

of excelling in performance sports. Due to their heavy coat, Berners are more comfortable in the cooler weather and care must be given during the summer that they do not become over-heated.

**National Specialties and other Berner events.** The BMDCC hosts a National Specialty every year, alternating between provinces from east to west. The National Specialty has a variety of events to appeal to everybody, and everyone is welcome to attend. In Conformation, dogs compete in a number of classes from baby puppies through to veterans. Even spayed and neutered dogs have special classes to work towards their Altered Championship. One particularly popular event is the Seiger Show, judged by an experienced breeder who shares his/her observations with the audience. This show is a valuable learning experience, especially for those new to the idea of showing and perhaps breeding.

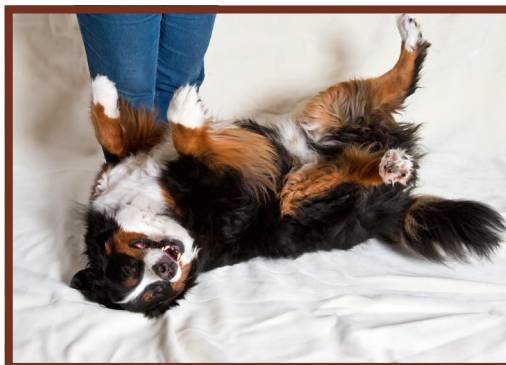
There are numerous performance events offered, which are growing in popularity and attracting an increasing number of entries. They are often lots of fun for the competing teams and the audience alike, as our breed appears to have a unique sense of humor! Rally-Obedience is gaining in favor as a fun event, and for the more traditional minded, the Bernese is capable of attaining high awards in regular Obedience. Given the breed's history of carting, we have Draft titles to be earned and this sport is very rewarding for those who participate. Many club members exhibit their dogs and wagons in local parades during the year. Other sports include agility, herding, dock-dog, and nose works.

**Bernese Rescue.** The BMDCC, along with several regional clubs, is actively involved in the rescue of Bernese in distress, and assists in re-homing many dogs. Learn more on our website at [www.bmdcc.ca](http://www.bmdcc.ca)

**Sound advice.** It is important to impress upon prospective owners the necessity to have patience when looking for a puppy. Take the time to visit breeders and be wary of those who do not welcome you. In this age of websites, satisfy yourself that the breeder has at least met the basic requirements. In order to advertise as purebred, the puppies must be eligible for registration with the CKC, parent dogs must be screened for several health issues and the breeders able to provide copies of clearances issued by recognized institutions. And the BMDCC is here to guide you in making the best choice!



[www.bmdcc.ca](http://www.bmdcc.ca)



**B** THE  
ERNESE  
MOUNTAIN DOG  
CLUB OF CANADA



The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Canada is the best resource to start your journey in life with a Bernese. We are here to encourage and welcome newcomers, and to share information.

To discover more about the BMDCC, please visit our website at [www.bmdcc.ca](http://www.bmdcc.ca)

**Who are we?** Guardians of the breed for more than 35 years, the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Canada (BMDCC) welcomes those interested in the welfare and promotion of the breed. In addition to holding official competitive events (Conformation shows, Draft tests, Rally and Obedience trials), the BMDCC sponsors local social and training activities such as winter walks, Berner Fun Days, and carting clinics, where newcomers are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

The BMDCC **promotes the well-being of the breed** by requiring member-breeders to sign a Code of Ethics and follow Breeder Guidelines. By encouraging our breeders to openly share information on Berner-Garde, a worldwide database designed especially for the breed, we hope to improve the health and welfare of Bernese Mountain Dogs. You can visit the Berner-Garde database as a guest at [www.bernergarde.org](http://www.bernergarde.org) and view the wealth of information that it contains.

**What distinguishes our member-breeders?** First, they are all members in good standing of the Canadian Kennel Club. They keep their dogs in clean and hospitable conditions. Breeding dogs are screened for multiple health conditions, which can include certifications for hips, elbows, shoulders, eyes, heart, and thyroid, as well as DNA testing for Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) and the blood clotting disorder von Willebrand disease (vWD). Our breeders welcome inquiries about their puppies and are always pleased to share information. They carefully screen potential puppy owners to better match each puppy with their new prospective owner's lifestyle and aspirations. By welcoming visitors to their homes, breeders give potential puppy owners the opportunity to find out if this is the right breed for them and to gain valuable information and education about the breed and its unique character.

In order to meet the demands of modern living, our dogs need to be well balanced in disposition and personality. With Puppy Kindergarten and courses in Basic Obedience, the Bernese Mountain Dog is a welcome addition to the family. It is very important when considering this large breed that you are satisfied with the temperament of the dogs owned by the breeder. While not always possible to meet the father, you should be able to interact with the prospective mother in a positive manner. After

purchase, good breeders will want to keep the lines of communication open to hear from their puppy people, and will be available to provide help or advice, if needed, throughout the life of the dog.

**Buyer beware!** Due to the enormous surge in popularity of our breed, there has been an increase in the number of commercial kennels and casual backyard breeders who are breeding dogs of poor quality, with unsound temperaments (including extreme shyness and even aggression), lacking any health clearances, and oftentimes without registration papers for either the parents and/or the puppies.

Before agreeing to purchase a puppy, ask to see official health certificates; just being told "my vet says" is not acceptable. A "red flag" should be raised if you are immediately asked for a non-refundable deposit and then not allowed to visit the premises, except to pick up the puppy. Breeders may ask for deposits, but you should be satisfied that the conditions of their contract are totally acceptable to you; feel comfortable asking for recommendations and references. A good breeder will readily and openly provide information. Be mindful of the sales pitch on websites; pretty pictures can be very misleading. The place where you pick up the puppy may not be reflective of the actual conditions the parents live in. You should be able to visit and meet the dogs before you decide if the breeder is someone from whom you want to buy your family pet.

**The Bernese Mountain Dog.** Historically, the Bernese Mountain Dog (or 'Berner' as they are often referred to) was a farm dog with multiple tasks to fulfill. They acted as protectors of the farm, alerting their owners to visitors. They would at times accompany the farmer in his work and on occasion pull small wagons to market. Our standard says "**the Bernese temperament is one of the breed's strongest assets: consistent, dependable, with a strong desire to please, self-confident, alert, and good natured. Attached and loyal to his human family; may be aloof or suspicious with strangers, but never sharp or shy.**"

Today we have come to favor this breed for their companionship and loyalty, their desire to please and their handsome appearance. The Bernese is a large, sturdy, well balanced dog with substantial bone, but yet quite capable of agility and possessing the intelligence to make decisions. The Bernese is capable

