



Cruciate Ligament Survey

For all owners and breeders of Bernese Mountain Dogs

This survey is an agreed part of the Bernese Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP) instigated by the Kennel Club. This is an investigative survey to seek to ascertain the level of Cruciate Ligament problems in the breed and any obvious relevant information about each incidence. A further purpose is to allow owners and breeders the chance to express any thoughts they have about cruciate problems in Bernese.

Whilst this survey seeks basic information about past and present Bernese with Cruciate Ligament problems, it is just as important for us to understand the number of Bernese who have never suffered from cruciate problems. Section one of this form should be filled in accounting for every Bernese you have ever owned whether experiencing Cruciate issues or not and even if you have never encountered a cruciate problem in your Bernese. This is to give a true idea of context and enable estimation of how widespread the problem is.

Depending on results the summary data from this survey may be used to seek further investigation and expertise.

Your name and contact details are only requested in case of query, or if there is a second phase to this initiative in which we might ask for further information. Results will be available on the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain website and summarised in the club's publications and social media. The survey will only run until **30th November 2021** so please contribute as soon as you can.

Please answer as fully and honestly as possible and write clearly, deleting or circling to make your answer clear. If exact dates or other details are not known, approximations will suffice for the purposes of this survey. A quick call to your vet may be able to provide most significant dates and details.

Any further comments which you believe may be relevant or of interest to the survey or if your BMD Cruciate experience does not fit into these categories, please add details on another page or email to survey@bernese.co.uk and feel free to give any further thoughts on Cruciate disease.

The survey can be accessed via the website www.bernese.co.uk/health/cruciate or please send completed paper forms to the Bernese Breed Health Coordinator, Mr S. Green 49, Carr Rd, Deepcar, Sheffield S36 2PR or scan and email it to survey@bernese.co.uk

Thank you for supporting the Bernese Health Initiative

BMD Cruciate Survey GDPR Statement

Any owner or breeder name and basic contact details volunteered by contributors to this survey will be stored electronically on a spreadsheet on a password protected personal computer for the purposes and duration of the survey and any subsequent analysis after which they will be deleted. Any data provided in written/paper format will be added to the electronic record then the paper forms will be destroyed responsibly.

Data will only be directly accessed by the BHI sub committee members for the purposes of summary and analysis. All BHI sub committee members have signed a confidentiality agreement lodged with the BMDC of GB.

Whilst dog details may eventually be passed on to any 'professional' or 'specialist' third party appropriate to progress the investigation, e.g. a Veterinary University researcher or canine geneticist, specific individual owner's or breeder's details will never be passed to any third party in any form and these details will never be published in any identifiable way unless further specific individual permissions were obtained.

Summary reviews may be published within breed literature, e.g. the breed club magazine, but such reports will never include any individual details of any dogs, breeders or owners. It may be helpful to contact contributors for further information, if such research is appropriate, but any such extra contribution will be entirely voluntary and subject to these same conditions.

Any individual owner or dog details can be removed from this survey at any time by emailing to survey@bernese.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: By contributing to this survey owners and breeders will be deemed to have read, understood and consented to these terms.

Section One – All to complete

1.1] PERSONAL DETAILS

a] Your Name: _____

b] Your Contact Email: _____ and/or Tel: _____

c] How long BMD owner? _____ yrs. d] How many BMD have you owned in that time? _____

e] Of these Bernese, how many experienced a cruciate problem? _____

f] Of these Bernese, how many received surgery to their cruciate ligament problem? _____

1.2] ANY GENERAL THOUGHTS ON CRUCIATE LIGAMENT DISEASE?

a] Which, if any, of the following best summarises any feeling ¹ you have why your dog(s) experienced a Cruciate problem?

i] Accident or Trauma

ii] Genetic reasons²

iii] General high exercise level

iv] Overweight- unfit

v] Old age/weakness/arthritis

Any other reason details: -

vi] Irregular exercise periods e.g. left quiet and rested all day & then energetically exercised in the evening

vii] No feeling about it - just accepted as one of those things

viii] Other cause

¹This is a chance to express any thoughts you, as the owner, may have about this incidence of cruciate. This is not asking for scientific fact, just any opinion you may have. Correlation with other owner's similar thoughts could give previously unidentified points a chance to emerge.

²Indicating 'genetic' is NOT the same as attaching any responsibility to the breeder of your dog. Many things can be hereditary or congenital but not be predictable.

b] If applicable do you feel there is any significant factor why your unaffected dog(s) avoided this problem? (For example, are they exercised or rested differently? Perhaps differences in weight or feed?)

If you need more space or if your BMD Cruciate experience does not fit into these categories, please feel to add details below or separately or within an email to survey@bernese.co.uk and feel free to give any further thoughts on Cruciate disease. This is your chance to contribute to the possible direction of this investigation so please take it if you have anything to say about Cruciate issues in Bernese. If not just ignore this section

THANK YOU - NOW PLEASE COMPLETE SECTION TWO FOR EACH OF YOUR AFFECTED BERNESE

If so, please give some details (what approach, successfulness of approach)

h) Once recovered please estimate by percentage what degree of normal function your dog regained (0% is no improvement or worse, 100% is back to full mobility and strength before cruciate damage) _____%

i) How long did it take for your dog to reach this level of recovery? _____

2.4 TREATMENT TO PROBLEM CRUCIATE ON OTHER LEG

(Please complete section 2.4 ONLY IF the other leg was affected by a cruciate problem on this dog)

a) Did this problem lead to surgery? Y / N

b) If surgery, what type of surgery if known:

i) TPLO

ii) TTA

iii) CCWO

iv) Lateral Suture

v) Other, please specify if possible _____

c) Was this surgery undertaken by General Practitioner Vet or a Specialist Referral Surgeon? General / Specialist

d) Do/Did you feel the surgery was successful? Y / N

Any comment on the surgery? _____

e) Once recovered please estimate by percentage what degree of normal function your dog regained (0% is no improvement or worse, 100% is back to full mobility and strength before cruciate damage) _____%

f) How long did it take for your dog to reach this level of recovery? _____

g) Did you seek any alternative treatment route to surgery? Y / N

If so, please give some details (what approach, successfulness of approach)

h) Once recovered please estimate by percentage what degree of normal function your dog regained (0% is no improvement or worse, 100% is back to full mobility and strength before cruciate damage) _____%

i) How long did it take for your dog to reach this level of recovery? _____

2.5 FEEDING, EXERCISE AND VACCINATIONS

a) Which of the following best describes this dog's feeding regime prior to the cruciate problem?

i) Complete Kibble (dry dog biscuits)

iv) Vegetarian

ii) Wet dog food (tins/pouches etc)

v) Mixture (please specify)

iii) Raw

vi) Other (please specify)

Other Feeding _____

b) Did you feed any supplements alongside the dog's regular diet? Y/N (if yes please list) _____

c) Which of the following best describes this dog's exercise routine before the cruciate problem?

i) Accompanied and generally active all day

ii) Long periods of left alone (inactivity) during day with single main exercise evening and or early morning only

iii) Fairly low exercise regime

iv) Only left alone in garden fairly inactive (no activity outside of the garden/surroundings of the home)

v) Other

vi) Other activity level details

Other activity _____

d) Which of these best describes this dog's vaccination regime?

i) Annually vaccinated

ii) Initially vaccinated then not again or so often

iii) Not conventionally vaccinated at all

iv) Alternatively vaccinated

iv) Other, please elaborate briefly

e) Do you know or feel that any particular reason contributed or led to the cruciate problem in this dog? (for example trauma, change in exercise, change in routine or management) Y / N

If Yes, please give details