



# Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Southern California

## Code of Conduct

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Southern California is dedicated to promoting the breed, preserving the unique beauty and character of, and promoting the best possible care and training of the breed.

As members of this Club, we further commit to the standard of this breed, supporting the integrity and purpose of the Club, protecting Bernese Mountain Dogs and their historical heritage, and promoting quality and integrity in breeding Bernese Mountain Dogs:

### **1. In promoting the breed standard, members agree to**

- a. Use the AKC breed standard to assess the suitability of temperament, breed type and structure for AKC and club conformation events and for breeding
- b. Exhibit at dog events where feasible

### **2. In supporting the integrity and purpose of the Club, members agree to**

- a. Adhere to our bylaws, Constitution, AKC rules and regulations, and this Code of Conduct
- b. Share knowledge of the breed, its heritage, health issues and be respectful when referring to kennels and breeders
- c. Promote the use of BernerGarde, the breed health database, and encourage all Berner owners to add their dogs to this database for health research and pedigree compilation
- d. Display good sportsmanship at Club events
- e. Encourage and promote responsible dog ownership and husbandry practices
- f. Place the breed and any individual dog welfare above that of profit or personal advantage

### **3. In protecting the Bernese breed and individual dogs, members agree to**

- a. Inform the breeder(s) of their Berner of any health issues in their dogs to help breeders assess their breeding program; breeders will keep individuals with whom their dogs are placed informed of any health issues in the family line that may assist owners in caring for their dogs
- b. Honor and fulfill any dog related contract they sign, including conducting health testing through organizations such as OFA, PennHip, and GenSol
- c. Keep only the number of dogs for which they can maintain a high standard of care meeting mental and physical needs of the dogs
- d. Provide appropriate training and socialization to ensure a well-mannered dog that never becomes a public nuisance or burden, is kept in safe conditions, and is never neglected or abused
- e. Ensure that all dogs are not brokered, purchased or sold wholesale, consigned through a pet shop, auction, or other commercial establishment and are never offered or procured as prizes in contests, raffles or fundraising events
- f. Promote the integrity of the breed as a purebred dog with purpose and discourage others from supporting and procuring the breed mixed with another breed

**4. Members who intend to breed Bernese Mountain Dogs agree to**

- a. Strive to breed to the AKC breed standard, using only dogs that exhibit good temperaments, health, breed type, and are structurally sound; shy and aggressive dogs should be eliminated from breeding
- b. Exhibit at dog shows when feasible and work to obtain a championship on breeding dogs
- c. Adhere to AKC rules and ensure any litter(s) bred are eligible for AKC registration
- d. Obtain evaluations of hip and elbows for dysplasia at age 2 years of age from the OFA or other orthopedic registry; obtain hip and elbow evaluations on all offspring to evaluate and guide breeding decisions
- e. Ensure a female bears puppies no more than 2 out of 3 heats; a period of 1 year of rest is desirable
- f. Remain available for advice, when sought, for the lifetime of the offspring of your dog(s)
- g. Ensure to the best of their ability that any puppies produced will be raised in accordance with this Code of Conduct (COC)
- h. Ensure all dogs and litters are submitted to and updated in BernerGarde
- i. Provide new owners with this Code of Conduct (COC), AKC registration, a minimum of 4 generation pedigree, and guidance on care, feeding, and training their Berner
- j. Stand behind what they produce in a written contract and commit to always accept the return of offspring sold if for any reason owners cannot keep the dog(s)

**The BMDCA further recommends that members**

- a) Assess whether prospective breeding candidates and their immediate relatives are affected or carriers of hereditary disease for which there is diagnostic testing. Such disease includes, but may not be limited to hip and elbow dysplasia, eye disease, thyroid disorders, heart disease, degenerative myelopathy, and Von Willebrand disease (VwD),
- b) Use dogs for breeding that are at least 2 years old, have sound temperament, structure, conformation, and breed type, that have been evaluated and are known to not be affected with a crippling or disabling defect and are not affected with a known hereditary disease for which there is diagnostic testing,
- c) Refrain from using dogs for breeding that, although unaffected by a particular defect, consistently produce afflicted offspring with different mates,
- d) Transfer puppies to new owners in accordance with state law and meet, at least, the minimum federal standard for transporting puppies (8 weeks of age),
- e) Obtain an AKC DNA profile on all dogs used for breeding

In applying for membership, I agree to comply with the rules and bylaws of this Club, the Constitution and this Code of Conduct of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Southern California

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Co-Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_