

# Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain

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## The Bernese Mountain Dog The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain.

Dear Enquirer,

Thank-you for your enquiry. Please find attached some information regarding our breed and the club which I hope you find useful and of interest. If you wish to know more please feel free to call me or any of our committee and we will be pleased to try and answer any questions you may have.

### Enquiring about Bernese

If you are still seeking advice and considering whether to own a Bernese you may hear different opinions of some aspects and I would suggest that you take as much advice and talk to as many people as possible in order to evaluate each opinion and form your own thoughts. In common with all breeds Bernese do have their problems and whilst you should enquire about them these must be kept in perspective. Above all meet some Bernese and owners, if at all possible in a domestic environment or if not, at least at a show or other event where you can meet owners and "get a feel" for the breed. The club should be able to put you in touch with someone reasonably close who is willing to share their experience of Bernese with you and possibly arrange for you to visit their dogs.

If you are eventually going to decide that a Bernese is **not** the breed for you and your family, it is much better for you and the dog that you research sufficiently and decide prior to obtaining your puppy, than to find out the hard way afterwards. Your Bernese will be a loyal and giving friend to you so make sure that you understand his needs and can give him what he requires in return.

### Enquiring about the Club

If you have a Bernese or an interest in them then many people find it useful to join the club as receiving club magazines etc helps to accumulate your breed knowledge. The club has several annual events which many members, who do not normally attend dog shows, come to once a year to meet other owners. Here they can discuss little problems, compare progress with others or maybe purchase some Bernese related items and memorabilia from our excellent club "Bernershop". However, a large number of our membership remain with us solely for the quality, and we feel good value, of our publications which they automatically receive as members.

If you are joining I look forward to receiving the enclosed application form, and on receipt I will be pleased to forward you some more information, this usually including the club handbook, (subject to availability), and other relevant information.

Whether or not you have a Bernese Mountain Dog or are joining our club please accept Best Wishes from the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain.

Yours sincerely,

Lianne Marsden  
(Membership Secretary)

### Other Committee Members:

- ◆ Sandra Gatward (Rescue Co-Ordinator)  
01202 855097 (Dorset)
- ◆ Mary Thorman 01425 612942 (Hampshire)
- ◆ Steve Green (Health Co-Ordinator, Web Site & Club Chair] 0114 2882930 (South Yorkshire)
- ◆ Debbie Gay 01832 280129 (Cambridgeshire)
- ◆ Aileen Barnard 01422 377192 (West Yorkshire)

### Other non committee Numbers

- ◆ Glynis Sawyers [Rescue Assistant] 01750 32292 [Scottish Borders)
- ◆ Lena Robbins (Bernershop) 01444 232682 (West Sussex)

# The Bernese Mountain Dog

## A Brief Description

The Bernese Mountain Dog is one of a group of four Swiss working dogs known as Sennenhund, (sennen being an alpine herdsman). Their ancestors probably came over the Alps with the Romans and were used as cattle drovers. As they spread through Switzerland each community developed the type of dog most suited to its particular needs and thus the four different types of Sennenhund were established: Entlebucher, the smallest; the slightly larger Appenzeller, the Bernese and the Great Swiss.

The Bernese is the second largest in size being 23 to 27+ inches high at the withers and the only one with a long coat. Although the Bernese is called a mountain dog it should not be confused with the Pyrenean, being more like the Golden Retriever in outline but somewhat stockier and heavier. As they are working closely with their owners, whether driving cattle to and from the alpine pastures, guarding the farm, pulling small wagons or carts or as avalanche dogs, the Bernese makes an ideal family dog only wanting to be with its owners and to take part in every activity. Their temperament is very stable being very affectionate, patient and especially good with children. For all their size they are very active and take a lively interest in all that is going on.

Their appearance is as attractive as their personality, basically gleaming black with a white muzzle and blaze, white cross on the chest and white paws and tail tip. Between the black and white on the legs and chest is a rich chestnut or tan. The markings should be symmetrical as possible and not haphazard as in some other tricolour breeds. The dogs should be between 64 and 70 cms (25.2 to 27.6 inches) and bitches between 58 and 66 cms (22.8 to 26 inches). Weights approximately 80 to 120 lbs for dogs and 70 to 100 lbs for bitches. The Bernese is not considered a giant breed but is quite late maturing. They usually reach their full adult height by about 15 months but can take a further 2 or 3 years to reach full maturity.

They do not make particularly good kennel dogs, preferring to live and spend time with their owners living in a family environment. They love to be with people and be given affection; however they are not constantly on the move in the house, demanding objects or retrieving objects to be thrown for them. When visitors arrive at the house they may bark and demand attention from them but after a little while they will settle down and rest - a valuable attribute in a house dog. The amount of exercise an adult Bernese requires varies between 1 and 5 miles daily, depending on his fitness and how he has been reared. They are very accommodating and if the owner is not feeling well, they will accept the fact that their exercise has to be temporarily restricted, they do not become neurotic about such things. Common sense is needed when the dog is very young as a fast growing dog can quickly tire and needs plenty of rest periods. You will get plenty of attention when out with your Bernese and this can be as tiring for a puppy as it is initially flattering for you.

Feeding should be as natural as possible for a natural working breed, although there are as many different ways to feed dogs as there are breeds. Supplements should only be given if a natural diet is fed as most manufactured foods contain additives and these should not be duplicated as this almost always does more harm than good.

Bernese are generally very willing to please their owners and therefore fairly easy to train, especially when rewarded with treats. A Bernese quickly becomes a part of the family and most owners soon wonder how their lives were ever complete without one.

To quote Professor Heim who, in the early part of the 20th century, did much to establish the breed as we know it today.....

***"All the Swiss Mountain Dogs are without deceit, excellent house and family dogs, by other breeds hardly to be surpassed for their attachment, loyalty, alertness and understanding. The Bernese is, for me, the loveliest dog to be found anywhere".***

Who can say more?.

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# Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain

## Some Breed Considerations for the prospective new owner

As with any other carefully and take as much good advice as possible. The following are suggestions of some points to consider BEFORE you search for your puppy and much of it would apply to many breeds. There is much more thought and responsibility involved in owning any large and powerful dog than just having the money to pay the food and vet's bills.

### Initial Thoughts-Can you Cope

Before trying to obtain a Bernese puppy make sure that you have the ability, time, space, resources and most importantly willingness to care for him adequately.

● This is not a breed which always takes kindly to being shut up alone for long periods away from his family, particularly whilst young. He is a loving and giving friend but if neglected he can grow into a boisterous problem by which time retraining is very difficult. Generally Bernese are willing to please and therefore relatively easy to train to an acceptable level of behaviour and this should be done whilst young. There is nothing more frustrating to a Bernese lover than a dog presented with a "temperament problem" which merely lacks some basic domestic behaviour training, which many experienced owners perform in an acceptable fashion as part of daily life. Are you prepared to ensure that he learns such acceptable behaviour from you, either alone or with the help of a local training class?. There are all too many anti-dog lobbies nowadays and another large uncontrollable dog gives them just the type of ammunition they are looking for and the Dangerous Dogs Act, whilst not originally initiated to deal with Bernese could easily be applied to ANY DOG if it is out of control in a public area and this could lead to distressing consequences.

● Can you afford to feed a large dog?. Once mature Bernese do not eat as much as most outsiders seem to think but whilst growing can consume large amounts of a quality diet for a year or more.

● Make sure that you have the financial resources to cope with any veterinary bills you might incur as well as routine inoculations etc. Most Bernese bought from reputable breeders come with a period of insurance and it is strongly recommended that this is continued.

● Be happy that your garden and house can stand the impact of a large dog. You do not need to have a massive plot but dogs should not be encouraged or allowed to foul in parks, on pavements or similar public places so your garden may have to bear the brunt of the "consequences". If they do foul an improper place you should at all times be prepared to clean up after your own dog.

● Whilst "teething" some puppies can go through a destructive phase if not encouraged to play with their own chewing toys and, when left unsupervised for just a short time, even a youngster can do a lot of damage to your favourite furniture. Have you the time (and inclination) to take him daily walks and sufficient time to give sufficient regular grooming?.

● Are you satisfied that ALL your family are happy with the prospect of a large dog entering their home. If a member of a family does not want this addition then problems can ensue. Small children can also be a problem either aggravating the dog or opening doors, gates etc. Growing dogs need to have a place and time to rest from the attentions of toddlers and children and many breeders are very reluctant to sell puppies to households with small children.

### Further Knowledge

If you feel that you, your family and your home could probably cope with a Bernese then your next task is to ascertain a little more about them and decide that they are definitely the breed for you. There are several options open to you.

There are several breed books, these include The Bernese Mountain Dog by Diana Cochrane and The Complete Bernese Mountain Dog by Jude Simonds. These may be available at your library or can be bought, from the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain, if you have any problems locating them at bookshops, or maybe even borrowed from a helpful Bernese owner in your area.

Try and see some Bernese, there are many shows and events throughout the year, details of these can be obtained from the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain, (addresses given at the end of this leaflet). Also these events are full of people who are a mine of information on the breed, do not be afraid to mingle and ask questions. You may receive more than one answer to the same question but at least you will have some impressions from which to form your own opinions. More ideally try to see Bernese in a home environment, admiring them at a show is different to imagining them fitting into your kitchen or living room. With the help of a breed club locate a willing owner in your area and ask if you can visit, many Bernese owners would be pleased to "show off" their dogs and answer any questions you have. If "active" in the breed this owner could then be a valuable source of puppy contacts for you if you decide to purchase.

Contact a breed club for information, The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain is the largest and oldest of the UK Bernese breed clubs and has several information leaflets to offer and could also advise you of knowledgeable owners in your area and of forthcoming Bernese events. If you have definitely decided to become a Bernese owner you could join a club before finding your dog. This way you will receive regular information of events and breed issues in club magazines and mailings.

### Health Issues

The following are health issues of relevance to Bernese, although most apply to many other breeds, but it should be remembered that the majority of Bernese lead normal, healthy lives and do not encounter any significant problems. None of the following should be taken out of proportion and if you are especially worried over any particular aspect then please take further advice and do not dismiss Bernese from information in this leaflet alone.

Hip Dysplasia (usually simply referred to as "HD")

This is a condition which is widespread in virtually all breeds of dog. A leaflet published by the Bernese Breed Council is available explaining the key points of H.D. and Bernese but essentially the condition is accepted as having an hereditary factor to its incidence and there is a hip assessment scheme, which in its present form, has been in place since 1983 and you should not need to buy puppies from parents who have not been "hip scored". You should therefore ask breeders about the hip scores of the puppy's parents and even their parents and other relatives. The answers you get are not likely to be at the easily assessed extremes of scale so you may wish to take other opinions about them from other breeders.

Osteochondrosis (referred to as "Osteo" or "OCD")

This term has come to cover a range of related conditions affecting one or more of the joints in many breeds of dog, in Bernese particularly elbows of a few dogs typically between 6-10 months of age. Sometimes a puppy may not have serious lameness but merely an occasional limp on a front leg. This frequently disappears of its own accord without further problem sometimes by a regime of restricted free exercise. (This is not by any means to say that all foreleg lameness in puppies is necessarily osteochondrosis, growing dogs can obviously sustain normal sprains and strains). A survey by the BMDC of GB in the mid 1980's established a definite but indistinct hereditary influence to the incidence of the disease. In the early 1990's a scheme was initiated, via the Bernese Breed Council, to screen elbows for the secondary arthritis at the same time as their hips were x-rayed for the hip scoring scheme. In early 1998 this scheme was superseded by a KC/BVA scheme using the general term Elbow Dysplasia (E.D.) Bernese have the highest take up of this scheme and possibly because of this elbow problems seem to have reduced considerably in the last 10 years of so. However, in view of the accepted hereditary influence of OCD and the existence of the old and new elbow schemes you could ask any potential puppy supplier: a) if there is any history of OCD in any form in the puppy's parents and near relatives or b) if any of the parents have been elbow graded. Whilst problems in this area do not appear to be anything like as prevalent as they once were we should not get complacent.

Hypomyelinogenesis (known as "Trembler")

This is a condition exclusive to Bernese although there are very similar conditions in other breeds. It first appeared in the mid eighties and due to responsible action taken at the time, has long since all but disappeared so should not be any consideration in any modern purchase of a Bernese Mountain Dog

Cancer

You may be told that a high percentage, (40%), of Bernese die of cancer and this is documented as true but only in the context of reported breed deaths. (The vast majority of deaths are not reported to the survey). The relative position as compared to other breeds is not so clear because all breeds encounter cancer but there is no consistent method of measuring this. We do have a particular problem documented with Malignant Histiocytosis (Histo or MH) and there are breed initiatives in many countries to investigate and tackle the problems in this area and more information can be found on our web site ([www.bernese.co.uk](http://www.bernese.co.uk))

Early Deaths

You may also be told that Bernese are not long lived and whilst at times this does seem to be true there are many Bernese who do live longer than the average age of 7 years which again is the figure from the breed reported death survey. A separate major Breed Health Survey throughout 1998 designed to eliminate this factor reported an average death due to all illnesses age of 8.2 years.

Some Other Health Points

As a large and mainly black dog, Bernese can be prone to **heat stroke** if allowed to spend too much time in strong sunshine particularly if allowed to play too much. This can also make them more prone than most to the potentially fatal effects of being left in a car, even on mild but sunny day. As an owner it is important to be aware of the early symptoms and treatment of this quickly fatal condition

Another potentially fatal condition which can occur in all larger breeds is gastric torsion (bloat) and some owners, having encountered this, prefer to feed small meals to reduce the risk. Bernese are not prone to the serious canine eye problems found most commonly in the gundog breeds, and generally have sound constitutions. Entropion and ectropion, conditions of

the eyelid turning in or out and found in many breeds, can occur but good breeding practice in the past has minimised their presence and hopefully will continue to do so.

Finding A Puppy

Having done all you can to educate yourself and decided that a Bernese is for you then you will need to set about locating a puppy. At times there are few litters to find and it can be difficult, especially for the beginner, to locate a puppy. This is where the contacts you may have already made through the above information gathering could come in useful. Club events and general shows are good sources of "gossip" regarding who has litters at the moment, breed club secretaries often hear of matings and whelpings and your local contact who is active in the breed will probably prove of most use as, even if not breeding themselves, they will be able to suggest the most likely sources of puppies for you. Whilst physical appearance and characteristics are important, along with appropriate consideration to the issues mentioned previously, your dog has to be part of your family and the prime concern, for you and any breeder, should always be TEMPERAMENT. The stud dog's influence should not be forgotten, you may be able to see him and talk to his owners at a show or event. Ask if the bitch has a good disposition and is not aggressive or nervous. If you are not happy with any answers then do not commit yourself until you have taken further advice, it is better, for you and the dog, to wait for the right puppy than rush in and make a mistake.

Summary

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain should be able to put you in touch with someone in your area who from experience will be able to further discuss any aspect of owning a Bernese. If you do think about all the foregoing issues and decide to take a Bernese into your life then you will have years to discover what rewarding companions these beautiful dogs can be. Your Bernese will give an awful lot of pleasure and joy to you, make sure before that you can give him the little things he needs back in return, particularly in the highly important early days.....*DO YOUR HOMEWORK, BE PREPARED AND YOU'LL LOVE AND ENJOY YOUR BERNESE.*

Further information on all aspects of The Bernese Mountain Dog can be found from our web site [www.bernese.co.uk](http://www.bernese.co.uk)

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•STRONG, STURDY WORKING DOG, ACTIVE, ALERT, WELL BONED, OF STRIKING COLOUR.

Head & Skull: STRONG WITH FLAT SKULL, VERY SLIGHT FURROW, WELL DEFINED STOP; STRONG STRAIGHT MUZZLE. LIPS SLIGHTLY DEVELOPED

Eyes: DARK BROWN, ALMOND SHAPED, WELL FITTING EYELIDS

Ears: MEDIUM SIZED; SET HIGH, TRIANGULAR SHAPED; LYING FLAT IN REPOSE; WHEN ALERT BROUGHT SLIGHTLY FORWARD & RAISED AT THE BASE

Neck: STRONG, MUSCULAR AND OF MEDIUM LENGTH.

Colour: JET BLACK, WITH RICH REDDISH BROWN ON CHEEKS, OVER EYES, ON ALL FOUR LEGS AND ON CHEST. SLIGHT TO MEDIUM SIZED SYMMETRICAL WHITE HEAD MARKING (BLAZE) AND WHITE CHEST MARKING (CROSS) ARE ESSENTIAL. PREFERRED BUT NOT ESSENTIAL, WHITE PAWS, WHITE NOT REACHING HIGHER THAN PASTER, WHITE TIP TO TAIL. A FEW WHITE HAIRS AT NAPE OF NECK AND WHITE ANAL PATCH UNDESIRABLE BUT TOLERATED.

Mouth: JAWS STRONG WITH A PERFECT, REGULAR AND COMPLETE SCISSOR BITE i.e. UPPER TEETH CLOSELY OVERLAPPING LOWER TEETH AND SET SQUARE TO JAWS

Hindquarters: BROAD, STRONG AND WELL MUSCLED. STIFLES WELL BENT. HOCK STRONG, WELL LET DOWN AND TURNING NEITHER IN NOR OUT.

Forequarters: SHOULDERS LONG, STRONG AND SLOPING; WITH UPPER ARM FORMING A DISTINCT ANGLE, FLAT LYING, WELL MUSCLED. FORELEGS STRAIGHT FROM ALL SIDES. PASTERNS FLEXING SLIGHTLY

Tail: BUSHY, REACHING JUST BELOW HOCK. RAISED WHEN CARRIED ALERT OR MOVING BUT NEVER CURLED OR CARRIED OVER BACK

Faults: ANY DEPARTURE FROM THE FOREGOING POINTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A FAULT AND THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE FAULT SHOULD BE REGARDED SHOULD BE IN EXACT PROPORTION TO ITS DEGREE.

Coat: SOFT, SILKY WITH BRIGHT NATURAL SHEEN, LONG, SLIGHTLY WAVY BUT SHOULD NOT CURL WHEN MATURE.

Feet: SHORT, ROUND AND COMPACT

## Bernese Mountain Dog K.C. Breed Standard

•Temperament: SELF CONFIDENT, GOOD NATURED, FRIENDLY AND FEARLESS. AGGRESSIVENESS MUST NOT BE TOLERATED.

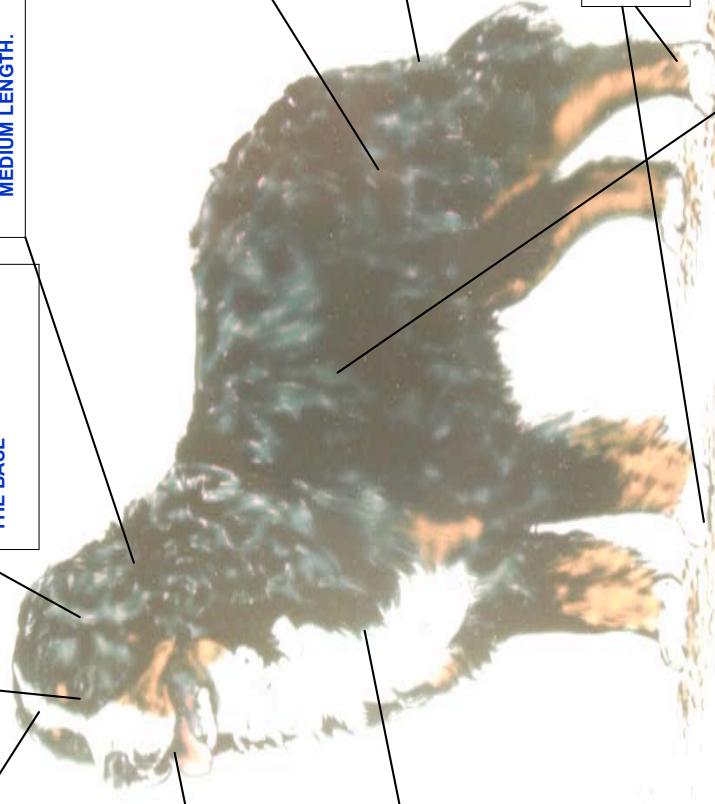
Size: DOGS 64 to 70 cms (25 to 27½ inches)  
BITCHES 58 to 66 cms (23 to 26 inches)

Gait/Movement: STRIDE REACHING OUT WELL IN FRONT, FOLLOWING WELL THROUGH BEHIND; BALANCED STRIDE IN ALL GAITS

Body: COMPACT RATHER THAN LONG. HEIGHT TO GOOD DEPTH OF BRISKET REACHING AT LEAST TO THE ELBOW. WELL RIBBED; STRONG LOINS. RUMP STRAIGHT BACK. RUMP SMOOTHLY ROUNDED.

MALE ANIMALS SHOULD HAVE TWO APPARENTLY NORMAL TESTICLES FULLY DESCENDED INTO THE SCROTUM.

NEUTERED DOGS AND BITCHES MAY BE SHOWN PROVIDED THAT THE KENNEL CLUB HAS BEEN NOTIFIED BEFORE THE DOG ARE EXHIBITED.



# The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain

**The B.M.D.C. of G.B.** is the largest and the oldest of the 7 Kennel Club affiliated Bernese Mountain Dog Clubs in Britain, having around 1,300 members at over 900 addresses and first being formed in 1971 as the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of England, (the name change coming a few years later). The Club is a member of the Bernese Breed Council, an affiliation of Bernese Clubs, and as such is able to be involved in all general Bernese developments. Administration of the club is undertaken by an elected committee and officers who are responsible to the members via the Annual General Meeting.

## Magazine & Handbook

Our club magazine, which is a much praised quality publication of its type, is mailed to all members twice a year and contains details and reports of all club events as well as general articles to help with all aspects of dog ownership generally and Bernese ownership in particular. All club members also annually receive a club handbook, which has an editorial section as well as advertisements from most of the leading Bernese breeders and also many club members contribute to this publication simply to show off their lovely dogs. The magazine is also a forum for discussion of matters affecting our breed and also, via the letters page, a means of asking for general advice. Many members join and remain in the club solely for the quality of our publications, never being able to visit an event with their Bernese.

## Events

The club holds several regular annual events, some details of which follow, and also other periodic events such as judging teach-ins and health and other seminars dealing with topics relevant to our lovely breed where members have the chance to meet, listen to, and question, the experts.

### Our Club Shows

We hold 3 club shows each year, one Championship Show and 2 Open Shows. The Championship Show is held in the Midlands near the end of September and typically attracts an entry of around 250 Bernese. Obedience Classes are also included at this show.. A great day to meet Bernese and their owners.

The 2 Open Shows are split North and South. The Northern Show is held around April time in the Yorkshire area, the Southern, often referred to as the Christmas Show, is held in early December in the South of England. Club shows are great opportunities to see other Bernese dogs, mix with owners and visit the club shop and collect mailings.

### Garden Party

This is an immensely popular event and is very much a day for all the family and 'pet' Bernese owners. Basically it is a large funday with games for dogs and handlers, fancy dress, decorated carts, parades, refreshments, a chance to receive tuition in carting or agility, events for children and generally an all round friendly day out. This is usually held around the middle of May in the Central England area

and another good day to meet Bernese and their owners just having a lovely family day out together.

## Information and Problems

Whatever problem you may encounter with your Bernese chances are that someone in the club will have encountered it previously and will be able to help with advice. There is a wealth of experience of Bernese ownership within the club and most owners are happy to share their knowledge. The club has a Code of Ethics which it recommends to its members, this relates largely to the conduct of members in their treatment of their Bernese and, whilst members are free to pursue their own ideas, serious breaches of the Code may ultimately result in expulsion from the club via the procedures laid down in the rules.

## Membership

Membership of the club is open to anyone interested in Bernese, you don't even have to have a dog. Annual membership runs from January through to December and as soon as your membership is processed you will begin to receive club publications, information and details of events.

## Friendly Club

The club has always been keen to provide for, and be a friendly club to all its members, not just "show people", and the committee are always open to any constructive ideas from the members. There is also the chance to buy Bernese memorabilia, books and fancy goods from the club's Berneshop which, as well as being present at all major club events and Crufts Dog Show, has a mail order service.

We hope you will agree that our club has something to offer you and, if so, look forward to receiving your completed membership form. In the meantime if we can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us

### Lianne Marsden (Membership Secretary)

6 The Crescent, Cleadon Village, Near Sunderland, Tyne & Wear. SR6 7QZ Tel: 0191 5366549

### Steve Green (Chairman)

Lane Farm, 49 Carr Road, Deepcar, Sheffield. South Yorkshire, S30 5PR Tel: 0114 2882930

...or by email to [enquiries@bernese.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bernese.co.uk) Details of all areas of the club can be found on our web site [www.bernese.co.uk](http://www.bernese.co.uk)

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# Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain

## Constitution and Rules

*(including amendments passed at the AGM, April 2013 subject to KC approval)*

1. **NAME AND OBJECTS:** The Club shall be called the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain and its objects shall be to foster and promote the breed in Great Britain and to impress upon exhibitors and judges the true type as defined by the breed standard; to protect the interest of the breed and to assist members wherever possible in matters relating to the breed.
2. **THE CLUB** shall consist of a Patron, President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, a Committee of twelve and an unlimited number of members whose names and addresses shall be kept by the Membership Secretary .The Society must make a list of members and their addresses available for inspection if so requested by members of the Society or by the Kennel Club.
3. **MEMBERSHIP:** All applications for membership of the Club shall be made in writing to the Membership Secretary on the current form prescribed by the Committee.  
Joint members shall be two or more adults having, for Club mailing purposes, only one address and therefore only receiving a single copy of each mailing and each joint member shall enjoy the benefits of individual membership.  
Junior members, who must be under 18 years of age, will be entitled to membership but will not be eligible for election as Officers or Committee members and shall not have voting rights.  
Overseas members shall be deemed to be associate members, receiving all copies of newsletters etc. but not voting papers.  
The Committee reserves the right to refuse any application for membership; any such refusal must be by a majority vote.
4. **SUBSCRIPTION:** The annual subscription payable on application or on 1st January each year shall be:  
Single £13;                      Joint £15 ( to include all members at the same address)  
Overseas: Europe £20;      Rest of the world £25  
Over 60 years of age:      Single £11; Joint £13.  
All Juniors under 16 years, with other family members- free.  
The subscription of any new member joining after 1 October shall be valid for the following year. No member whose subscription is unpaid shall be entitled to any of the privileges of membership, and if any member shall fail to pay the annual subscription by 1 February, the Committee shall have the power to erase his or her name from the list of members.  
Any member who wishes to resign shall notify the Secretary in writing of his or her intention to do so and will thereby forfeit any subscriptions paid to the Club up to that date.
5. **MANAGEMENT:** The management of the Club shall be in the hands of the Committee who shall be elected to serve for three years, one third of whom shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election without nomination.  
Officers and Committee members of the Club must not be Officers or Committee members of any other club solely devoted to the Bernese Mountain Dog.
6. The President, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer shall be elected to serve for three years, one of whom will stand for election every year in rotation.
7. The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee from amongst the Committee members at the first Committee meeting held after the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman of the Committee shall, ipso facto, be



Chairman of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain. In addition to a vote as a Committee member, the Chairman shall also have a casting vote.

8. Committee meetings shall be held as often as deemed necessary by members of the Committee.

At least 7 shall form a quorum for the transaction of business

9. The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees
10. The Committee shall have the power to deal with or dispose of any questions which may arise on any matter whatsoever which are not expressly provided for in these rules.
11. Any member of the Committee failing to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee without a reasonable explanation shall be deemed to have resigned. The Committee shall have power to co-opt members to replace those who have ceased to be members of the Committee with due regard to unsuccessful candidates at the last election. Those co-opted shall only hold office until the next General Meeting of the Club at which an election of Officers and Committee takes place and must be proposed and seconded in the usual way.
12. The Hon. Secretary or deputy shall be required to summon and attend all meetings and keep the minutes of any such meeting in a proper Minute Book and to conduct the correspondence of the club.
13. Should the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer resign from their positions during the first three months of their terms of office, nominations and a postal ballot of members will take place to elect replacements. Should these Officers resign their positions after the first three months of their term of office the Committee may appoint a temporary/acting Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer. At the subsequent election of Officers, the acting Secretary or Treasurer must be proposed and seconded in the usual way.
14. GENERAL MEETINGS: The financial year of the Club shall be from 1 January to 31 December.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held before 30 April for the following purposes:

- to receive the report of the:
  - Hon Secretary (summarising Committee and Club activities)
  - Hon Treasurer (including the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet)
  - Membership Secretary
  - Rescue Coordinator
  - Health Coordinator
- and also:
  - receive a report on the Club's monitoring of its Code of Ethics and agreement of any cases to be taken forward using Rule 18 of the Club Constitution.
  - any other specific report, by prior notification to the committee, will be included on the agenda
  - discuss any motion signed by the Proposer and Secunder which has been duly placed on the Agenda
  - the result of the Election of Officers and members of the Committee – as per Rule 5

Prior written notice of any motion must be in the hands of the Secretary by the date notified by the Committee which shall be at least 28 days prior to the meeting. The preliminary notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent out at least 14 days before the date by which nominations and motions must be in the hands of the Secretary.

At least 42 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, fully paid-up members shall be notified of the Meeting and shall be asked to submit items for the Agenda and nominations for candidates to the Offices of President, Vice-President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Committee members for the ensuing year. This notification may be given by publication in the papers "Dog World" and "Our Dogs" and in the Club's own Magazine if this meets the specified time schedule. Only a member who has been a member for at least three consecutive years immediately prior to the election or co-option is eligible for nomination for an Office or the Committee and must be proposed by one member and seconded by another. These nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary by the date notified by the Committee which shall be at least 28 days prior to the Meeting. A voting paper recording the names of the nominees shall be sent to each member at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

These voting papers on which members must record their votes must be returned for counting by impartial scrutineers by the date stated on the voting paper. The sealed envelope in which the results are recorded will be opened in the presence of the members at the A.G.M. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared by the Chairman to be the Officers and the Committee Members for the ensuing year. In the event of the same number of votes being recorded for any two or more candidates for the last place on the Committee, a final



decision between these candidates will be made by a ballot of members present at the meeting.

A Special General meeting shall be summoned by the Hon. Secretary if thirty five members send a signed requisition stating the subject to be discussed. No business other than the matter on the Agenda can be discussed at a Special General Meeting. Members shall receive 14 days notice of a Special General Meeting. This notification may be given by publication in the papers "Dog World" and "Our Dogs" and in the Club's own magazine if this meeting the specified time schedule. Thirty five shall form a quorum at such a meeting.

15. CLUB PROPERTY AND DISSOLUTION: The property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee. If, at a Special General Meeting called for such a purpose, a resolution for the dissolution of the Club shall be passed by a majority of the Members present, then and in such case the Members present at such Special General Meeting may decide upon the disposal of the assets of the Club after discharging all the liabilities of the Club, save that Trophies which have been donated to the Club shall be disposed of in accordance with the wishes of the donors or the executors of the donors if such wishes are known at the time of the dissolution. If this should prove impracticable then the value of the Trophies may be realised and the proceeds donated to a canine charity or service selected by the Committee.
16. CLUB ACCOUNTS: A bank account(s) and, if deemed necessary, a Building Society account shall be opened in the name of the Club, into which all revenue of the Club shall be paid and from which withdrawal shall be made only on the signature of two or more Officers as appointed by the Committee, one of whom shall be the Treasurer. The Accounts shall be kept by the Hon. Treasurer and a qualified Accountant shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting who shall audit the Club's Accounts for the ensuing year before the Annual General Meeting.
17. All Club expenditure must be submitted in detail to the Committee and authorised by a majority vote. This authority is to be obtained whenever possible by the Treasurer before payment is made, but where this is not possible, the expenditure must not exceed £500 and must receive the approval of the committee at its next meeting.
18. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS: Any member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42j(8) and/or any member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42j(8) shall, ipso facto, cease to be a member of the Society for the duration of the suspension and/or disqualification.  
If the conduct of any member shall in the opinion of the Committee of the Club, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Club, the Committee of the Club may, at a meeting the notices convening which include as an object the consideration of the conduct of the member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.  
Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising him of the place, date and hour of the meeting so that he may attend and offer an explanation.  
If, at that meeting, a resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of members and he/she shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Club, except that .he/she may within two calendar months from the date of such meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such condition as the Kennel Club shall impose.
19. The Rules of the Club shall not be altered except at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting. Any alterations to the Rules shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and given its approval to such alterations.
20. The Judges list shall be drawn up by the Committee by secret ballot and a majority vote in favour of each judge shall be needed for approval. Nominations for Judges to be included on Judging Lists or to be transferred from one list to another should be sent to the Club on the Judges Application Form, obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, for approval at the next Committee meeting. Membership of the Club is not a prerequisite for inclusion in the lists. Nomination for judges to be included may be sent to the Committee by any member of the Club for approval at a meeting. Each list shall begin and end on a specific date and on expiry a new list shall be drawn up.
21. Judges for all BMD of GB Club Shows (Open & Championship) are chosen at the discretion of the Committee (with effect from 2013), from the BMDC of GB A1 Judges List. No one shall judge the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain's Championship Show more than once in 10 years, as from the 2006 Championship Show. It is also a

requirement that they will not have judged BMD in the UK within a 24 month period prior to the show. Any overseas judges selected are to be acknowledged Bernese breed specialists in their country of origin. Only one overseas judge per year may be chosen from 2008.

No one shall judge the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain's Open Show more than once, as from the end of 2003. It is also a requirement that they will not have judged any Bernese Mountain Dog Club Show within a 24 month period or at a general open show within a 12 month period and a radius of 150 miles, prior to the show.

22. ANNUAL RETURNS TO THE KENNEL CLUB: The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary for continuance of Registration, and that prior to 31 July each year, other returns, as stipulated in Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities be forwarded to the Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any change of Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.
23. The Club shall not be classed as a Trading Business so that all profits from any source, function or activity of the Club shall be maintained for the benefit of the breed and for the further education or the members in the management, training, showing, breeding and all aspects pertaining to the improvement of the breed.
24. No person who can be shown to have knowingly exported or assisted in the export of a dog or dogs to any country which does not have legislation for the protection of animals similar in intent to such laws in Great Britain, and which does not have a reciprocal agreement with the Kennel Club, shall be accepted for membership. Any existing member who exports or assists in the export of a dog or dogs to any country which does not have legislation for the protection of animals similar in intent to such laws in Great Britain, and which does not have a reciprocal agreement with the Kennel Club shall be deemed to have offended against Rule 18. The Committee shall consider their continued membership in the light of the circumstances.

A breach of the Club's Code of Ethics by a member/s, for example cross breeding Bernese with other breeds, contrary to Rule 1, may well be decided serious enough for the Committee to suspend membership and to consider their continued membership in the light of the circumstances.

25. No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other office or appointment within the Club.
26. No dealer shall be elected a member of the BMDC of GB, neither shall any member knowingly provide puppies, adults or stud dog services to a dealer. The word "dealer" is to be defined as someone who solely, or in partnership regularly sells dogs, in the judgement of the committee, exclusively for commercial gain. Criteria to be considered in this judgement to include excessive number of litters, house keeping of the dogs or any other factors the committee feels relevant. If an existing member is asked to leave the said Club for these reasons, then the committee shall follow the SGM procedure, outlined in Rule 18. The only exclusion to this rule would be any BMD or other breed's recognised Rescue/Welfare Societies.
27. The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Club and in all cases relative to canine matters and Club matters. The Club shall not join any Federation of Clubs or Societies.

# Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain

## GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS

All members of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics.

### Club members:

- 1] Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
- 2] Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch may report such operations to the Kennel Club.
- 3] Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
- 4] Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
- 5] Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
- 6] Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
- 7] Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
- 8] Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
- 9] Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
- 10] Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
- 11] Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
- 12] Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
- 13] Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items (not accompanying a dog).
- 14] Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.
- 15] Breeders will breed with due attention to general health issues and the most relevant aspects of the Bernese Mountain Dog. This is with particular emphasis to:  
Endeavour to ensure all stock to be bred from is free from contagious disease

- All breeding shall be carefully planned in an attempt to reduce known hereditary conditions such as hip dysplasia, osteochondrosis of the shoulder and elbow, ectropian/entropian, trembler and elongated soft palate.
- Ensure that nervous or aggressive Bernese shall not be bred from.
- Refrain from whelping with a bitch until she is approximately 24 months of age, ensure no bitch shall be bred from in any way that is deleterious to the bitch or the breed and that the last litter shall be whelped before the bitch's 7th birthday and the bitch's first litter shall be before her 5th birthday
- Ensure that stud dogs are over 12 months of age before being used at stud and not used excessively. The use of a stud dog shall be refused on any bitch considered to have poor health, temperament or quality.
- Ensure that Bernese Mountain Dog puppies are only bred from Kennel Club, or other KC recognised Kennel Club, registered BMD parents.
- All breeding stock should be x-rayed for evidence of hip dysplasia and the plates submitted to the KC/BVA scoring scheme. Results from any other equivalent officially recognised Kennel Club overseas scheme will be acceptable. Breeders shall treat mild cases as they would any other fault and exclude from their breeding programme dogs with more severe evidence of hip dysplasia.
- All breeding stock should be x-rayed for evidence of elbow osteochondrosis related conditions and the plates submitted to the KC/BVA scoring scheme. Results from any other equivalent officially recognised Kennel Club overseas scheme will be acceptable. Breeders shall treat mild cases as they would any other fault and exclude from their breeding programme dogs with more severe evidence of elbow osteochondrosis.
- Ideally puppies should not go to their new homes before 7 weeks of age

16] Breeders will supply comprehensive welfare information with all puppies sold. This to include information on inoculations, veterinary care they may have had or require and guidance on care, exercise and training of a Bernese. Registration documentation should include (at least) a 4 generation pedigree.

17] Breeders will guarantee the health of his or her stock subject to a veterinary examination within 2 working days of the sale or transfer and shall insure puppies for a minimum of 4 weeks against illness, loss or sudden death.

18] Breeders & stud dog owners will try and keep in touch with the progress of his or her breeding or progeny and the breeder be prepared to take back any dog of his or her breeding or to be instrumental in the rehoming of the dog at any time throughout the dog's life.

19] Will, when breeding dogs, adopt as a minimum standard the principles, requirements and recommendations as embodied in the Kennel Club's Accredited Breeders' Scheme.

20] Shall not sell adults or puppies to any country not covered by club constitution paragraph 23 and will not sell stock for export unless the recipient is personally known to the breeder or approved by a local veterinary surgeon or local Bernese Mountain Dog Club.

21] Will at all times exhibit good sportsmanship at all events relating to the club and to dog shows.

22] Will not denigrate any other member or kennel

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.

The committee of the club shall deal with reported breaches of the Code of Ethics in a reasonable and proportionate manner and in more serious cases where expulsion is considered refer the incident to the membership via an SGM as per rule 18 of the Constitution. All cases to be appropriately reported to the membership as much as possible

23] Are asked to co-operate with any club approved breed health scheme.

**The Club:**

Encourages all breeders to complete a Character Assessment on their Breeding Stock, and to seriously consider the merits of using an animal in their breeding programme who does not hold a grading of pass or above.