

The Berner Blatt

Oct./Nov. 2019

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

THE CLUB FOR NEW ENGLAND BERNERS & THEIR FAMILIES




**FALL FUN
DAY**
pages 6 - 7


Brotherly Rivalry! Thorncreeks Syncopated Rhythm FDC CGCA TKN (Bunsen) and his Newfoundland brother Breaker show off their ribbons after competing against each other in rally. Bunsen came in second to Breaker both days. Congratulations to Breaker & Bunsen! Owned & Loved by Erin Spanos, Preston, CT.

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PROOF

BMDCNV *Calendar of Events*

~ 2019 ~

December 6
Supported Entry
Champlain Valley Kennel Club
West Springfield, MA

~ 2020 ~

February 29 & March 1
Regional Specialty: Working Dog • Springfield, MA

February 9
Winter Walk at Wampatuck State Park • Hingham, MA

April 19
Annual Meeting at the Boxboro Regency
Boxborough, MA

June 6
Spring Fun Day • Westford, MA

FMI: www.bmdcnv.org/events.html

Calling All Veterans!

No matter if your veteran is a couch potato, rescue, urban canine, therapy or show dog... Submit them for our special Annual Veterans Issue!

Showcase your special veteran in our 7th Annual Veterans Issue!

If your Bernese Mountain Dog will be 7 years or older on December 31st, you're invited to include them in the December Veterans Issue of our Berner Blatt.

Submit your Veteran information and picture at

<https://tinyurl.com/tx5jn37>

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 20

A wonderful way to honor your special veteran!

DON'T FORGET!
Submission
Deadline:
DEC. 20

Welcome! New Members

Joel Heusser
Peabody, MA

Lori Healy
Groton, MA

Denise Daley &
Timothy McCarthy
North Easton, MA

Cap Corduan
Fitchburg, MA

John & Nicole
Bartlett
Mashpee, MA

Kristen Patten
Litchfield, NH

New Members *Showcase*

Kathryn Cannon
Centerbrook, CT
Berner: Kobi

I became the fur mom last spring to my amazing Kobi (steadfast Hale and Hearty Kindness of Bearer) who is one of a Bakers Dozen (!!!) from MA. He is my fourth Berner and I hope to explore some new territory in the Berner world with Kobi including Canine Good Citizen training. It's been suggested that he has a great disposition to become a therapy dog.

We beach walk several times every week (except in summer heat) and spend time at my family's house in NH in the Lakes Region near the White Mountains.

I cannot wait to see his reaction to our first New England winter and to witness the supreme Berner joy of romping in the snow. He has certainly proven to be my Joy Boy!



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TROPHY SPONSORS NEEDED!

WE HAVE MANY PLACEMENTS THAT COULD USE
YOUR HELP TO MAKE FOR A SUCCESSFUL
BMDCNV REGIONAL AND SUPPORTED SHOWS
ON FEB 29-MARCH 1ST 2020
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE CT RIVER WORKING GROUP ASSOCIATION
WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!

CLASS SPONSORS RANGE FROM \$20 TO \$40
TO SPONSOR ALL 4 PLACEMENTS OR
BEST OF BREED AND BEST OF SWEEPS
GENERAL DONATION ARE WELCOME

PLEASE USE OUR PAYPAL ADDRESS OF
ORDERS@BMDCNV.ORG
CONTACT PAM ELDREDGE
FOR AVAILABLE TROPHIES
PELDREDGE39@COMCAST.NET

2020 Calendars



This year we are showcasing our members beautiful dogs on the pages of the calendar.

They are available for purchase on the BMDCNV site!

<https://bmdcnv.bigcartel.com/product/bernese-mountain-dog-calendar>

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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.

So, You Want a Bernerdoodle?

By Nancy P. Melone, PhD -- nancymelone@icloud.com

You've seen your neighbor's cute Bernerdoodle puppy, a "new dog breed", and you've just got to have one. The ad on the website says it is the "perfect dog". What could be better than a breed that is hypoallergenic, does not shed, requires almost no grooming, and is much healthier than a Bernese Mountain Dog?

But wait? Are the Bernerdoodle ads really true?

Myth 1:

A Bernerdoodle is a new dog breed.

What is that old saying about the silk purse and the sow's ear? A Bernerdoodle is a mix-breed dog made up of two different breeds. A Bernerdoodle is not a Berner. A Bernerdoodle is not a poodle. It is a mix. If you breed your Bernerdoodle to another Bernerdoodle, the odds are the puppies would not look the same as either of the parents. If you breed a Berner to another Berner, the odds are the puppies would look like its Berner parents. The same is true for a poodle-to-poodle breeding. A breed has a consistent look and behavior. A Bernerdoodle does not. Furthermore, reputable Berner breeders would never knowingly sell their dogs for such doodle breeding, so the Berners used for your doodle are not likely to come from the best lines in terms of either health or appearance.

Myth 2:

A Bernerdoodle is hypoallergenic.

"Ah choo!" Proteins in a dog's

dander and saliva, not its hair, are the allergens responsible for allergic reactions to dogs. Recent studies question the existence of "hypoallergenic breeds" and offer empirical support that the breeds (including "designer breeds") do not differ significantly in the generation of these allergens. Indeed, one study found



so-called "hypoallergenic breeds" to have significantly more allergen in their coats than non-hypoallergenic breeds although it found no difference in the allergen levels in the air or on the floor. While the level of dander and saliva can vary across individual dogs for various reasons, they do not vary systematically across breeds. The hard truth is that

recent science does not support the existence of "hypoallergenic breeds".

Myth 3:

A Bernerdoodle does not shed.

If a dog has hair, it sheds. Between a hair starting to grow and eventually falling out, each hair on your dog's body passes through a four-stage lifecycle: anagen (growth), catagen (transition), telogen (rest) and exogen (shedding, i.e., the new hair pushes the old hair out of the follicle). Every hair on the dog is at a different stage of this growth cycle. If a dog has hair, the hair will go through these stages and eventually be shed. Bernerdoodles have hair, so they shed like any other dog with hair. For dogs with extremely curly coats, it may seem like the dog is shedless. In fact, the curly coat catches the curly dead hairs, unless they are brushed out by the owner. If the dead hairs are not brushed out regularly, they can easily become matted and cause serious skin irritation or infection...which gets

us to the next Bernerdoodle myth.

Myth 4:

A Bernerdoodle requires minimal or no grooming.

Don't count on saving any money at the groomer. What you save by not grooming your Bernerdoodle you will likely spend at the veterinarian treating its skin infections caused by matted hair. Talk to any groomer about how easy it is to groom a Bernerdoodle whose kinky coat has not been groomed regularly. If the mats are severe, most professional groomers will recommend shaving the dog. They will likely charge extra because of the extra time it will take them to groom an unkempt dog. If the Bernerdoodle owner balks at the added, unexpected cost, the groomer may just refuse to accept the dog as a client. Advice from allergists to serious dog-loving allergy sufferers is to bathe the dog twice a week to remove the coat of allergens from dander and saliva...another reason to see a groomer.

Myth 5:

A Bernerdoodle (mixed breed) is healthier than a purebred dog.

Not so fast! Like most things in life, it is more complicated. In a University of California at Davis study of 24 genetic disorders in 27,000 purebred and mixed breeds, researchers found there was no difference between purebreds and mixed breeds in genetic disorder incidence for 13 of the 24 genetic diseases examined. The incidence of 10 genetic disorders (e.g., aortic stenosis, DCM, atopy/allergic dermatitis, IVDD, elbow dysplasia, bloat, cataracts, liver shunts) was significantly greater in purebred dogs, however mixed breed dogs had more cranial cruciate ligament

(CCL) tears than purebred dogs. Interestingly, there was no difference across purebreds and mixed breeds for several deadly cancers and orthopedic defects, including hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma, mast cell tumors, osteosarcoma, hip dysplasia or luxating patellas. To the extent that Bernerdoodles are a mix of two genetically less diverse pure breeds rather than some canine Casanova from the other side of the tracks, the Bernerdoodle fancier might wish to hold off touting superior health over purebreds.

The best information for any puppy search is a complete certified (minimal 4-generation) pedigree with health certifications for dogs in the pedigree and age of death (AOD) and cause of death (COD) information for deceased ancestors. A pup's pedigree that crosses out full registered names of certain purebred dogs, does not provide health certifications for ALL or most of the dogs, or does not include AOD/COD for all or most of the deceased dogs in the pedigree, tells you virtually nothing about a pup's prospects for a long, healthy life. Don't be a Doodle Dunce by exclusively focusing on the sire's and dam's hip scores while ignoring the overall health and longevity of the rest of the dogs in the pup's pedigree.

Truth:

A fool and his (or her) money are soon parted.

What Thomas Tusser wrote nearly 500 years ago in his poem, "Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry," applies in the current context.

*A foole and his money be soone at debate:
which after with sorow repents him too late.*

With enough money you can buy anything—including a "pig in a poke", (an overpriced view of) the Brooklyn Bridge, (temporary) "love", or a dud of a doodle dog. Why buy a mixed breed Bernerdoodle for \$5,000+ when you can get the real thing (a poodle or a Berner) for \$2500-3500 and get the forever support of a responsible breeder and a pedigree that is certified—for no extra charge?

Be a smart dog buyer. Get ALL the facts before you pay thousands for what you could buy at your local dog pound for \$100 if you truly wanted a poodle-mixed breed dog (with all the mystery and excitement of its unpredictable genetics and unverified pedigree).

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Fall FUN Day!

September 28

Westford, MA

Another gorgeous Fall Fun Day was held on September 28th.

Fun Days are such a wonderful mixture of new and old Berner friends and families, fun activities and love of our amazing breed. This year we were lucky enough to have a Howloween Puppy Parade, a carting demonstration, and a conformation match.

The generosity of our members was apparent in our wonderful raffle and potluck lunch! Thank you to all the volunteers, but especially Allison Harding for coordinating the day; Ray Harding for his emcee skills; Patricia Buickerood for organizing the

potluck; Bill Wilczek & Barbie Beck-Wilczek for the carting demonstration; Celeste Dowd O'Malley for the grooming; Diane Smith for the Berner-Garde talk; and Laurel Wood for chatting with the potential new puppy owners!

Congratulations to all raffle winners, and thank you to Erin Spanos and Cathy Sullivan-Neves for handling the raffle, you did a great job! It is always amazing to be a part of such a well orchestrated event, and I am looking forward to Spring Fun Day!



Best Adult Dog: Riverwood's Scarlett Nights, call name Esther.
Handled by Dylan Roberts;
Owned by Laurel Wood.



Best Puppy: Riverwood's The Fennel Countdown, call name Fennel.
Handled by Sam Sirico; Owned by Sam & Tina Sirico & Laurel Wood.

Fall FUN Day!

September 28

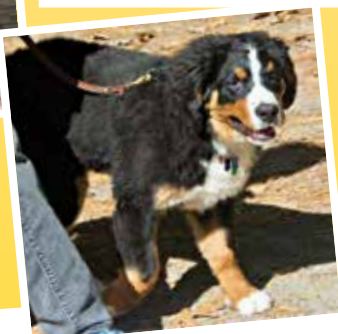
Westford, MA

We had 20 Puppies that participated in the Puppy Parade! There were so many cute costumes and all the puppies were excited to participate.

Blades: 12 wks • Willow: 4 mos • Maximus: 18 wks • Piper: 4.5 mos • Rosie: 5 mos
Gabrielle: 5.5 mos • Gus: 6 mos • Chloe: 9.5 mos • Fennel: 10 mos • Lola: 10 mos • Finnegan: 10 mos
Winston: 11 mos • Nigel: 16 mos • Sierra: 16 mos • T-Rex: 17 mos • Audrey: 18 mos
Treasure, Honorary Berner: 16 mos • Believe: 10 mos • Betty Boop: 10 months • Gala: 17 months



*Fun Day
photos by Jim
Tompkins*



BMDCNV Fall Draft Tests

October 19 & 20, 2019 • Bolton Sports & Fairground Fields, Bolton, MA

Chair: Jean Michael • Secretary: Anya Wittenborg • Committee: Lynn Jones, Julie Mott, Sue Nowak, Marge Bumen

BY JULIE HIGGINS MOTT

As morning sunshine spread across the maneuvering course and melted the frosty dew in its wake, Nashoba Valley's 45th and 46th BMDCA Draft Tests got underway in the heart of Nashoba Valley's Apple Country. Thank you to our judges, Sue Van Ocker and Sara Steele. Thank you to Chief Steward Laurie McDonough Greaney; and Stewards Nancy Patterson, Cathy M. Sullivan-Neves, Kim Goodwin, Dawn Flaherty, Alise Burbridge, Patricia Buickerood, Bill Freeman on the narrows, and Jeff Nowak on the freight haul.

We had perfect weather, beautiful fall color, and exhibitors who showed us the patience and pleasure of working with their working dogs. We enjoyed hearty hospitality both days.

Special thanks to Nancy Patterson for the delicious pumpkin bread and Jim Mott for the warm apple cider donuts. A highlight



was Saturday's lunch delivered by Elizabeth and Khione with her cart so the delivery van would not disrupt the freight haul! Thanks also to Bolton Spring Farm for letting us

borrow some of their apple crates (which were made in 1939 using wood from trees felled in the historic 1938 hurricane), and to Laurie McDonough Greaney for her antique hay wagon which all



provided a charming backdrop to our fall flowers and seasonal displays in the ring.



Saturday Qualifiers:

9 Teams, 7 Passes



OPEN:

CH Spellbound-Southwind Ring of Fire (Cash)
Handler: Jon Cons

CH Maine's Healing Light Raphael V Sprucepeak (Raphael)
Handler: Celeste O'Malley

BRACE NOVICE:

CH Spellbound-Southwind Ring of Fire (Cash)
Spellbound's Harbor Baroness (Nessa, owned by Barb Gibson)
Nessa completed her ABNDD with this pass.
Handler: Jon Cons

NOVICE:

Tennescott White Mtns Moriah (Moriah)
Moriah completed her ANDD with this pass.
Handler: Buffy Bell

Backcountry's Xtant Andronicus (Khione)
Handler: Elizabeth Malcolmson
CH Millenium Star Zippi Boy (Zippi)
Handler: Kathy Elders

Tennescott Green Mtns Summer Rain (Rain)
Handler: Buffy Bell

Trophies for the oldest & youngest qualifying Bernese Mountain Dogs were donated by Lynn and Lloyd Jones:
Oldest: Moriah (11/7/12)
Youngest: Rain (7/11/17)

BMDCNV Fall Draft Tests

Sunday Qualifiers:

9 Teams, 5 Passes



(con't from pg 8)

OPEN:

CH Spellbound-Southwind Ring of Fire (Cash)
Handler: Jon Cons

CH Maine's Healing Light Raphael V Sprucepeak (Raphael)
Handler: Celeste O'Malley

NOVICE:

Tennescott White Mtns Moriah (Moriah)
Handler: Buffy Bell

CH CT Backcountry Xcelsior (Kelyn)
Handler: Beth Atkinson

CH Millenium Star Zippi Boy (Zippi)
Handler: Kathy Elders

Trophies for the oldest and youngest qualifying Bernese Mountain Dogs were donated by Lynn and Lloyd Jones:
Oldest: Moriah (11/7/12)
Youngest: Kelyn (4/11/17)



Rescue Notebook

SHARE YOUR BERNER STORIES WITH US!

We always enjoy hearing from BERNER Inc. adopters about their lives with their Berners (and their other dogs, cats, alpacas, goats, birds, rabbits—all animals).



BAER and the T-Rex family

Karrie Kapoor sends regular updates about BAER MAXIMUS and the adventures he has with her family. She sent us this delightful photo of BAER when he participated in the family's T-Rex dress-up.

Send us your stories and photos. It can be about a special occasion or just about everyday life. (Admit it if you have photos of your Berner stealing cookies off a table!) Please send your stories and photos to Linda DeCelles, BERNER Inc. Rescue Chair at: phdog6@gmail.com.

We look forward eagerly to your stories and pictures!

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**BMDCNV REGIONAL SPECIALTY
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH, 2020**

**4 SHOWS
2 DAYS!!**

**WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA
DESIGNATED SPECIALTY WITH THE
CT RIVER WORKING GROUP ASSOCIATION**

**ALWAYS
MAJORS!!**

**BREED JUDGE—LIBBY KESNER
SWEEPSTAKES JUDGE—DAYNA MERROW
BEST PUPPY, BEST BRED-BY-EXHIBITOR, BEST VETERAN**

**BMDCNV SUPPORTED ENTRY
SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2020**

SUPPORTING THE ENTRY AT THE CT RIVER WORKING GROUP ASSOCIATION

**BREED JUDGE—TERRY TEMPLE
SWEEPSTAKES JUDGE—SUE BRIGHTMAN**

**CT RIVER WORKING GROUP ASSOCIATION
BOTH DAYS 4-6 MONTH PUPPY AND NOHS COMPETITION**

**SAT & SUN 2 ALL BREED SHOWS SAME LOCATION
First Company Governor's Foot Guard Athletic Association**

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Very Reasonable \$20-\$40 to sponsor the entire class!

MB-F Secretary Closing Date WED at Noon February 12, 2020

Birthdays, Congratulations and Brags...



One is Fun!
Happy first birthday, Winston (Mystic's No Knocks Sox Winston)! You've been a joy to us. And a great playmate for Gus. Pam and Charles Swearingen, Belmont, MA



Birthday Greetings!
Eiger (BG# 72272) celebrated his 10th birthday last September 12. Owned by Karlo & Kristina Laforteza, Milford, MA



Four is Great!
Happy Birthday to Snowpaw's Sonnenberg Trekker, RN, FDC (Tripp) turning 4 on November 1st!!!! Tressy Manning, Barnard, VT

New Veteran!
Happy Birthday to Mountain Bliss Keiko, FDC turning 7 on November 21st!!!! Tressy Manning, Barnard, VT



Double Birthday!
Happy Birthday to Dante and Daphne! These wishes may be belated, but the celebration was not! Dante Glenmegan's Make Someone Happy CGC & Daphne Glenmegan's Xcitement Abounds. Mari & Rob Higgins, Pawlet, VT



Major Win! Thank you Judge Rick Blanchard for the win at the Cranberry Cluster. Crimson Harvests Pearl of Bellinzona "Bellin" was Winner's Bitch for a 3 point Major out of the Bred By Exhibitor class. Susan Morrill, Cataumet, MA

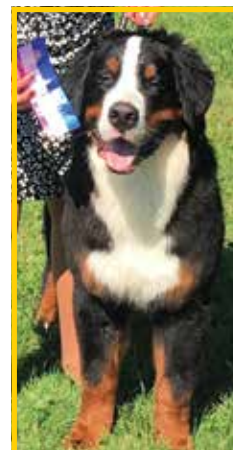


First Point! Riverwood's The Fennel Countdown was awarded Winner's Dog and Best of Winners at the Goshen Show in September. We are so proud of him. Sam & Tina Sirico, Old Saybrook, CT

Group Win!
Northbridge A Tree Grows In Brooklyn, winning a Group 4 at Souhegan Kennel Club on September 8, 2019 Owned and Bred by: Linda Sullivan, Woodbridge, CT



Puppy of Achievement!
Marben's The Osgood File, "Oz" received his AKC Puppy of Achievement and his first two points toward his championship all before he turned 9 months! He just received his third point in Sept from his first time moving into the 9-12 month class. Kym Dekker-Collins & Tiggie Gerli, Danbury, CT



Brotherly Love!
Bunsen (Thorncreeks Syncopated Rhythm FDC CGCA TKN) got the first two legs of his rally novice title at his first rally trial finishing second to his Newfoundland brother Breaker both days. Erin Spanos, Preston, CT

New Title! Having been to the wonderful Watchung Specialty draft test, Brook is now: CH Tennescott Green Mtns Brook BN RA HCT-s TDM NDD CGC. Photo Credit to Lloyd Jones. Buffy Bell, Redding, VT



Buffy Moriah & Rain

BMDCNV

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