



THE Bernerblatt

The Newsletter of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley



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December 3
Two AKC Obedience Trials
Warner Brook Training Center
Pittsford, VT

January 28, 2023 (planned)
Winter Walk
Wompatuck State Park
Hingham, MA

March 4, 2023
Regional Specialty & Sweepstakes
Eastern States Exposition
West Springfield, MA

March 5, 2023
Supported Entry & Sweepstakes
Eastern States Exposition
West Springfield, MA

April 16, 2023
BMDCNV Annual Meeting



Winter Walk
Wompatuck State Park, Hingham, MA
January 28, 2023 (planned)

• • **SAVE THESE DATES** • •

BMDCNV 2023
Regional Specialty & Supported Entry
March 4 & 5, 2023

Connecticut River Working Group Association
Eastern States Exposition
1305 Memorial Ave. • West Springfield, MA

Closing Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Regional Specialty Judge: Ms. Dawn Hitchcock
Sweepstakes Judge: Ms. Susan Morrill

*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:

Edison's first day at home with!
Nancy Hoyt's 8-week old Berner pup (Berner-Garde #188210).
The masthead design is by Nancy Hoyt. This Berner illustration
was also used in our 40th Anniversary merchandise.

President's Message

Dear BMDCNV Members,

It is a great privilege to serve you, our members, and of course our Bernese. It is my goal to always treasure, protect and celebrate our amazing Berners. We are so blessed to have been brought together by these extraordinary creatures.

We've been having an awful lot of fun lately! I hope you have been able to partake of some of these terrific offerings and activities—Fall Fun Day, the AKC Temperament Test, Berners & Brews, our 2-day Draft Test, and the Howl-O-Ween Meet-up. Besides these, in July we introduced our BMDCNV WAGinar series, which you can enjoy without traveling at all. We have conducted two WAGinars, one on Berner-Garde and the other featuring Lost-Then-Found Dog stories (with happy endings), and more to come. Members can enjoy these again and again as we have recorded them for anytime viewing.

These events, and actually everything we do, are the result of the great ideas, excellent planning, and terrific efforts of so many club member-volunteers. Please take a moment to thank them while you are enjoying the fruits of their work. Our club is blessed with so many talented, giving people who make all these things happen. When we put out a call for volunteers, so many of you answer—it's just incredible. I want to mention (and thank) a few that you may not yet know about:

- **We have a new Bernerblatt team**—Cindy Buhner (editor), Roberta French, Nancy Hoyt (graphic designer), Jessica Moore, Christine Navez, Bob and Linda Seaver, and Sam Sirico. They are bringing you this very issue as their first one. It's really exciting to see all the talent they are bringing to this.
- **We have some most welcome website helpers** to support our webmaster Mimi Englander—Sue Nowak, Nancy Patterson, Anya Wittenborg.
- **We have a brand-new Health Correspondent**—Pat Long, who will share important information from the BMDCA, health studies, and international initiatives.
- **We have a new Membership Chair**—Elizabeth Malcolmson! Everyone will be hearing from her since this is renewal season. She brings a special joy to the many things she has done for our club, so it is wonderful to have her taking on this key position.

Naturally, we are looking for a few more volunteers, so please consider if these are things you might want to help with—additional website helpers and someone with a bit (not a lot) of technical skill to send out our mass emailings. A historian to capture and make sure we can retain our club's busy history. And event co-chairs and helpers for our future offerings.

On another note, our club has a really wonderful *Code of Ethics*. It's available at: <https://bit.ly/3hAjj4w> You read it when you joined the club, but you might spend a few minutes with it again. It is very thoughtfully written and addresses the responsibilities of club members, breeders, buyers, and sellers. The Board hears questions about these roles from time to time, and I wanted to just remind everyone that this important resource is readily available.

I see that I use superlatives too much but I can't help myself - you are terrific! Remember that I'm here for you. If you have questions or want to talk about our club, you can email me at clubpresident@bmdcnv.org. My phone number is in the directory, too.

All the best,
Mary Durham



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

Health Correspondent Intro

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Pat Long, and I've recently volunteered to be the Health Correspondent for the BMDCNV. I'm a long-time member of the BMDCA Health Committee, I was a Board member and the file manager for Berner-Garde for 12 years, I've been the secretary for the Berner International Working Group since 2007, and I've written a number of articles focusing on health issues over the years. You can snoop around my website at www.bmdinfo.org and find all sorts of things there. I also love photography and have raised about \$100,000 for Berner health research and rescue doing Longshots (with Joye Neff and Liz Caldwell as long-time helpers). I got my first Berner in 1988, and my last one passed away in 2010.

As Health Correspondent I'll be working to keep Nashoba Valley Club members updated about health issues and research for the breed. I'll share resources and answer questions, or direct people to experts who can assist in finding answers. I am not a veterinarian and I do not have any medical training, but I do try to ensure the accuracy of my articles by having them edited by people who do have the appropriate knowledge.

I look forward to this assignment and hope to share what knowledge I have.

—Pat Long, BMDCNV Health Correspondent

Berners Rock the AKC Temperament Test

BMDCNV hosted an AKC Temperament Test on October 1, the first BMD club to do so. This is a new type of trial that tests the dogs on a variety of stimuli: social, auditory, visual, tactile, proprioceptive, and unexpected stimulus. It seeks desirable traits including emotional stability, inquisitiveness, cooperation, biddability and a swift recovery after being startled. The Berners, in true Berner style, really did a fabulous job in all categories. The event was open to all breeds, and we had a few other breeds join us.

The day had many successes with a 90% pass rate for BMDs and 70% for the other breeds.

Our participants were Regina Helfer with Nor and Acadia, Kate Elders with River, Laurie Brown with Porschia, Celeste O'Malley with Braeburn, Lisa Freed with Tessie, Carolyn Massey with Grant, Jeanne Robbins with Boomah, Tina Sirico with Fennel, Cathy Sullivan-Neves with Eragon, Lisa Bergeron with Zeus, Rita Trojanoski with Marcepan, Candace Wright with Danis,

Ivy Gregory with Grace—age 13!!, Kiera and Sitka, Amanda Wescott with five of hers, Ari, Dia, Moolah, Meiomni and Paloma, and myself with four, Wynter, Revvy, Icelyn, and Dez.

The day had many successes with a 90% pass rate for BMDs and 70% for the other breeds. This statistic just shows how our breed trusts their handlers and how trusting we are of our dogs' ability to navigate an unknown and challenging environment. The day did not come without some comedic handler errors (I wiped out on an obstacle, but Grant pounced on me to save the day - good dog!). We also have to give a big shout out to Ivy Gregory for coming with her dogs and having all three pass, with particular love and affection for Grace who, at 13, stole our judges' hearts. You see—old dogs can do new tricks.

And lastly a huge thank you to Candace Wright and Kristi Adams for the very long day of judging; my volunteers Matt & Melissa George for a tireless day from dawn to dusk; and Laurie Brown, Celeste O'Malley, Richard Wright, and Amanda Wescott for volunteering in between running their dogs.

—Heidi Henderson, Event Chair



Membership Renewal for 2023

Your membership to 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 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. 2023 will be our 42nd 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 first event of the new year, our Winter Walk in Hingham, Massachusetts. If you have already renewed, thank you. We truly appreciate your continued support!

Please email with any questions or concerns about your 2023 BMDCNV membership: memberchair@bmdcnv.org

Welcome New Members!

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

Andrew & Kristen Konesky
Guilford, CT

Catharine Melvin
Roxbury, CT

Arek & Ashley Wentz
Oxford, CT

Jeffrey Hanson
Newbury, MA

Kristopher & Sarah Johansen
Westport, MA

Sascha Lockyer
West Newton, MA

Amy Lousararian
Needham, MA

Susan & Randy McEvoy
Bellingham, MA

Gene Oakes & Melissa
Morgan-Oakes
Northfield, MA

Ben & Katherine Osborne
Northampton, MA

Ann Seitter
Scituate, MA

Seth & Allison Wright
Warwick, MA

Shelly & Leif Deming
Raymond, ME

Ashley Barsaleau
Auburn, NH

Melissa Liebermann
Temple, NH

Macenzie Phelan &
Cameron Palczynski
Plaistow, NH

Prudence & Steve Wells
Mason, NH

Health

“Two Days, Two Weeks, Two Months”

by Nancy Hoyt

I decided to write about Polycystic Kidney Disease both as a Health Awareness article and as therapy for me. In all the years of owning and raising Bernese Mountain Dogs (since 1996), I had never encountered this disease and feel it's worth sharing with members and friends of the BMDCNV.

When Edison was a young puppy, he drank a lot of water. Not having had a male in 15 years, I assumed Edison was more active and required more fluids. His appetite was strong until it wasn't, and then he started vomiting, a little at first and then more here and there. One morning I was confronted with vomit that covered my hallway and kitchen in one solid mass—I was aghast and panicked. Edison was rushed to the vet and shortly afterwards driven to Deerfield, MA for an ultrasound.

In September of 2021 Edison, our 13-month-old Bernese Mountain puppy was diagnosed with incurable Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). The ultrasound exam indicated two enlarged, abnormally shaped kidneys covered with cysts. His blood pressure was high and subsequent blood tests revealed that his Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) and Creatinine levels were off the charts indicating kidney failure. *Edison was given two days, two weeks, or two months.*

We were numb and heartbroken... There are no words to describe this moment. I called Heidi (Henderson) his breeder to share the news and we just sobbed in utter disbelief.

Edison was placed on the recommended “Science Diet for Kidney Disease,” a low protein diet. He did amazingly well, rebounded, gained back all the weight he had lost in one weekend, and his test results revealed significant improvements. We were all thrilled with his progress—he was back and energetic as ever! The vet scheduled periodic check-ups to test his levels. The first few evaluations were good, but then slowly the creatinine levels began to rise. Fortunately, Edison never showed signs of the kidney impairment indicated by the abnormal tests.

We were so blessed to have eight more wonderful months with him. In the second week of May 2022, he began to crash. We knew it was time... Edison passed away on May 25th with us by his side. 🌹



What Is Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD)?

PKD is an incurable, inherited condition in which large clusters of renal cysts develop in the kidneys and over time cause them to lose function. PKD is common in cats but uncommon in dogs. Dogs who receive only one defective copy (autosomal dominant) of the gene from either one of their parents may show signs of the disease.

The breeds most commonly diagnosed with PKD are Bull Terriers, Cairn Terriers and West Highland White Terriers. According to Berner-Garde, there are only six reported cases of Polycystic Kidney Disease. However, it also lists 142 cases of kidney disease, some of which may also have been PKD. Of the six Berners who succumbed to this disease, none lived past the age of 22 months

The exact causes for renal cysts are not precisely known, but genetic, environmental, and endogenous factors (originating internally) appear to influence the development of this disease.

Polycystic Kidney Disease

For more information on Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Treatments, please refer to the links below.

Sources:

https://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/endocrine/c_multi_polycystic_kidney_disease

<https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/polycystic-kidney-disease-in-dogs>

<https://wagwalking.com/condition/polycystic-kidney-disease>

<http://www.bernergarde.org> – Go to Reports/ Health Search and enter into optional search for: "polycystic" or "kidney disease"

Renal cysts may be filled with air, fluid, or semi-solid material. They develop in pre-existing nephrons (the functional filtering cells of the kidney tissue) and collecting ducts which will invariably infect both kidneys. The cysts start out small and develop in size and number over time. Renal cysts are not painful, but as the disease progresses, the secondary infections associated with the cysts will become life-threatening and cause your dog discomfort.

If not treated early to prevent cyst progression, the secondary stages lead to bacterial infections and sepsis (pus-forming toxic organisms in the blood). The enlarged kidneys won't be able to function normally, and progressive renal failure will occur. 🌹



Edison came into this world as a bright and happy puppy and bonded with me before I even knew. Every morning, he'd jump on my lap for hugs and kisses and continued this tradition until the day he died. He loved everyone and sought people out for love and affection. He was our “peacemaker” as his very presence settled conflicts in the household. He enriched our lives with profound joy.

*Edison, you were our
favorite hello
and our
hardest good-bye.*

*Snowpaw's Light'n Up the World
August 14, 2020 - May 25, 2022*

Photo credit: Pat Long



Fall Fun Day!

What a beautiful day we had for Fun Day on September 24th! It was another wonderful get-together for our Berners and their people. This is one of my favorite events of the year, when we meet old friends and welcome new Berner households as well as people who are looking for a puppy. This year we had a Veterans Parade organized by Carolyn Massey, with 12-year-old Beatrix leading the older Berners enthusiastically walking the route. Thanks to Erin Spanos and Cathy Sullivan-Neves for a terrific raffle with amazing Bernese items, and to Stephanie and Bill

Freeman for the Paws 'n' Shop stall that tempted many of us to acquire new items honoring our dogs. Thanks also to Linda Seaver for chatting with potential puppy owners, to Diane Smith who ran a Berner-Garde tutorial for those new to the database, to Dorri Poppe and Heidi Henderson for organizing and judging the AKC Sanctioned B match, and to Samantha Sirico for the talk on getting ready for the conformation ring.

Congratulations to those who passed the AKC - Canine Good Citizen test, and thanks to Paul Emerson and





Bridget Desroches for running it. A delicious lunch was provided by volunteers organized by Tina Sirico. More tasty treats were available at the dessert auction organized by Carolyn Massey and called by Adam Conn, who survived the multitude of bidding wars for these delicious items. Special thanks to Allison Harding and Candy Wright for organizing Fun Day and to all the volunteers who helped in many ways.

—Christine Navez, Contributor



AKC Sanctioned B Match

Match Chair: Heidi Henderson
Judge: Dorri Poppe

Best Puppy:

Drowsy owned by Peter and Cathy Estes

Best of Opposite Sex Puppy:

Gavroch owned by Peter and Cathy Estes

Best Veteran:

Digit owned by Adam Conn

Best of Opposite Sex-Veteran:

Zealand owned by Kate McNierney

Best in Match:

Grant owned by Carolyn Massey

Best of Opposite Sex in Match:

Zealand owned by Kate McNierney

•••••

New Canine Good Citizenship Titles!

Melissa Liebemann & Willow
Rita Trojanoski & Marcepan

Fun and Fright



The Howl-o-ween event on Saturday October 29th at Portland Head Light in Cape Elizabeth, ME was truly a happy one and an absolute treat! About 43 humans (from babies to seniors), 26 Bernese (from young pups to an 11-year-old), and honorary Bernese (including an Irish setter) gathered in the off-leash area to soak in the gorgeous sunny day



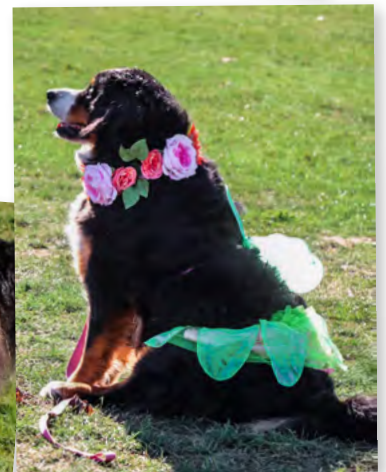
as they engaged in conversation or romped about with friends (new and old) from ME, NH, MA, and VT. About half the dogs and even some of the humans got into the spirit of things and donned costumes for the costume parade! There be dragons and tigers and sharks (oh my), a swarm of bees (including a baby bee), a beautiful flower, a nurse (on standby in the event of a bee sting), a baby Berner, Giants fans, Miss Barktoberfest, a super-sleuth, a hotdog, a candy-corn dog, and a devil-dog!

at Portland Head Light – The Sequel



Everyone joined in for a group photo, but the walk along the shore path seemed to get diverted by the allure of the lobster trucks. Lots of folks just hung out to enjoy the weather, the food, the company, and the amazing beauty of Portland Head Light. Can't wait to do it all again next Howl-o-ween!

—Linda Bates,
Contributor



Celebrating Our Berners!



Happy 7th Birthday, Raffi!

CH MAINE'S HEALING LIGHT RAPHAEL
V SPRUCEPEAK CGC CGCA NDD DD
FDC NDD CANADIAN
BERNER-GARDE #127653

We have a veteran in the house!

I cannot believe how blessed I have
been to share my life with this
very special dog.

—Celeste O'Malley, West Brattleboro, VT



Happy 7th Birthday, Tripp!

SNOWPAWS SONNENBERG TREKKER RN FDC

There's a veteran in the House!!!

He loves going on walks and being the
center of attention.

—Tressy & Cory Manning, Barnard, VT

The Bernerblatt is your newsletter
and we love your submissions!

Sharing birthdays,
remembrances, brags, and
anything you think is interesting
to the members is not only
easy, it's recommended and
encouraged!

Type your message in the body of
an email and attach your favorite,
high-resolution jpeg photo.

Be sure to include complete
name(s) and the city and state
where you live.

That's it! We'll do the rest.
bernerblatt@bmdcnv.org



Happy 8th Birthday, Madden!

HOOSIER ROOS
MARVELOUS MADDEN V TRIO
NA NAP CGC FDC

"Madden-moiselle"
turned 8 October 16th. She's my crazy
clown dog who loves riding "shotgun"
upright like a person with a paw on me
and the other on the door!

—Nancy Hoyt, Torrington, CT

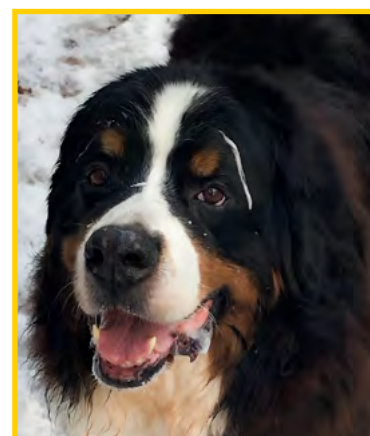


Happy 10th Birthday!

SPELLBOUND'S BEACH BUM "PARKER"
CH. SOUTHWIND LAVENDER BLUES X
CH. SPELLBOUND'S WINTER BLISS
BERNERGARDE #909082

Top producer of champions and
the Champion of our Hearts!

—Dayna Merrow, Dover, NH



Happy 9th Birthday, McKinley!

GLENMEGAN'S MCKINLEY
ON TOP OF THE WORLD CGC

McKinley turned 9 on 8/11/22. He is our
best boy, drool and all. Keep making us
smile and laugh Mr. Pickles.

—Carl and Liz Bohlin
Sagamore Beach, MA



Celebrating More Berners!



Happy 12th Birthday, Ruby!

COUNTRY ROADS HEART AND SOUL

August 31, 2022

She celebrated with banana zucchini pupcakes topped with mascarpone whipped cream, and even shared them with her brother Leroy. She is enjoying a life of leisure, as any Berner veteran should.

—Amy Matthieu, Brimfield, MA



Happy 2nd Birthday, Luna!

FOUR SEASONS LUNA LOVE ME TO THE MOON

October 7, 2022

She celebrated her 2nd birthday in Boston with her family. Mom says “Don't let this picture fool you - our photographer is a miracle worker!”

—Gina Zalewski, Cohasset, MA

Photo credit: Betsy Hynes Photography, Braintree, MA



Happy 2nd Birthday to Seawind Farms Guinness.

—Dianne Vanpelt, Lincolnville, ME



Happy 7th Birthday, Bunsen!

THORNCREEKS SYNCOPATED RHYTHM
CGCA FDC RN TKI

So excited to have him become a veteran on November 28, 2022!

—Erin Spanos, Preston, CT



Happy 4th birthday to Fennel Oliver!

You have exceeded our highest hopes over and over, and we are so lucky to have you as our silly, snoring pet.

—Sam & Tina Sirico, Old Saybrook, CT



Happy 4th Birthday to our Winston!

October 16th, 2022

MYSTIC'S NO KNOCKS SOX WINSTON

—Pam and Charles Swearingen
Belmont, MA

Celebrating Berners!



First NACSW Title!

TRAILBOUND'S MORE THAN WORDS

October 7, 2022

Lyra Bates earned her first NACSW title by completing the Odor Recognition Test. She was just as speedy and enthusiastic as her idol, Togo, whom she visited at Poland Springs earlier that same day.

—Linda Bates, Old Orchard Beach, ME



Welcome to the family, Lyric!

She was born on my birthday, August 7, and we are super excited to add our first female Berner to the family.

—Erin Spanos, Preston, CT



NOHS Ranked!

OH BIS BISS GCH Riverwood's The Fennel Countdown NDD FDC CD CGC ATT finished the NOHS 2022 year ranked #7 Owner Handled BMD! I am so proud of Team Fennel and can't wait to cheer them on in Orlando at the NOHS Finals.

—Tina Sirico, Old Saybrook, CT



Trinity Bates got placements!...

BETRUF'S CELTIC TRINITY

...at two delightfully not frightful costume contests this October: Dogtoberfest in Ogunquit, ME (as Barktoberfest) and Polkadogtoberfest in Canton, MA (as Dog of the Dead).

—Linda Bates, Old Orchard Beach, ME



Fun Day Veterans' Parade

Our Veterans' Parade Line-up

- Beatrix (Andy Finkelstein) – 12 years
- Chloe (Dawn & Jerry Flaherty) – 11 years 9 months
- Ellie (Mark) – 9 ½ years
- Firn (Paul Emerson & Mary Durham) – 9 years
- Zealand (Kate McNierney) – 8 years 7 months
- Bartlett (James) – 8 ½ years
- Odin (Jane & Dennis Boas) – 8 ½ years
- Trinity (Nancy & Linda Bates) – 8 years
- Madden (Nancy Hoyt) – 8 years
- Digit (Adam Conn, Kris Hayko, Michael Nicely) – 7 ½ years
- Gia (David & Laura) – 7 ½ years
- Kermit (Cindy) – 7 ½ years
- Olivia "Livi" (Andi Edson) – 7 years
- Willow Rayne (Sue & Randy McEvoy) – 7 years



BERNER Inc. Assists In Puppy Mill Rescue

—Linda DeCelles, Rescue Chair

Potter's Angels Rescue and the Vermont State Police raided a house used as a puppy mill last May. Forty neglected dogs were living in squalid conditions. A veterinarian examined each dog for health and temperament; some had to be euthanized. Half of the dogs were Vizslas, the others Bernerdoodles and Berners. Potter's Angels and the Rutland Humane Society took several dogs to their shelters. BERNER, Inc. took six Berners. Cathy Estes, BMDCNV member, contacted her veterinarian, Dr. Chris Spooner, who took in three dogs at his Oxbow Veterinary Clinic. Big-hearted Dr. Spooner treated the dogs at his own expense and found adopters among his clients. One of the Berners is vision impaired. After deep grooming another was revealed as a Bernerdoodle!

Two of the dogs BERNER, Inc. took, a bonded pair, were named "Ginny" and "Blossom" by their adopters. The third girl, "Cali", is in a foster-to-adopt home awaiting spaying (she went into heat soon after she was placed). Each Berner is recovering and adapting to life outside the horrific puppy mill. Their new families are working with them and giving them the care and love they need.



Ginny and Blossom at the Beach.



Ginny and Blossom after a Beach Day.

Forty neglected dogs were living in squalid conditions

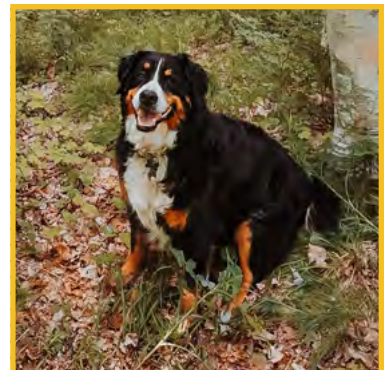
It takes a village to rehabilitate puppy mill Berners. It also takes money! The following are typical costs for each puppy mill Berner we rehome (including dogs purchased from puppy mill breeders and surrendered to us for rehome by their owners). Spay/neuter: \$500-1200. Wellness check: \$100. Parasite testing/treatment: \$100-150. Infection treatment (often ear/eye): \$200-300. Microchipping: \$50. Vaccinations: \$50-150. Heartworm testing: \$75. Grooming: \$100-200. Dental: \$125-500. Orthopedic/Other specialist consults: \$150-250. Trainer/veterinary behaviorist consults: \$125-250.



Keiko
(November 21, 2012 – June 8, 2022)

Your wings were ready, but our hearts were not.
Love you and miss you!!!

—Tressy & Cory Manning, Barnard VT



BERNER INC

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

BERNER, Inc. depends on donations to help us cover the costs of caring for puppy mill Berners. Please go to our website to donate: bernerinc.org. You can sign on to sites like Amazon Smile or iGive, who give us a percentage of every purchase you make. Use our legal name: Bernese Education and Rescue – Northeast Region, Inc.

BIG THANKS to all of you who donate to BERNER, Inc.!

BMDCA Draft Tests

The BMDCNV's 49th and 50th draft tests were held at The Ark in Harvard, MA on October 22nd and 23rd. The Ark is a stunningly beautiful property, and the autumn splendor was on full display. It was Berner weather!



On Saturday, there were nine novice teams competing. Two teams passed to earn their NDD titles. They were:

- Michelle Larsen and Riverstead's Holly, Holy CDX BN RA (Holly). Holly earned the award for 'Oldest Qualifying Bernese Mountain Dog'.
- Laurie Brown and Spruce Peak's As Fate Would Have It BN RI FDC CGCA TKN (Porschia). Porschia earned the award for 'Youngest Qualifying Bernese Mountain Dog'.

On Sunday, there were eight novice teams competing. Three teams passed to earn additional 'legs' towards their Advanced Novice Draft Dog title. They were:

- Rita Trojanoski and Kamien Milowy Marcepan CGC NDD (Marcepan). Marcepan earned the award for 'Oldest Qualifying Bernese Mountain Dog'.
- Laurie Brown and Spruce Peak's As Fate Would Have It BN RI FDC CGCA TKN NDD (Porschia). Porschia earned the award for 'Youngest Qualifying Bernese Mountain Dog'.
- Cathy Sullivan-Neves and Dream of Eragon's Swiss Kiss CGCA NDD (Eragon).

It takes a small village to put on a Draft Test. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped to make it such a fun, welcoming and successful weekend:

- Judges: Phil Atkinson & Karyn Beyer
- Test Chair: Anya Wittenborg
- Committee Members: Julie Mott, Sue Nowak, Marge Bumen, Beth Atkinson, and Allison Harding (who schlepped all of the equipment from and back to the storage unit)
- Test Secretary: Beth Atkinson with much support from Julie Mott & Sue Nowak
- Stewards: Cindy Buhner, Kari Doucette, Mary Durham, Bill Freeman, Liz Lofgren, Kate McNierney, Nancy Patterson (who traveled all the way from Missouri to help out!), and Tricia Sullivan
- Photographer: Alison Jaskiewicz
- Ways & Means: Stephanie Freeman
- Hospitality: Sue Mahan & Missy Leibermann (who organized and prepared delicious lunches)
- Ring set-up: We can always count on Tom Jaskiewicz and Jeff Nowak to pound in the stakes and string the ring rope to ensure that everything is perfect.



BMDCNV has a rich draft history. It's not too early to begin thinking about our draft tests for fall of 2023. If you're thinking about competing, reach out to our Board of Directors for ways to get started and stay tuned for news of club-sponsored draft clinics. And there is a volunteer job for everyone. Many require absolutely no prior experience. Volunteering is the very best way to learn and to get connected.

—Beth Atkinson, Test Secretary



Berners & Brews



The second annual BMDCNV Berners and Brews gathering on October 8, 2022, at Trolley 27 in Laconia, NH was another success! The event was attended by 38 people and 30 dogs. It was certainly Berner weather that day and attendees enjoyed the beautiful foliage while sampling Trolley's famous homemade waffles, waffle sandwiches, soups, and chili. Some also enjoyed a special treat from the outdoor bar which offers local spirits.

Attendees were able to shop from a small selection of Ways & Means merchandise. Adam Conn was onsite to update and enter club owners and dogs into Berner-Garde. A special thank you to the owners of Trolley 27, Ray, and club member Leslie Judice for welcoming us on their property. Matt and I hope that everyone had a great time at one of our favorite local dog friendly spots!

—Melissa and Matt George, Event Organizers



Reiki and her daughter, Porschia

(Laurie Brown's girl) practice draft at Patterson Farm's Pumpkin Patch.

—Celeste O'Malley
West Brattleboro, VT



Twinheart's Danish Havarti's King Leo Leo is two on December 12, 2022.

—Neal and Carol Jensen, Cromwell, CT



BMDCNV Paws 'n' Shop

2023 Berner Calendar

The perfect gift for fans of mountain dogs, the **Bernese Mountain Dog Calendar 2023** showcases the Berner in stunning photography each month of the year. Whether for home or office use, the Bernese Mountain Dog calendar makes a great decorative accent. Interested in easy shopping? Go to **Shop** on our website.



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