



## BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF CANADA CODE OF ETHICS

**AS A MEMBER** I will ensure that all animals in my care will be kept in the best conditions possible. I will share my knowledge with other members and will support the Club in its endeavors to promote the breed.

I will abide by the Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Ethics set by the Club and will always conduct myself in a manner that will be beneficial to the Club, the breed, and its image. I will not defame other Club members.

**AS A BREEDER** I resolve to devote my efforts to the improvement of the breed, by maintaining high standards of correct Bernese temperament, physical soundness, working traits and conformity to the Canadian breed standard.

To this end, I agree to:

1. Maintain the best possible standards of health and care of dogs in my care.
2. Refuse to use for breeding purposes and refuse stud service to any bitch, as described in the Code of Ethics.
3. Complete basic health screening as recommended by the BMDCC for Bernese Mountain Dogs. All breeding animals raised in North America must have the following health screening tests completed:
  - a. Hip Dysplasia evaluated by OFA or PennHip
  - b. Elbow Dysplasia evaluated by OFA
  - c. Eye Examination by board certified Ophthalmologist
  - d. Cardiac Evaluation by an OFA-accepted professional
  - e. Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) DNA results for both SOD1-A and SOD1-B from a recognized lab

Results should be used to make the best decisions in a breeding program always keeping in mind what we have devoted ourselves to, improving the breed. All results and any ensuing litters must be entered in Berner-Garde.

4. Refrain from breeding a bitch until she is at least 18 months old, preferably two years. A breeding may be done just prior to 24 months if OFA preliminary hip and elbow x-rays are completed and posted in Berner-Garde. Final x-rays should be done after 2 years of age. Back-

to-back breeding is not encouraged but can be done in some cases. It is recommended that bitches have no more than 4 litters in a lifetime. Discretion should be used and the bitch's health and over all condition must be considered. Seek veterinary approval for all exceptional cases.

Males may be used for the first time at 12 months with passing OFA prelims and all other testing completed and posted in Berner-Garde

5. Post all dog's health certifications in Berner-Garde, and it is recommended that they also be in the OFA database where applicable before being used in any breeding program.
6. Refuse to deal with unethical breeders, wholesalers or retailers, or to sell to any buyer where there is reason to believe that the puppy or dog will not be properly cared for.
7. Keep and pass on to buyers of puppies or adult dogs, accurate health, registration and pedigree records.
8. Sell or place only puppies or adult dogs of sound health and temperament and to urge all buyers to have the puppy or adult dog examined by a competent veterinarian as soon as possible.
9. Discuss with all prospective buyers their expectations for the puppy or dog whether of show and/or breeding quality or pet quality. Rate all puppies and dogs to the best of my knowledge, giving full and frank disclosure of any faults which, the puppy/dog may have, or which are known to be in its immediate family's background.
10. Provide a written guarantee for all puppies/dogs clearly outlining what is covered as to health issues, plus acceptable provision for refund or replacement.
11. Registration will be on a CKC non-breeding agreement for all pet quality puppies and preferably for all puppies, to be signed by the buyer and myself at the time of the sale.
12. Keep in touch with the progress of dogs of my breeding in order to better analyze my program.

I understand that serious infractions of the above code, where they are deemed detrimental to the breed or an individual dog, or a club member, may result in expulsion from the Club.

I have read and understand all the points in the Code of Ethics and agree to conduct myself accordingly.

Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* (Second signature required for double membership)

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