



THE Bernerblatt

The Newsletter of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley



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January 14, 2024

Winter Walk
Wompatuck State Park,
Hingham, MA

March 16, 2024

Scent Work Workshop
Inspire K9's
Training Center
Barnstead, NH

March 2, 2024

**2024 Regional Specialty
& Sweepstakes**
Eastern States Exposition,
West Springfield, MA

April 21, 2024

**BMDCNV Annual
Meeting**
Via Zoom

March 3, 2024

**2024 Supported Entry &
Sweepstakes**
Eastern States Exposition,
West Springfield, MA

May 18, 2024

Spring Fun Day
4-H Fairgrounds,
Westford, MA

(Check bmdcnv.org/events for any updates to the above.)

**BMDCNV 2024 Regional Specialty
& Supported Entry**

at the CRWGA Working Group Dog Shows

March 2 & 3, 2024

Eastern States Exposition
1305 Memorial Ave. • West Springfield, MA

Closing Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Saturday: Regional Specialty Judge: Ms. Sindi Leo
Sweepstakes Judge: Ms. Kris Hayko

Sunday: Supported Entry Judge: Ms. Vickie Allenbrand
Sweepstakes Judge: Ms. Patricia Clark

These dedicated club members provide essential services to our membership.

Please feel free to contact them with your questions, concerns, suggestions, requests for help, or offers of help.

Our mission is to provide the best for Berners and their families.

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On the Cover:

CH Michaudville Huntington Danis
CGC FDC CGCA CGCU TKN TKI ATT "Danis" BG# 155329

Owned by Candy Wright

The masthead & newsletter design are by Nancy Hoyt.

President's Message

Dear BMDCNV Members,

As I write this, there is a disturbing amount of senseless violence in the world. Lest it become overwhelming, I take a look at a Berner and am reminded of so many good things—rolling on your back is a lot of fun; a nap is to be treasured; when your human companion doesn't feel their best, staying at their side really helps. Peace and love are important. May the love that our Berners bring us spread throughout the world.

It was just a wonderful time at our October Draft Test! Even if you have zero interest in doing draft work, consider coming to watch next year's draft test. Several folks remarked how inspiring it was to see the teams (person + dog) working together and the incredible performances of the Berners.

While I don't dare establish a trend of recognizing volunteers—because I will surely leave someone out inadvertently—our club is made up of volunteers. Therefore I want to especially say nice things about some of our Draft Test volunteers: Allison Harding who did a phenomenal job as chair; Elizabeth Malcolmson, who was excellent as Draft Secretary; Dorri Poppe, who designed and built a new narrows apparatus for us; Sue Mahan, who fed a large group of us several times; and Larry Goldberg who so kindly drove one of our Draft Judges to and from Logan Airport. Wow! And I want to recognize Kim Ravida, who has stepped up as our new Regional Club Council representative. Thank you, all!

My dog Firn has made it known that she ... ahem ... feels under-represented in this column. I have conceded and will attempt to rectify this dreadful omission. Every week, Firn piles into the car and ensures that we go to agility practice. It keeps her young and svelte. She particularly likes the seesaw and the tunnels these days, though—being a mountain dog—of course, the A-frame is fun.

Please remember that I'm here for you and we are all here for the dogs we so love. My overriding goal is to treasure, protect, and celebrate the Bernese Mountain Dog. I know you'll join me in this.

All the best,

Mary Durham and Firn



New Member Showcase



Scott and Diane Avera *Stoddard, NH*

We are a professional couple living on a lake in rural NH. Diane was owned by Rottweilers and Scott by Labs. The office dog in Scott's dog-friendly office was a Berner and of course, we fell in love. We are now excited about welcoming a new Berner fur baby into our lives.



Toby, Philo, and the Sphynx

Scott Taylor *Hudson, MA*

I'm Scott and I have two Berners, Toby, who turned 6 in January, and Philomena (Philo) who will be 1 in June! In the house, we all enjoy it being cold except the Sphynx cat who loves the floof he can snuggle into if necessary!

Are you a New Member?

Tell us about yourself in our
New Member Showcase.

Click or copy this link, complete the summary,
upload a pic, click submit, and that's it!

[bmdcnv.org/new-member-showcase](https://www.bmdcnv.org/new-member-showcase)



Welcome New Members!

David & Patty Moody
Harpwell, ME

Alan Jaffa
Foster, RI

Scott Taylor
Hudson, MA

**Stacy McCarthy &
Daniel Raineri**
Derry, NH

B. Scott & Diane Avera
Keene, NH

Leon Zeng & Ian Chen
Lunenburg, MA

**Caitlin Fletcher &
Ian Covell**
Medford, MA

We invite all to join the members-only
bmdcnv.org group. Follow the instructions at
<https://www.bmdcnv.org/become-a-site-member>

BMDCNV

Draft Workshop

September 2023

On September 30th, we held the third and final draft workshop of 2023. The weather report predicted rain but once again, we got lucky. As with the prior workshops, we had various skill levels for both dogs and handlers. We even had a variety of dogs with a poodle and English Shepherd joining in the fun. Some teams were clearly ready for the upcoming draft tests while others were true beginners.

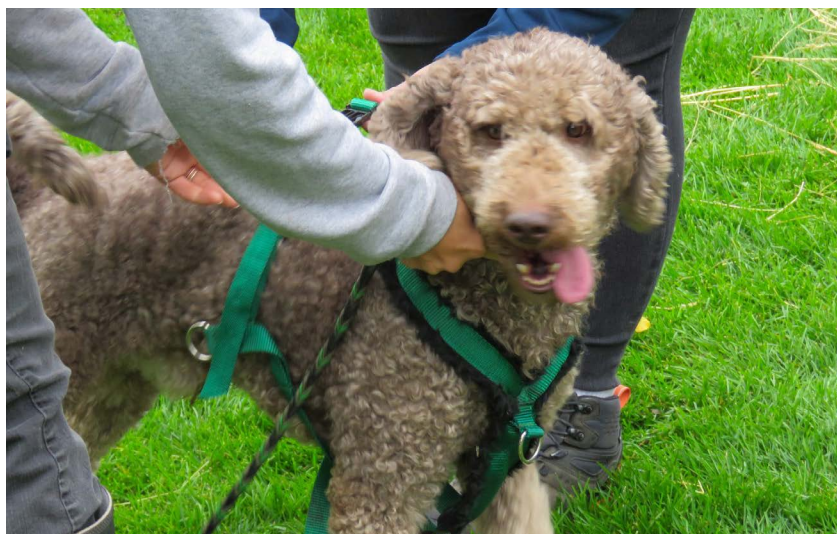
Conversations were had, harnesses were fitted, and then the work began. Each team got individual attention as needed throughout the day, thanks to terrific volunteers who shared their knowledge with the group. A brief break

for lunch was followed by a three-minute stay (who knew three minutes was sooooo long?) and a beautiful freight haul over the hills and dales of the Timberlost Farm. At the end of the day, every handler felt they'd made progress and had skills they could build on.

Special thanks to Rich and Candy Wright for hosting us at their fabulous farm for all three workshops. You guys are the best! And many thanks to Sue Mahan for keeping us beautifully supplied with food and drink at these events.

What can I say? Nashoba rocks!

—Anya Wittenborg





Participating teams:

Becky McPherson & Delmont

Patty McPherson & Holden

Maisie Notte & Destiny

Michelle Larson & Heather

Martha McCormick & Levon & Glimmer

Laura Squier & Clover

Sonja Haasper & Beau

Alise Burbridge & Quin

Cathy Estes & Ulla

David Knowlton & Rofa

Jillian Emerson & Locket



REMEMBERING MARGE BUMEN



In her element at the 2008 BMDCA National Specialty

For many of us, our introduction to Marge was in the four-year run-up to the 2008 BMDCA National, but she was a major force in the club long before that. With an authentic and inherent interest in anyone she met, she was a welcoming presence at club events. In retrospect, it seemed like she kept a mental rolodex of members, their interests and skills, which she later called upon in growing the club and organizing the 2008 National. As chair of Nashoba's Ways and Means, she developed unique items for the club's Paws 'N' Shop that brought in substantial funds for the club's activities. Our shop was the envy of all other clubs!

Always looking to the future, in 2003 Marge began to turn the club's focus to the 2008 National, building excitement and enthusiasm while leading this huge undertaking. When it was all over, former club president Jon Cons summed it up best:

"I have never seen such a large group where everyone put forth so much effort and achieved such superlative results. Everyone involved in this Specialty did a job, which would have been considered outstanding anywhere else. Here, it was just normal. For four years, there has been no bickering, no arguing, nobody feeling that the other guy hasn't been holding up his end of things. All the things that quash the morale of a group have been conspicuously absent. That's one reason why, despite being exhausted, we all felt so great and did so well."

"Thanks, especially to Margie—talk about bringing out the best in people while you had so much else to do. When I try to describe how we all feel about you, my words are just inadequate."

Following this achievement, Marge served as club president for six years. Patricia Buickerood, who worked closely with Marge as the club's secretary, reflected on their time together:

"She mentored me on how to negotiate competing interests and how to build a club to meet a diverse range of needs. Her understanding of the Berner world and the different constituencies helped make our club a national influence and welcoming place for Berner lovers. Marge challenged us to do more, do better, work harder to improve the breed. None of this speaks to Marge's kindness, generous spirit, and ability to build connections between people. She was a thoughtful, considerate, and kind friend."

Marge gave people the opportunity to lean into gifts they never knew they had.

We will miss her friendship and guidance.



WE CREATE A BEACON WHEN WE SHINE TOGETHER.

Marge passed away on August 7, 2023, in Cape Neddick, Maine, with her husband Joe, and her son Todd by her side.

BMDCNV Rally Trials 2023

Freezing cold temperatures and a brisk chilly tooth-chattering start time of 8:00 am was how we greeted the day at the BMDCNV November 11th Rally Trials, at Warner Brook Training Center in Pittsford, VT. Thankfully none of the entrants seemed bothered by the frost in the air, and many dogs turned in top performances on Judge Lori Moffa's courses. Chair Pam Eldredge and club members Heidi Henderson and Kate Elders kept the trials organized and moving along. Exhibitors had an enjoyable day and were quite appreciative of the lovely ribbons provided by the club.

Freezing cold temperatures and a brisk chilly tooth-chattering start time of 8:00 am was how we greeted the day at the BMDCNV November 11th Rally Trials...

Rachel Shook and Remus (Moonlight's Big Werewolf RE) were a great team, earning two RAE (Rally Advanced Excellent) legs and winning both **High Combined All Breed** and **BMD** in both trials.

Kate Elders and Flora (Oleka's Zycie Flora at Rosier CD RA) won a big **Excellent B** class as well as finishing Flora's RE (Rally Excellent) title.

Club member Maisie Notte, our sole junior handler, did a nice job with Destiny (Stick House Angel's Destiny RN), earning first place and a qualifying leg.

In **Novice B**, Jeanne Robbins' Boomah (Covenant's A Promise Kept TKA FDC ATT) had two high-scoring qualifying legs and Heidi Henderson's home-bred Jovy (Snowpaw's Thrs Snow Place Like Home CGC TKN) finished her Novice title.

And, in **Novice A**, Terry Spies and Nikki (Maine's Jardin des Fleurs) took home two first places and a new RN (Rally Novice) title.

One noteworthy performance was not a Berner, but a 10.5 year old Australian Shepherd named Fling. She, with owner Robert Wheaton, earned the last few points toward her **Rally Championship** (RACH). The requirements for a RACH are quite arduous and it was a long journey for this team to the title.

—Mie Kingsley



(Above, left to right) Snowpaw's Thrs Snow Place Like Home CGC TKN "Jovy" Owner: Heidi Henderson
Stick House Angel's Destiny RN "Destiny" Owner: Maisie Notte
Moonlight's Big Werewolf RE "Remus" Owner: Rachel Shook
Covenant's A Promise Kept TKA FDC ATT "Boomah" Owner: Jeanne Robbins
Oleka's Zycie Flora at Rosier CD RA "Flora" Owner: Kate Elders

New! Scent Work Workshop: Saturday, March 16, 2024



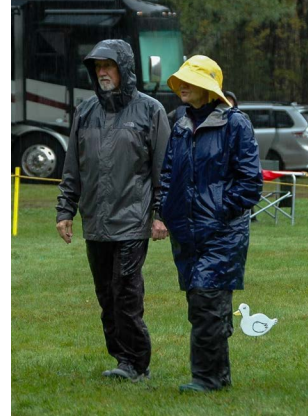
Save the date!

- At Inspire K-9's Training Center, Barnstead, NH
 - Nancy Bates will be our instructor
- We will offer a half-day for beginners & a half-day for more advanced teams

Cost and other details will be announced closer to the event.



BMDCA Draft Tests— *The one with all the rain on Saturday!*



Leon Zeng, Kayla Prunier, and Laura Braun; Bill Freeman and Dick Burbridge on the narrows; and Bill and Stephanie Freeman, and Candy Wright on the freight hauls.

Chair: Allison Harding
Secretary: Elizabeth Malcolmson
Committee: Laurie Brown, Julie Mott, Sue Nowak, Celeste O'Malley, Sam Sirico, Cathy Sullivan-Neves, Anya Wittenborg, Candy Wright

Thank you to our BMDCA Draft Judges Alison Jaskiewicz and Jim Maxwell, for being with us to judge our 51st and 52nd Draft Tests. We got underway Saturday morning under gray cloud cover, but by noon the skies opened, and after lunch the steady wind-driven rain was unrelenting. Competitors, stewards, and judges bundled up in their rain gear—with Alison in her sou'wester hat—to brave the elements and we refused to allow the rain to dampen our spirits! We got luckier with sunny and cool weather prevailing for Sunday's test.

Thanks to all our entrants, driving from as far as Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, and Pennsylvania to join us; and huge thanks to our dauntless volunteers who did their part in making this a fun and successful weekend of drafting:

Maneuvering ring: Thank you Allison and Ray Harding for bringing all the equipment and supplies from the club's storage unit to the site (and back again); Tom Jaskiewicz, Jeff and Sue Nowak, Phil and Beth Atkinson, and Bill Freeman for ring set-up; and Julie Mott, Stephanie Freeman, and Alison and Tom Jaskiewicz for ring decorations. Thanks to Dorri Poppe for her work over the summer and fall to design and build a new set of "narrows".

Stewards: Thank you, Mary Durham, Candy Wright, Bill and Stephanie Freeman, Alise Burbridge, Liz Lofgren,

Hospitality: Thanks to those who brought delicious breads, brownies, and other goodies to share. We enjoyed lunch and dinner in the cozy dining hall both days. Thanks to Sue Mahan for planning and prepping all our meals. What a spread, and you made it look effortless! Thanks also to Alise Burbridge for providing corn chowder, and hot mulled cider to warm us up Saturday afternoon!

Photos: Thank you, Cindy Buhner and Sue McEvoy, for being everywhere, even in the rain, to capture photos of each team; and thank you Abby Patrizio for stepping in to set up the dogs just right for their "win" photos!

Ways and Means: Thank you Stephanie Freeman for the opportunity to purchase calendars and other items from Paws 'n' Shop.

Special thanks to Larry Goldberg along with his Berner Zuzu for providing transportation to and from Logan Airport for Jim Maxwell, who flew in from San Francisco; and Mary Durham and Paul Emerson for hosting Jim at their home for the weekend.

Thanks to our Test Secretary Elizabeth Malcolmson, with assistance from Julie Mott for the Premium List and Catalog. Thanks to Sue Nowak for helping us with ribbons. A special shout-out to Allison Harding for chairing these tests, a job that began with coordinating our application to the DWC last January and ended up with her being the last person to leave the farm on Sunday.

—Julie Mott, Draft Test Committee



Saturday Qualifiers: 16 Teams, 7 Passes

OPEN (DD)

Jill Shaeffer and CH Blackrock Xquisite Xtravaganza CD BN RI DD BDD ANDD BNDD NDD TKN FDC "Gala" **Gala completed her MDD (Master Draft Dog title) with this pass!**

NOVICE (NDD)

Laurie Brown and Spruce Peak's As Fate Would Have It Porschia TKN CGCA CD-C FDC BN RI ATT NDD "Porschia"

Susan Van Ocker and GCH Wintergreen's Lookout for Treasures V Riverwood CGC NDD "Bridget" **Bridget earned her ANDD (Advanced Novice Draft Dog Title) with this pass!**

Martha McCormick and Asgaard's Nefarious Night Fury CGC TKI RE FITB PKD-N "Levon" **A new NDD!**

Samantha Sirico and GCH Riverwood's The Fennel Countdown NDD FDC CD CGC ATT "Fennel" **Fennel earned his ANDD (Advanced Novice Draft Dog Title) with this pass!**

Beth and Phil Atkinson and Backcountry Quickstep to Seawind "Lindy" **A new NDD!**

BRACE NOVICE (BNDD)

Susan Van Ocker and GCH Wintergreen's Lookout for Treasures V Riverwood CGC NDD "Bridget" and GCHB Wintergreen's Every Sailor's Dream BN CD ANDD BNDD BDD CGC "Schooner" **Bridget earned her BNDD (Brace Novice Draft Dog Title) with this pass!**

Trophies for the oldest and youngest qualifying Bernese Mountain Dogs were provided by Michelle Larson and Laurie Brown. Oldest: Schooner, 5 years old; youngest: Lindy, almost 3 years old.



Sunday Qualifiers: 16 teams, 7 passes

OPEN (DD)

Susan Van Ocker and GCHB Wintergreen's Every Sailor's Dream BN CD ANDD DD BNDD BDD CGC "Schooner"

Martha McCormick and Asgaard's Nefarious Night Fury CGC TKI RE FITB PKD-N NDD "Levon." **Levon earned his DD in his second draft test ever, after moving up from Novice!**

NOVICE (NDD)

Samantha Sirico and GCH Riverwood's The Fennel Countdown NDD FDC CD CGC ATT "Fennel"

Beth and Phil Atkinson and Backcountry Quickstep to Seawind "Lindy"

Kari Doucette and Still River Countess Rosina "Rosie" **Rosie is a Saint Bernard and new NDD!**

Laurie Brown and Spruce Peak's As Fate Would Have It Porschia TKN CGCA CD-C FDC BN RI ATT NDD "Porschia"

BRACE NOVICE (BNDD)

Susan Van Ocker and GCH Wintergreen's Lookout for Treasures V Riverwood CGC NDD "Bridget" and GCHB Wintergreen's Every Sailor's Dream BN CD ANDD DD BNDD BDD CGC "Schooner"

Trophies for the oldest and youngest qualifying Bernese Mountain Dogs were donated by Laurie Brown. Oldest: Schooner, 5 years old; youngest: Lindy, almost 3 years old.



Fall Fun Day!

As soon as I took the exit off I-495 towards Chelmsford, Agnes sat up and started looking out of the car window. When we turned into the 4-H campground, my usually silent Berner started making squealing sounds. She couldn't wait to get out of the car and greet all her Berner friends, both dogs and people. It seemed that most of the 65 dogs and the 130 people attending the Fall Fun Day on September 23 felt the same way. There was lots of mutual sniffing by the dogs who also looked for people willing to pet them or give them treats, while the people were pleased to meet old and new friends and greet new puppies.

Fun Day always lives up to its name and this one was especially enjoyable. The predicted rain held off so that everyone could enjoy a wide range of activities. Event chairs Candy Wright and Allison Harding planned varied offerings, familiar and new. The addition of a Pee Wee Match brought five entries. Face painting by Melissa Morgan-Oaks, and a "How many treats in the jar?" contest were popular, especially with younger attendees.

For those unfamiliar with Rally, Buffy Bell gave a great demonstration with her accomplished Berner, Rain. I tried the course with Agnes, but I think she was better at it than I was. There was also a demonstration of scent work by Michelle Larson.

In the middle of the morning, there was a puppy parade, organized by Carolyn Massey. Sixteen puppies under 12 months old and their owners were admired and cheered, and afterward enjoyed time in the monitored Puppy Play Pen supervised by puppy owners and Rich Wright.

By lunchtime, I was glad for a chance to sit down and excited to find that the comfort food buffet, organized by Sue Mahan, contained many of my favorites, with dishes like mac and cheese, shepherd's pie, and corn chowder as well as sandwiches and bread. Breakfast items, generously donated by Liz Lofgren, were also available.

The Paws 'n' Shop table, organized by Stephanie and Bill Freeman, offered many enticing options for holiday gift-giving. The Raffle, led by Cathy Sullivan-Neves and



Pee Wee Match winners

Pee Wee Spectacular

Melody and Bella
Reese and Ryegate
Bridget and Mari
Ainsley and Derby
Reese with Peach
(stand-in handler)

EVERYONE was a winner!

—Heidi Henderson



Erin Spanos, seemed to have more items than ever, including the largest Berner “stuffie” I’ve ever seen. There were also several Berner Corn Hole Boards donated by Liz Lofgren. I bought lots of tickets but wasn’t lucky this time—maybe at the next Fun Day.

After lunch, there was a beneficial and engaging PPO (Potential Puppy Owner) talk by Linda Seaver. She noted with pleasure the orange “I’m looking for a puppy” stickers that were given out at registration.

The B Match, featuring 11 entries with Adam Conn as the judge and Heidi Henderson as the steward, was a notable success, as was the Pee Wee Match.

Thanks to all the volunteers named above who organized events, as well as those who helped in many other ways including bringing lunch offerings, set up, activities, and clean-up. Special thanks to the Fun Day organizers Candy Wright and Allison Harding.

On the way home, Agnes slept contentedly, dreaming about all the exciting Fun Day events she had enjoyed.

—Christine Navez



AKC Sanctioned B Match

Match Chair: Heidi Henderson
Judge: Adam Conn

Best Puppy:

Mari (BG# 214474) owned by Laurie Brown

Best of Opposite Sex Puppy:

Wyatt (BG# 211621) owned by Matt George

Best in Match:

Mari (BG# 214474) owned by Laurie Brown

Best of Opposite Sex in Match:

Wyatt (BG# 211621) owned by Matt George

Celebrating Our Berners!

Birthdays!



Bacio

Olympian's Sweet Dreams
CGCA FDC TKN

07/04/13 BG# 125054

A perfect TEN on July 4th! Bacio is our first DOUBLE-digit Berner and we are celebrating big time! This girl loves a party as you can clearly see from her smile. We love you Prin-Cess Fluffy Pants you'll always be the Baby Girl.

Jeanne Robbins, Canaan, NH



Bella

La Vita Bella

09/18/19

Happy 4th Birthday to our wild and crazy Border-Berner, Bella. We call her that because she acts just like a Border Collie! We love you lots!

*Nancy Hoyt, Torrington, CT &
John Osthoff, Becket, MA*



Danis

Michaudville Huntington Danis

11/01/18 BG# 155329

Happy 5th Birthday, Danis!

Candy Wright, Ashburnham, MA



Fennel

*OHBIS BISS GCH Riverwood's
The Fennel Countdown
ANDD FDC CD CGC ATT*

11/08/18 BG# 155358

Happy 5th Birthday to our best boy, Fennel. He couldn't be more loved or bring more joy to our lives.

*Sam & Tina Sirico &
Laurel Wood, Old Saybrook, CT*



Finnegan

Valkyrie's Begin Again with Finnegan

11/26/18 BG# 155305

Happy 5th Birthday to our big goofy boy Finnegan and his littermates.

*Steve & Cate Bartley,
Stratham, NH*



Guinness

*Seawind Farm's Quintessential
Guinness*

10/31/20

Happy 3rd Birthday to Guinness
AKA 5 Freckle Freddy

*Diane & Dennis Vanpelt,
Lincolnton, ME*



Hazel

10/03/16 BG# 217427

Happy 7th Birthday to our sweet Hazel! She celebrated her special day by sharing her greatness with students at my school! Her work as a therapy dog continues to impact the lives of children each and every day!

Ashley Barsaleau, Auburn, NH



Isla

Belnois Family Strong

11/25/22

Happy 1st Birthday to Isla whom we welcomed into our family in early November. We are grateful to Veronique Matte-Paquet for entrusting this sweet, calm, and affectionate girl to us as a companion for our beloved Agnes.

*Christine & Andre Navez,
Hopkinton, MA*



Madden

*Hoosier Roos Marvelous
Madden V Trio*

10/16/14 BG# 125039

Happy 9th Birthday, Maddie-Mu! They broke the mold with you! You keep us laughing at 9 years young with your crazy antics. Always insisting on riding shotgun upright like a person and receiving laughs from passengers in nearby cars.

*Nancy Hoyt, Torrington, CT &
John Osthoff, Becket, MA*



Meadow

11/10/21

Our sweet Meadow turns 2 this year! She loves the NH White Mountains and cuddles on the couch. Happy Birthday, baby girl, we love you!

*Elizabeth & Molly O'Donnell,
Hampton Falls, NH*



Raphael

*CH Maine's Healing Light Raphael V
Sprucepeak NDD DD FDC CGCA AD
NDD (Canada)*

11/04/15 BG# 127653

Happy 8th Birthday to the Best Boy Ever!

Celeste O'Malley, West Brattleboro, VT



Rebel

*Poet's Rebel Rousser from Balihara
Ranch RA FD, CGC*

11/14/13 BG# 126844

Happy 10th Birthday, Rebel!!! You did it. We did it. Love you to the moon and beyond.

*Judy Bache & Dave Schantz,
Starksboro, VT*

Celebrating Our Berners!

The **Bernerblatt** is your newsletter, and we love your submissions! Share birthdays, brags, remembrances, a new furry friend, or anything you think is interesting to the members. Get your favorite high-resolution jpeg photo of your pup, click on <https://www.bmdcnv.org/celebrating-berners>, and fill out the form. It's that easy.

Celebrating Our Berners! Birthdays!



Tober

Steadfast Over the Moon

10/23/22 BG# 215790

Happy 1st Birthday my Tober!!
So incredibly grateful for such a
sweet and happy boy!

Wendy Higgins, Lakeville, MA



Tripp

Snowpaw's Sonnenberg Trekker

11/01/15 BG# 126902

Happy 8th Birthday to Trippy. Lots
of love from Mom, Dad, Anna,
Tribble & Riker.

Tressy & Cory Manning, Barnard, VT



Winston

Mystic's No Knocks Sox Winston

10/23/18 BG# 154005

Happy 5th Birthday to our Winston!
Love you!

Pamela & Charles Swearingen,
Belmont, MA



Zigi

12/27/20

This beautiful boy is the very best
thing that came out of 2020. Thank
you, Debbie Butler Miller and Kathy
Kennedy, for this great boy! Kiki and
Molson are smiling down upon us
every day. Nothing heals a broken
heart better! Happy 3rd Birthday, Zigi!

Nancy Berger, Shelburne, VT



Brook

CH Tennescott Green Mtns Brook
CD BN RA NDD BNDD TDN FDC
HCT's AD CGC THDN VD

04/20/16 BG# 131915

Brook loves her 'retirement' as a Pet
Partners certified therapy dog. We
volunteer at an elementary school and
library in a "Read with me" program
and recently added hospital visits.

Buffy Bell, Reading, VT

Braggs!



Dorie

*Sprucepeak's A Little Help From
My Friends*

07/19/22 BG# 207203

Dorie as Winners Bitch Pioneer
Valley KC show in Greenfield MA.

Celeste O'Malley,
West Brattleboro, VT

The Berner-Garde Foundation was established to assist in efforts to improve the health of Bernese Mountain Dogs. The Foundation maintains the most extensive collection of BMD health and pedigree information available in a computerized database. Every BMD entered into the system is given a unique identifier (BG#). The Foundation seeks information on as many Berners as possible to benefit genetic health research, so if your dog isn't entered, please consider doing so. To learn more, go to <http://bernergarde.org/home/>.



Dorie

Sprucepeak's A Little Help From My Friends

07/19/22 BG# 207203

Dorie at 12 months. Owner Handled BOB. Awarded a Group 3 placement in Owner Handled Working Dog Group.

*Celeste O'Malley,
West Brattleboro, VT*



Fennel

*OHBIS BISS GCH Riverwood's
The Fennel Countdown
ANDD FDC CD CGC ATT*

11/08/18 BG# 155358

In the pouring rain at the BMDCNV Draft Test, Fennel got his 5th Novice Draft pass to earn his Advanced Novice Draft Dog title less than 2 months after lifesaving bloat surgery. We could not be prouder of this boy and his accomplishments!

*Sam & Tina Sirico & Laurel Wood,
Old Saybrook, CT*



Finnegan

Valkyrie's Begin Again With Finnegan

11/26/18

Our boy Finnegan enjoying the beautiful fall weather during a trip to the Berkshires. Finn loves it when the leaves turn because he knows it means the colder weather is on its way!

*Steve & Cate Bartley,
Stratham, NH*

Braggs!



Kenai

*Lucchese's Bear Hug From Cypress
TKN CGC*

01/17/23 BG# 211625

Kenai has been very busy earning his Novice and Intermediate Tricks Titles and his CGC. Most recently he qualified and won first place in his first three trials to earn his Beginner Novice Obedience Title at only 9 months old.

We are so proud of him!

Sue & Randy McEvoy, Bellingham, MA



Lyra

*Trailbound's More Than Words
TKA ORT NW1 RA*

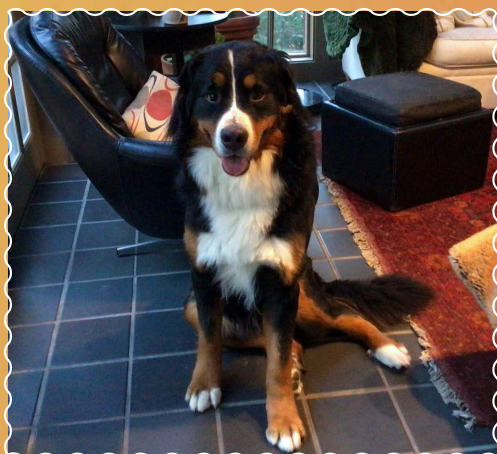
02/08/21 BG# 191109

Lyra earned her first leg toward her provisional freestyle dance title on October 20. Lyra and Nancy danced to "Pet Sematary" by the Ramones.

*Nancy Bates,
Old Orchard Beach, ME*

Celebrating Our Berners!

Celebrating Our Berners!



Poe Bear

08/31/21

A never-ending gratitude to BERNER, Inc., Anya, and Linda for your generosity and support in adopting Poe Bear. He is the sweetest boy. Every day is a joy with him in our lives. Boy, do we love him!

*Lynne, Chris & Alex Bailey,
Cape Neddick, ME*



Weber

Spellbound's Grillin' & Chillin'

11/23/19 BG# 166686

On June 24th, Weber finished his AKC Grand Championship. As a bonus, at the end of September, we wrapped up the AKC year with him achieving #20 in the AKC National Owner Handler Series!

Dayna & Scott Merrow, Dover, NH



Zuber

Kaibab's Luminosity NDD

01/21/21 BG# 190200

So proud of Zuber for passing Novice Draft with flying colors twice at the Watchung Draft Tests in early October.

Alison Jaskiewicz, Mason, NH

Braggs!



Remembering



Bailey

04/28/11-08/21/23

Bailey was a companion, best friend, and big sister. She loved Good Morning Time, camp outs, the Bailey-mobile, and sharing the last bite of the ice cream cone. Bailey, Boo-bear, Ms. B, Little Buddy, Bubbles—you have left your mark on our hearts.

Neil & Ellie Colvin,
Merrimack, NH

Digit

Windfall's To A Thousand Places

03/14/15-08/06/23 BG# 120454

Digit served as a wonderful ambassador for the breed, particularly in Maynard, MA. He was a gentle soul, a friend to any and all, and will be missed by anyone who met him.

Adam Conn, Kris Hayko &
Michael Knicely, DVM, Maynard, MA



Welcome!



Anna

Steadfast Frozen Littlest Princess

06/18/23

We welcomed Anna into our family on August 19th. She has fit right in and has given big brother Tripp a playmate.

Tressy & Cory Manning,
Barnard, VT

Isla

Luchesse's Dark Diva

09/04/23

We welcomed Isla into our family as a companion for our 9-month-old Kenai and she has fit in perfectly! She is sassy and sweet making our home complete. We are just so grateful for her!

Sue & Randy McEvoy,
Bellingham, MA

Celebrating Our Berners!



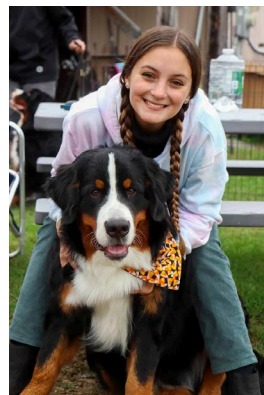
Berners & Brews

BMDCNV's Berners and Brews was held on October 8, 2023, at Trolley 27 in Laconia, NH.

After a last-minute date change, we still had a good crowd of about 30 people and 20 dogs. We lucked out with the weather again, and attendees enjoyed lots of mingling while sampling Trolley's famous homemade waffles and sandwiches. Many of us also enjoyed a special treat from the outdoor bar and a few even got in a round of golf!

Thank you to Stephanie and Bill Freeman for traveling to the event with a Ways and Means pop-up shop, and to Dayna Merrow for educating others about Berner-Garde and collecting owner and dog information for this important database. A special thank you to the owners of Trolley 27, Leslie Judice and Ray Simanson, for welcoming us onto their property. Matt and I hope everyone had a great time at one of our favorite local dog-friendly spots!

—Melissa and Matt George, Event Organizers

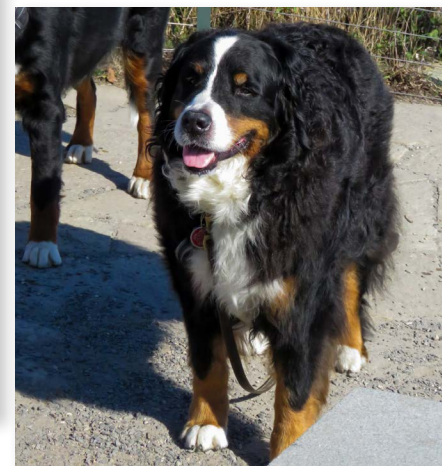
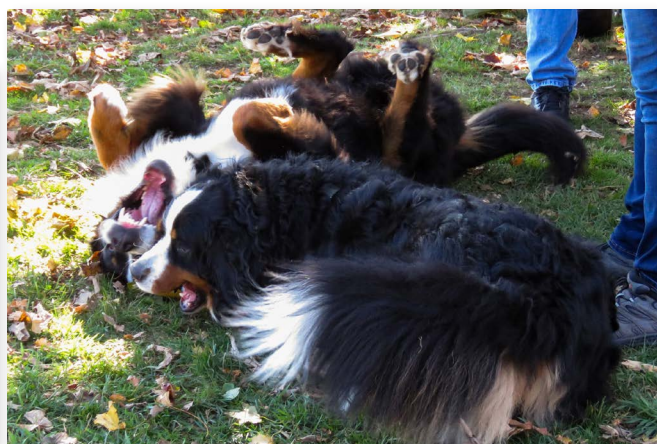
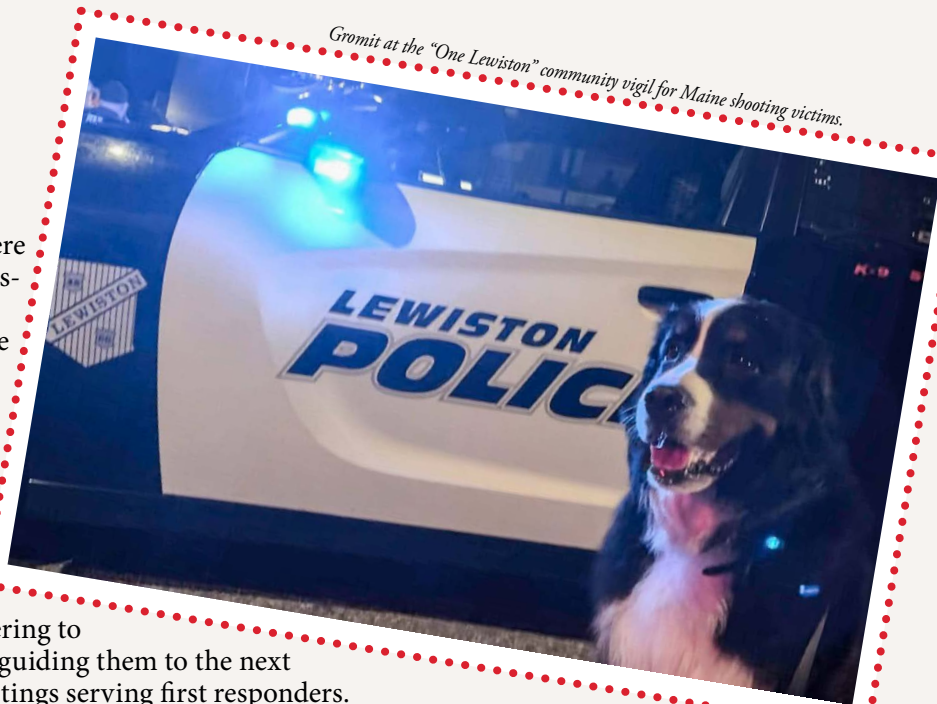


Therapy Dog

Gromit Helps in Lewiston, ME

At the end of October, George Brown—chair of our Therapy Dog Committee—and 5-year-old Berner, Gromit, a K9 First Responder team, were called to Lewiston, Maine, to provide canine-assisted trauma response after the tragic shootings there on October 25. They met with people from a variety of affected groups at public events including a support center for the entire community, and with mental wellness groups at the community vigil and church service at the Basilica of Saint Peter and Paul in Lewiston. The dogs' presence opens doors to conversations about people's emotional responses to trauma. The teams provide psychological first aid, encouraging those suffering to seek support, and in cases of immediate need, guiding them to the next step. They also visited groups in non-public settings serving first responders.

K9 First Responders, Inc. is a Critical Incident Mental Health Support (CIMHS) organization. Through a compassionate presence, the teams leverage the canine/human bond to help restore a person's emotional and cognitive equilibrium, helping bridge the gap between a traumatic event and the connection to mental health support. For more information: <https://k9fr.org>



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2024

Your membership in the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley will expire at the end of this year on December 31st. You can renew (and pay) online at bmdcnv.org/renew or by following the instructions in the letter that you will receive in the mail in December. Online renewals save the club money and effort, so we appreciate those, but we offer both options since we realize that our members may have different preferences.

Your membership provides support for everything that we do. And we do a lot! Looking through the pages of this Fall Bernerblatt shows some of the wonderful

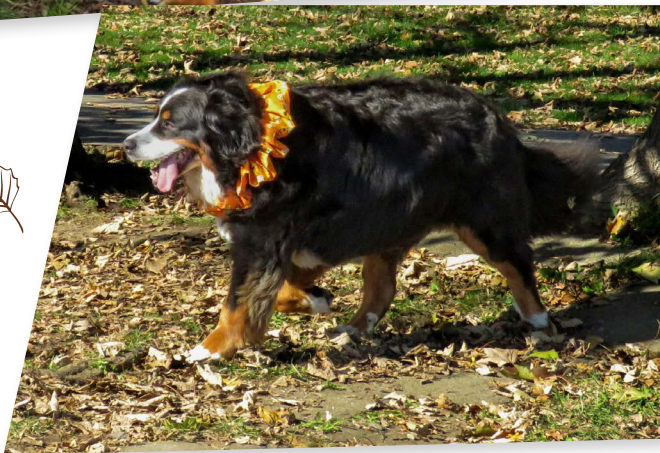
variety of events that we offer and programs that we support. 2024 will be our 43rd year dedicated to the breed we all love. Our connectedness makes us all better stewards of the breed, and we form lasting friendships in the process. We hope you will renew and join us at our upcoming events. If you have already renewed, thank you. We truly appreciate your continued support!

Please email with any questions or concerns about your 2024 BMDCNV membership: memberchair@bmdcnv.org.

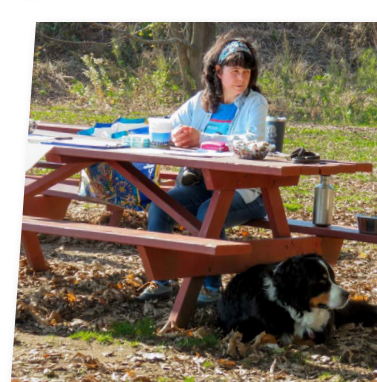


Fun and Fright at Portland Head Light III - Oh Hell No!

The Howl-O-Ween event at Portland Head Light in Cape Elizabeth, ME this year was just a bit too frightening! The tragedy in Lewiston that week caused it to be canceled on Friday afternoon out of an abundance of caution, only to be reinstated at 10 p.m. Friday when everything was deemed safe. For the 25 humans (from kids to seniors) and 14 Bernese (from young pups to a 12-year-old) who were still able to attend on short notice, gathering with friends (new and old) on a very warm October day was a real treat.

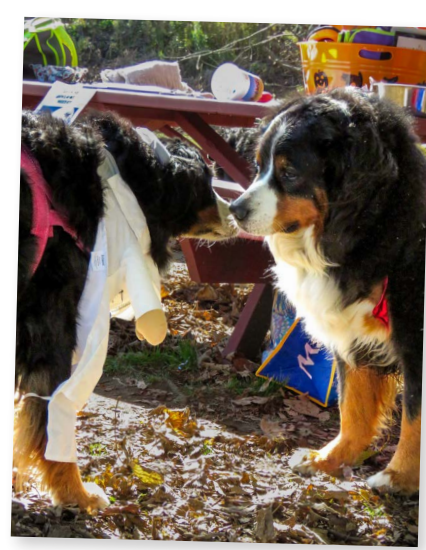


The dogs got along famously as their humans engaged in conversation with fellow Berner aficionados. Luckily, there was a small grove of trees in the sunny off-leash area that was just big enough to provide shade for everyone to hang out in. The Howl-O-Ween spirit abounded with pups sporting everything from Halloween collars/bandanas and capes to full costumes. Wonder Woman was a true wonder—rocking her costume all day! Sadly, the not-so-scary shark circling the registration table injured his fin playing with his Berner buddies. Lucky for him there was a K9 nurse on site! Cruella De Vil was not so fortunate as there was not a single Dalmatian to be found. The planned pup parade (which would



have meant venturing into the warm sun) seemed more like a trick than a treat, so Cindy (our photographer) made a noble attempt to get a group photo while staying in the cool shade. A few hardy souls did head out along the shore path for a short (but sunny) walk before heading out or to lunch at the “lobsta” truck. Although the event started with a fright, everyone who joined in transformed it into a fun and gratefully peaceful day.

—Linda Bates



THE “TAIL” OF MAX

By Kathy Boisvert

BERNER INC



EDUCATION & RESCUE
Dedicated to the Well-being and Safety
of New England Berners

First, it was a bunch of bananas. Then, a coffee cup filled with a few tablespoons of cream. Before we adopted Max, we placed food items on our counters, unattended, like normal people. We were not familiar with counter-surfing behaviors. But after finding the torn peels, mangled, and chewed, empty of their fruit, and the empty coffee cup on Max’s bed, we stopped leaving food on the counter. Max’s counter-surfing did not anger us. It broke our hearts that he was so desperate for food after having been without (although the coffee cup incident did make us laugh—our security camera revealed the whole clever, delicate maneuver).

In the fall of 2016, Linda DeCelles of BERNER, Inc. received notification that a stray Bernese Mountain Dog, wandering around Beverly, MA for an undetermined amount of time, had been picked up by a local veterinarian. The vet saw him running on the commuter rail tracks and lured him into her car with a sandwich. BERNER, Inc. took “Max” from the vet, and he was soon in foster care with Judy and Mick Beck. It was determined he was almost a year old, had Giardia, a Lyme infection, and was very underweight. But, despite this, he was described as “happy, bright, energetic and affectionate”. These were understatements. Max is the goofiest and happiest of Berners.



After only a few days in foster care, Max made his way to our family. Max bonded with our six-year-old Berner, Rosey, on his first night with us. He was so ready to become a family member. He stuck to our sides earning the nickname “Shadow”. Our cats had nothing to fear. Max was curious, then playful, and then, respectful (smart dog!). We walked him frequently on our town common and Max eagerly engaged with every dog, every human. Given his experience—abandoned, alone, starving—we were surprised at his gleeful personality.

It has been seven years since Max became part of our family, and nothing has changed. His favorite trick is to come up behind you and go right through your legs, smiling up at you when he makes it through. Max enjoys his food, his walks, his car rides, his canine and human friends, and us. Max loves us and we ABSOLUTELY, UNCONDITIONALLY, LOVE Max.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

BERNER, Inc. depends on donations to care for our rescues. Please go to our website to donate: www.bernerinc.org. You can make donations on purchases at iGive by registering on their website. You need to use the legal name for our non-profit: Bernese Education and Rescue – Northeast Region, Inc.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our club is full of wonderful, fun, talented people ... YOU! From time to time, we need to ask for help with specific things. Here are a few ways that you could join in the fun. Please contact Mary Durham, BMDCNV President, or any Board member with your questions and your interest. Thank you!

Ways and Means Team – With regret, we have accepted Stephanie Freeman’s resignation as our Ways and Means Chair. Many thanks to Stephanie for filling this critical role for so many years. Nashoba Valley has been the envy of other Berner clubs with our many unique and popular items.

This creates an incredible opportunity for people who love to be creative and enjoy retail and fashion, to develop and sell high-quality products celebrating our love of all things Berner. It is an important and multi-faceted job, so we hope to build a new team to keep our Paws ‘n’ Shop open. We’re looking to bring together people with these skills and interests:

- **Product development: work with artists/designers/vendors**
- **Internet sales and fulfillment – we use Big Cartel software to keep this part simple.**
- **Set up/break down Paws ‘n’ Shop at two Fun Days per year.**
- **Set up/break down Paws ‘n’ Shop “pop-ups” at limited events throughout the year.**
- **Maintain the inventory of our key products.**

We hope the team will be in place in spring 2024 to be able to have Paws ‘n’ Shop at our Fun Day next May. If you are interested, or if you’d like to know more, please contact the Ways and Means Task Force by sending an email to ways_means_task_force@bmdcnv.org by mid-January.

Draft Test secretary trainees – Would you enjoy being close to the action at a Draft Test? Several club members have served as Secretaries at our Draft Tests, but it is always good to have more folks who know the ins and outs of this “job.” Draft Test secretaries need to be BMDCA members, and we can organize a training session well in advance of our next Draft Test once we know who would be interested.

Historian – If you are a history lover and you have a Berner sleeping at your feet, this could be the perfect role for you. Our club has a long and interesting history, and we want to be sure it is captured and available for everyone to know about. Our past Historians have built a terrific set of scrapbooks, so if you are a scrapbook fan, please consider this volunteer possibility.

Fun Day – We want to hear from you! The BMDCNV hosts two Fun Days (one in May and one in September). We try to feature new and different events at each Fun Day (B Match, demonstrations of Rally, Obedience, Agility, Carting, Conformation, CGC testing, Trick Dog, Potential Puppy Owner discussion, Scent Work, parades of young and old, caring for your senior dog, etc.).

But we are seeking new event ideas. Please reach out to us. We would love to hear what you would like to see offered at the Fun Day. And better still ... come help us. We are hoping to solicit new folks to help us plan and volunteer at our events. If you have ideas and/or want to help, contact: Candace Wright (director_wright@bmdcnv.org) or Allison Harding (director_harding@bmdcnv.org).

Members-only Access to our Website

Did you know that by becoming a member of our website:

- You’ll have access to all sorts of great information, such as the current and back issues of the Bernerblatt (even if you didn’t get an email notice), our By-Laws, Board meeting minutes, and more. These are all available in the FILES section at <https://www.bmdcnv.org/file-share>.
- You’ll also be added to the BMDCNV Members Group, which serves as a message board and forum where you can exchange posts, and upload photos and videos to share with other members.

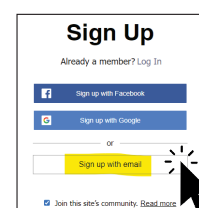
Get access to the members-only features by creating a login ID on [bmdcnv.org](https://www.bmdcnv.org).

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1. Go to [bmdcnv.org](https://www.bmdcnv.org). At the top of the home page, click “Sign Up or Log In.”



2. Click “Sign up with Email.”





Winter Walk

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

10:00 - 2:00

**WOMPATUCK STATE PARK,
HINGHAM, MA**

**There will be a raffle, hot cider and cocoa.
Bring goodies to share or pack a lunch.**

COME JOIN IN THE FUN!



Let's not forget our furry friends during the holiday season!
Try this recipe from the December 1981 Bernerblatt.

MEATY DOG BISCUITS

2 ½ lb. wheat flour

Cut in 1 C bacon fat

½ jar instant bouillon crystals

1 ½ to 2 lbs. cooked ground beef

2 eggs

1 ½ to 2 lbs. liver well cooked

Sufficient milk to make a thick dough to roll. Mix all the above well and roll ½" thick. Cut into desired sizes and bake in 325°F oven, on a cookie sheet, turning occasionally for 2 ½ to 3 hours. They will be hard and dark brown. Keep refrigerated in a tightly covered container for up to 3 months.



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