes precedence over consideration of breeders, trainers, owners, organizations, sponsors and officials,
 - f) participate in activities and programs sponsored by the BMDCofSWOnt to the best of their ability.

3. Protecting the Interests of the Breed and Individual Dogs BMDCofSWOnt members agree to;
 - a) keep only as many dogs for which they can provide a high standard of health care, shelter, nutrition, attention, affection and overall care,
 - b) provide appropriate training, exercise and supervision to ensure their dogs are well mannered, kept in safe conditions and are not abused or neglected,
 - c) not allow their dogs to roam at large unsupervised, nor to become a public nuisance or a public burden,
 - d) ensure to the best ability that all dogs they place are not brokered, wholesaled or consigned through a pet shop, auction or other commercial establishment and are not offered as prizes in contests, raffles or fundraising events,
 - e) ensure to their best ability that no stud dog or brood bitch owned by them is bred to any dog or bitch whose owner is directly or indirectly involved with any dog broker, puppy mill, pet shop that retails dogs, auction, litter lot sales, or any other commercial enterprise whose business is involved in these activities,
 - f) ensure that all animals released to the care of others have received the health care appropriate for their age and needs,
 - g) prior to placing any Bernese Mountain Dog, discuss with the prospective owner the health care and behaviour management needs of the dog and provide recommendations for general care,
 - h) guarantee the health of the dog subject to a veterinarian's examination, at a minimum, within 72 hours of placement,
 - i) provide life time sanctuary or at minimum assistance to dogs of their breeding (this includes stud dog owners) in need of re-homing,
 - j) use a written contract detailing all guarantees, obligations and expectations of both the seller and the buyer,
 - k) place all companion-only dogs on CKC non-breeding agreements and require spay or neuter at an appropriate age,
 - l) enter data into Berner-garde of all Bernese Mountain Dogs owned and bred and to their best ability ensure the data is up to date,
 - m) adhere to the BMDCofSWOnt Kennel Standards and Guidelines.

4. Promoting Quality and Integrity in Breeding Programs BMDCofSWOnt agree to;
 - a) follow CKC rules applying to litter and individual registrations, ensuring that all puppies they produce are individually registered with CKC,
 - b) refrain from breeding dogs prior to 18 months of age,
 - c) refrain from having a female bear puppies more than once a year, (though veterinarian advice and extenuating circumstances may exist),
 - d) use for breeding only animals which exhibit good type, are in good health and are physically and temperamentally sound,
 - e) obtain an evaluation for hips and elbows from a BMDCofSWOnt recognised orthopaedic registry prior to using a Bernese Mountain Dog for breeding,
 - f) where feasible and practicable will participate in providing specimens and samples to studies for the purpose of furthering the health of Bernese Mountain Dogs,
 - g) remain available for advice, when sought, for the lifetime of offspring from their dogs,
 - h) exhibit at dog shows, matches and specialty events where feasible.

As a member of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of South-western Ontario, I agree to abide by this Code of Ethics. I understand that any serious infractions of this code where they are deemed detrimental to the breed, individual dog, club, or individual club member, may result in expulsion from the club.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date