



August/September 2018

# The Berner Blatt

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley

THE CLUB FOR NEW ENGLAND BERNERS & THEIR FAMILIES



  
ANNUAL  
BERNER INC.  
ISSUE  
pages 4 - 9  


*Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Ray Harding!! Allison (Bailey) Harding and Ray Harding were married in front of their friends and family, and their rescue Moose and new puppy Gala, on Sunday, August 12th. Pictures from their beautiful Berner themed ceremony on page 11. Congrats to the Hardings, Moose & Gala!!*

### *inside this issue...*

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## BMDCNV *Calendar of Events*

~ 2018 ~

**September 29:**

Fall Fun Day  
Westford, MA

**October 20 - 21**

Fall Draft Tests  
Bolton, MA

**November 18**

OFA Hips & Elbows Clinic  
Suffield Veterinary Hospital  
Suffield, CT

**December 16**

Holiday Party  
Boxborough, MA

FMI: [www.bmdcnv.org/events.html](http://www.bmdcnv.org/events.html)

Share photos & videos of your Berners!  
Join the Facebook group at



[fb.com/groups/BMDCNVMembers](https://fb.com/groups/BMDCNVMembers)

## Help Wanted

**Fall Draft Tests:** Head Steward and Stewards for club Fall Draft Tests, Saturday, October 20th and Sunday, October 21st at the Bolton Sports & Fairground Fields. The Head Steward should have some experience stewarding and drafting. No experience necessary for new and returning Stewards! The judges will tell you what to do and where to be positioned. If you can donate an hour or two (or more if you'd like), one day or both days that would be great! This is a great experience for anyone interested in learning about drafting with their dog, or if you just want to see what it's all about! The tests start early, so approximate time to arrive at the site is 8:00 am and finish time depends upon the number of entries. Please contact Jeff Nowak, Draft Chair at [tuckerbmd95@gmail.com](mailto:tuckerbmd95@gmail.com) if you can help or have any questions.

**Fall Fun Day:** volunteers needed for set up and break down. Many hands make light work!

## ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The Board of Directors of the BMDCNV has appointed the Nominating Committee for open Board positions:

**Chairperson:** Stephanie Freeman

**Members:**

Julie Mott  
Buffy Bell

**Alternates:**

Karlo Laforteza  
Beth Atkinson

**Open Positions:**

Director: *Open*  
Director: *Open*  
Director: *Carolyn Massey is seeking another term*

If you are interested in running for an open position or would like to suggest a candidate, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee before November 1, 2018. If you contact by email, please include the word "Nomination" in the subject line.

## The BMDCNV board of directors

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Anya Wittenborg • [director\\_wittenborg@bmdcnv.org](mailto:director_wittenborg@bmdcnv.org)

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

## Fall Fun Day

*Puppy Play Corral,  
Raffles and more!*

*Great Family Fun with your  
Bernese Mountain Dog!*

**Saturday,  
September 29, 2018**

**10am - 2:30 pm**

**Westford 4H Fairgrounds  
Westford, MA**

### ***Clearance Sale!***

Giant Savings on all Paws & Shop merchandise.

### ***Health Information***

Leaflets & pamphlets to support berner health

### ***Puppy Workshop***

Acquiring the right BMD for you and your family



## September 29, 2018 - BMDCNV Fall Fun Day

### **Puppy Parade!!**

**For puppies 4 months - 18 months old**

**Registration @ 10:30**

Educational Discussions,  
Puppy Socialization followed by Parade.



### **Schedule**

10:00am - 11:30am: Registration

10:00am: **Puppy Corral Opens**

11:00am: **Puppy Parade**

12:00pm: **Lunch**

1:00pm: **Trick Dog Title Training**

1:00pm: **Finding a Puppy/Breeder**

2:00pm: **Raffle**



## Bully Boys & Frightened Females: A Rescue Year

by Linda DeCelles, *BERNER, Inc. Rescue Chair*

For years Berner rescues country-wide have been feeling the fallout from **overbreeding by puppy mills and backyard breeders**. Often their buyers are unqualified to raise a Bernese Mountain Dog. Consequently, **Berner rescues are seeing more behavior problems in the dogs we rescue.**

BMDCA-affiliated rescues always have long adoption waiting lists—no problem placing Berners regionally. *Recently, BMDCA rescues have had to make requests for experienced fosters and adopters to rescues outside their regions.* Fewer adoption applicants are fit to manage the behavior of the Berners coming into rescue.

This year's behavior trend in rescued Berners: **out-of-control males and fearful females.** Most are 1-3 years old and have never been properly socialized or trained. *This year Berner Inc. took in 6 hard-to-manage males and 2 fearful females.*

**The “bully boys” respond to new people and dogs with few inhibitions:** jumping, mouthing, grabbing, pushing, mounting, barking, rushing, straining on leash, nipping and growling from frustration. *These out-of-control adolescent male Berners need experienced, confident handlers—and long hours of re-training.*

**The frightened females retreat from any new human:** cowering, shaking, freezing, startling to sounds, hiding, resisting touch, and refusing to enter or leave any structure. *A frightened female Berner needs patient, experienced handling—and sometimes behavior modification with a specialist.*

**Escalating socialization issues emerge as these puppy mill Berners mature and their owners do nothing to resolve their behavior issues.** The bully boys refuse to allow non-family members into the house; the fearful girls hide or attempt to escape from the house when anyone visits. The boys chase after and nip children in too-rough play or in response to teasing. The girls shrink from fear if approached or challenged to do something outside their comfort zone. Both boys

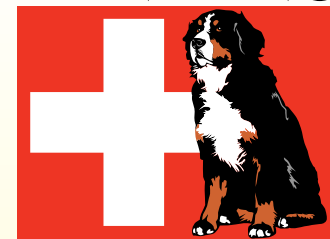
and girls are major challenges on leash because the owners gave up walking them after the first incidents of lunging or balking. Both boys and girls end up alone in backyards or crates after their owners give up on them. **Then it's up to rescues to try to repair the behavior of these damaged Berners and find them skilled adopters.**

**Another sad trend: Aggressive Bernese Mountain Dogs with serious bite histories.** So far this year I have had to reject for rescue 4 male Berners whose owners called us in desperation after their veterinarians and trainers (hired too late) recommended that the dogs be put down for untreatable, high-risk aggressive behavior. *All of these Berners were bred by puppy mills or backyard breeders.* These dogs had bitten multiple times. They bit their own family members many times. They bit relatives, family friends and neighbor children. These Berners bit people walking by on the street, mail carriers, repair techs in the house, landscapers. The bites required medical or emergency room treatment. How can there be such a thing as an aggressive Berner with a serious bite history?! **A perfect storm of bad breeding and the ease of selling dogs on-line has produced a dog that is not a true Bernese Mountain Dog.**

**What can you do to help rescues stop these trends?**

\* Please educate and inform puppy purchasers about the sad consequences of indiscriminate breeding by puppy mills and backyard breeders. \* Warn puppy buyers not to trust or respond to any ads for Bernese puppies on-line. \*Encourage puppy buyers to consult the websites of BMDCA regional clubs for contacts to responsible Bernese breeders. \*Invite people new to Berners to club events to meet responsible breeders and rescue volunteers. \*Warn people not to sell or give away a Berner on craigslist: tell them that dogs with temperament issues should never be “recycled” through online ads. Thank you for your help!

## BERNER INC



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## Back-to-Back Draft Tests

Sat. & Sun., October 20 & 21, 2018  
Bolton Sports and Fairground Fields  
600 Main St.  
Bolton, MA 01740

**Event Chair:** Jeff Nowak  
tuckerbmd95@gmail.com

### JUDGES:

LARRY BOHLIG & KATHY BERGE

### ENTRY DEADLINE:

Wednesday • Oct. 10, 2018 • 6:00 pm

*FMI and premium list:*

[http://www.bmdca.org/Draft/pl/dPL\\_201810\\_nashobavalley.pdf](http://www.bmdca.org/Draft/pl/dPL_201810_nashobavalley.pdf)



## My Story

by Zuri Mauk (with Teresa and Mickey Mauk)

I was rehomed by Berner, Inc.. Linda knew a couple who were looking for a second Berner; she thought we'd be a good match. Mom says when she first saw my little piquant face peek over the back seat of Linda's car, her heart melted! I moved in when I was 11 months old. I was feisty, playful, and very energetic! Mom and Dad had forgotten what having a puppy was like, so I had to re-introduce them to things like being licked awake at 5:30 a.m., leaving my toys and chew bones scattered around the house for them to step on, constantly pestering them to play with me, running up and down the stairs, chasing the ducks in the pond and barking at those funny-looking alpacas in the pasture.

My new older brother, Jackson, was nice to me at first, but when he figured out I was staying forever, he would lift his lip and growl at me whenever I tried to play with him! I growl when I play so I thought that's what he was doing, too, but no! He would chase me around the yard in fun at first, but I played too rough for him. Mom and Dad recognized that I needed more dog-on-dog playtime, so they started taking me to the local day care a few times a week. That was really fun and the staff said I could play with any of the dogs because I am Miss Congeniality! Before I came to live with my family, Jackson was a real couch potato. He became much more active, and he's always interested in what I'm up to. I learned to eat dinner out of my own bowl and then to wait until Jackson finished his before I could check it for leftovers. Dad takes me and Jackson for a drive every day and if I think he's forgotten, I stalk him and stare at him until he remembers. We love to ride in the car. I sit right behind Dad and gaze over his shoulder as if I'd like to take the wheel myself.

Mom and Dad take us hiking. Of course I am always in the lead! Once when we were on a hike, I found a huge snapping turtle in the path and went to investigate before Mom could get the leash on me. All of a sudden, a big ugly head came out of its shell and tried to bite me! I was so surprised I jumped straight up in the air and did



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a funny twist to avoid landing close to it. I'm afraid of thunderstorms.

My Thunder Shirt helps but when there's a storm, both Jackson and I cling to Mom and Dad or hide between their bed and the wall upstairs. Mom thinks I'm part shepherd because I like to bring everyone together. My favorite times are when we're all in the living room. Mom and Dad are on the big sofa, Jackson is on the love seat, and I am queen of the ottoman. I claimed it right away when I came to live here and no one else is allowed on it!

I like to make people laugh, and Mom says I'm a ray of sunshine. One of my favorite tricks when I'm lying on the floor and they're not paying attention to me is to growl, smile, give them a sideways glance, and slap my tail until they do! I have a mind of my own and like to boss around both the 2- and 4-leggeds. One of my nicknames is "Bossy-pants"!

Mom and Dad have noticed that I'm more dog and less puppy now that I'm going on 5 years old. I'm still a very happy girl, although I've mellowed a lot! Some mornings I like to lay on the deck and just stare into space. I don't bug Jackson as much as I used to; we even lay next to each other like old friends. I cuddle more with Mom and Dad and I sleep later in the mornings. I can still run and jump up into the back of the Armada but I'm okay with using the ramp more now. But I'm always game to go somewhere! That's my favorite word: GO!

## The BMDCNV chairpeople

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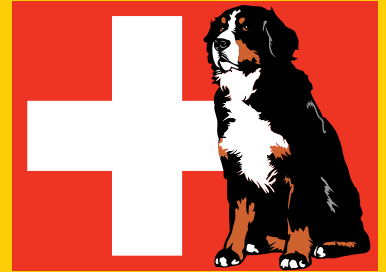
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Mimi Englander  
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*These dedicated chairpeople provide essential services to you, our membership. Please feel free to contact them with your questions, concerns, suggestions, requests for help or offers of help. Our mission is to provide the best for Berners and their families.*

# OUR RESCUES Picture Collage

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## BERNER INC. ~ July 2017 - July 2018

### RESCUE STATISTICS:

Number of dogs taken into rescue: 12

Fosters: 8

Adopted: 4

Owner Release: 5

Shelter/Animal

Control Releases: 17

Males: 8

Females: 4

### SURRENDER LOCATIONS:

CT: 4

MA: 5

ME: 2

NH: 1

### REASONS FOR SURRENDER:

Behavior: 2

Death of Owner: 1

Eviction: 1

Health of Dog: 1

Impound by Animal Control: 1

Moving: 1

No time for dog: 3

Stray: 2

### STATE COORDINATORS:

CT: Nancy Bard

VT: Cathy Estes

RI: Marjorie Cottle

MA: Linda DeCelles & Anya Wittenborg

NH & ME: Linda DeCelles

Southern NH & ME: Judy Hartman



## BAKER

By Lynne Bailey

On August 16, 2018 Baker will officially be a veteran—and our family plans to honor, glorify and just plain spoil him on his 8th birthday!

Four years ago a co-worker came to me with a story about a Berner that was “temporarily” living at a friend’s horse farm in Maine. The Berner had been removed from the original owner’s home by her son due to neglect. He placed “Koda” with a friend who had a large horse farm and 2 dogs. It was clear that the two dogs did not want another roommate. Koda would run away for days at a time. This family passed him on to another friend who also had a horse farm. At the new home Koda continued to run off, and short of keeping him tied up 24/7, they were unable to stop the behavior.

Back up 18 months and I had just lost my first Berner, Mad Maple Ox Porter Minty B. He was the most remarkable pet we have ever had and the loss was paralyzing.

After hearing about Koda, Marge Bumen and I drove to the farm to talk about placing him with Berner Inc. He was a mess...underweight and missing fur around his tail and butt. He had chronic diarrhea from a host of different parasites. Joe Bumen said to me, “Remember, you are not ready for another dog”. But when I met Koda, he didn’t make me cry. He looked nothing like Ox Porter. He was needy and pathetic looking. I put him in the back of my SUV and took him home.

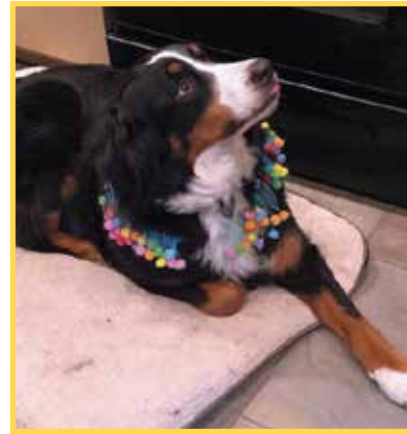
It’s now six years later. He is still a flight risk and a wingnut but we love him. He weighs in at 100 pounds with no health issues. His best friend is a 30-pound cat. We lovingly call him Baker in honor of a friend we lost too soon. It’s bittersweet. It’s been said before...he rescued us.



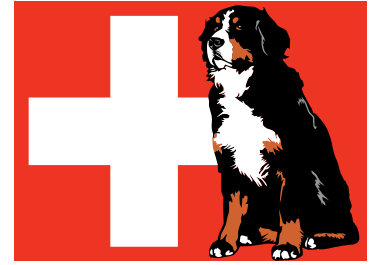
## MAYA

By Penny Petrone

Maya is now six years old. She has come a very long way from the out-of-control 18-month-old that we rescued! In September she will start her third year as my READ dog partner two days a week. I have been part of this reading program



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at the same school for 11 years. (Maya gets very annoyed on my third day each week, which is her companion Nico’s day!) She loves going to school with me and loves all the children. Everyone (children and teachers alike) all love her!

## BIG BERNER THANKS TO OUR FOSTERS

*July 2017-present*

Judy and Mick Beck  
Anne Burke  
Maura Cornish  
Linda DeCelles  
Cindy Forlenzo  
Ellie and Tom Kittler  
Fran and Phil LaFlamme  
Michelle and Jay Larson  
Elizabeth Malcolmson  
Amy and Mark Matthieu  
Gib Otten  
Anya Wittenborg

## The BERNER INC board of directors

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**CLERK & DIRECTOR** - Dawn Flaherty

**DIRECTOR** - Anya Wittenborg  
**DIRECTOR** - Linda DeCelles  
**DIRECTOR** - Beth Atkinson



## Our Featured Foster: CODY

By Linda DeCelles, Rescue Chair

Cody was bred in rural Vermont by a backyard breeder. He was born with a deformed hind leg. A BMDCNV member found him in a shelter in Maine where he had been surrendered. At only 8 months old, he had been passed around to three different homes. Not



surprisingly, Cody had a range of behavior issues. Hard mouthing of humans, guarding, chewing and swallowing any object in sight, and vocalizing non-stop for attention. He played too roughly with humans and dogs. He was a bundle of nervous energy. But he's a charmer! He loves people and other dogs. Always happy, Cody just needed to learn boundaries.

Despite his deformed leg, Cody is able to run and play like any energetic young dog. In fact, on first glance Cody's leg doesn't seem damaged, except for a "hoppy" gait. Berner Inc. had Cody's leg examined by orthopedic specialists. They agreed that the time had passed for early corrective surgery. Since Cody is still growing, we will have to take a wait-and-see approach to treatment for his leg. Cody has had a recurring case of pneumonia, which is being treated, and we're hopeful of a final recovery.



Cody was very lucky to land Michelle Larson, an experienced trainer and longtime BMDCNV member, as his foster. Cody moved in with Michelle and husband Jay and their three Berners to learn how to be a well-behaved companion. When his training began he was often stubborn and resistant. But he is very bright and eager to learn. In the nine months that Michelle has been training Cody, his early behavior problems have faded. He has been to BMDCNV events and impressed everyone with his manners.

We've started looking for a permanent home for Cody. He will be adopted to an experienced home only. His adopter must have the skills for handling Berners or other large breeds. His adopters must continue the positive training techniques Michelle has worked on



with Cody. Michelle will work closely with Cody's adopters on his transition to a new home. He's very strong, so he needs a home with no children. Cody can do well in a home with other dogs, as long as they can handle his playfulness. Berner,

Inc. is committed to some financial aid for treatment Cody may need for his leg. We all love Cody and we know his perfect home is waiting for him! Anyone interested in adopting Cody can contact Linda at: [phdog6@gmail.com](mailto:phdog6@gmail.com).

## FALCO

By Jim Tompkins

In 2015 we lost both of our Berners, Ebbie, at 10 and Spenser, a rescue, at 12. To say the least, we were devastated and after a few months, we decided to inquire with BERNER, Inc. about any rescue Berners that might be available because the house felt empty without one of those big fur babies around. Linda DeCelles told us—with some caveats--about a young Berner she was fostering after his neutering procedure.

It turned out that that this boy, Falco, was a sizeable challenge. He came from a home environment where the elderly owners had allowed him to take over the household. He was still a wild child when we decided to take him as the newest member of our household. When I had double-knee-replacement surgery, his training time had to be reduced. After a period of recovery I was able to resume walking and training Falco. He made great progress. A sweet, lovable Berner emerged.

Over the past year he has progressed greatly because of the time we've spent training. He still sometimes feels the need to bully our two female dogs, but they stand up for themselves and he has learned limits. He is an ingenious counter-surfer and is able to get things that no other dog we've ever had could reach. He's always at his best out in public with other friendly dogs and with people. While Falco has a way to go, he has come very far, and we love him dearly.



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# Congratulations and Brags...



## Happy 10th Birthday, Kodiak!!

8.24.08

FOXFIRE'S KODIAK BLUE'S BROTHER DOUBLE DIGITS! Whoo Hoo!! Our Kodi is just a big ole sweetheart!! He has been so accepting of the many Berner Inc. fosters he has shared his home (and his mom and dad) with. He always willingly gives up his favorite stuffies and his favorite spots in the house to them. We love you three times around the moon and back, our sweet, handsome boy!!

— Fran & Phil LaFlamme; Salem, CT



## Happy 3rd Birthday!

FOUR SEASONS HARPSWELL

TESSA B TREASURE

My love bug... always!

— Linda Botti; Brunswick, ME



## New AKC champion!

Monbalou is a boy imported from Europe (Belgium). He has a magnificent head, a thick straight coat, and the bone structure of a true working dog. He has all health clearances and pedigree with longevity and fertility.

Sincerely, Galina Seriakova



## Happy 5th birthday George!!

Marben's A True Southern Gentleman will be 5 on September 27th!

Owned and loved by Kim Dekker- Collins & Tiggy Gerli



## Balsam - Brag

Balsam completed her AKC GCHS title at Tunbridge. She is now: GCHS/CAN CH Tennescott White Mtns The Balsams Am/Can CD, CDX, RE, TKI, MDD, ABNDD, Can DD, CGC, TDI

— Barbie & Bill Wilczek; Littleton, NH



SNOWPAW'S SONNENBERG TREKKER (Tripp) earned his first leg of Rally Novice A on July 14 at the Green Mountain Dog show in Tunbridge, VT. So proud of this boy and we look forward to the next Rally day.

— Tressy and Cory Manning



## Happy Birthday Dante!

8.11.2013

GLENMEGAN'S MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY CGC This year we are celebrating the Fabulous Five! Lots of love, Mari & Rob Higgins



## Happy 9th Birthday Eiger!

9.12.2009

CH Iron vom Graenzweg His vet just gave him a clean bill of health. Here's to more years ahead.

— Karlo & Tina Laforteza; Milford, MA



**URSLI FIRN NAP CGC --**  
 We are so proud of Firn! She earned her Novice Agility Preferred title in July. Here she's posing on her seesaw w/ her ribbons. Many people who watched her in the ring came up to us & commented on how much fun she was having & how much she enjoyed her runs. She is a happy girl & I can't wait to do more with her.  
 — Mary Durham & Paul Emerson



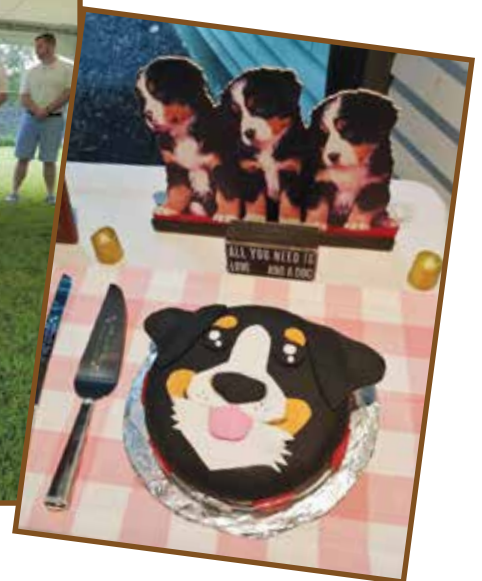
**Welcome home Nigel!**

After a long wait, my husband and I welcomed this beautiful boy into our home and into our hearts ♥. He's everything we could have hoped for and more!  
 — John and Irene Juzyn; Willimantic, CT



**Harding Wedding**

Big THANK YOU to Linda Bates and Nancy Bates for letting the Hardings borrow their vast supply of Bernese Mountain Dog decor!



**Nancy & Trinity**

Nancy and Trinity that was taken at our friend, Julia's, wedding on Wildcat Mountain in August. Her new husband is from Switzerland and they had an alpenhorn player play on the top of the mountain.



**Sydney**

The wonderful Miss Sydney was accidentally left out of all the Patriotic Berners in the last issue. Love you Miss Sydney & Fran Laflamme!

# In Remembrance

## TRIXIE

MAY 22, 2010 - AUGUST 20, 2018

We love you and will always miss you. Such a special Trixie girl. Our hearts are broken but our Trixie girl, such a wonderful dog, has made our lives richer.

*With love from The Grossmans:  
Donna, Mike, and puppy Charlie*



## BMDCNV

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to receive an electronic color  
issue of the Berner-Blatt



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