
BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF VICTORIA CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics, with regard to enjoyment and interest in, the keeping of, and the breeding of the Bernese Mountain Dog, addresses the following: -

1. Conduct of Members
2. Health/Wellbeing and the Keeping of BMD's
3. Breeding Bernese Mountain Dogs and related matters

Members are encouraged to participate in the club for the enhancement and enjoyment of the breed through education, the sharing of information and participation in club activities. The club therefore advocates a code of conduct for its members that is befitting and based on-principles of honesty, integrity and pride and encourages relations between members and any interested parties accordingly.

1 CONDUCT OF MEMBERS and MEMBERS RELATIONS

(a) Members agree to always conduct themselves in an honourable and professional manner at organized shows and club events or promotions and should exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.

(b) Members will not denigrate any other member or member's kennel/and or their dogs.

(c) To assist in a positive reflection on our breed, members are encouraged in a constructive and positive manner, to:

- (i) share expertise,
- (ii) encourage and support newcomers to the breed,
- (iii) seek out and strive to keep abreast of the latest information, not only in relation to health and care aspects of the breed but also organizational-changes and amendments to rules and guidelines of relevant bodies.

(d) Members will ensure that in all activities the dog's welfare takes precedence over the interests of themselves, owners, breeders, officials (including judges and stewards), trainers, organisations and sponsors.

2 HEALTH, WELL BEING AND CARE OF BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS

(a) Members will not use cruel or abusive punishment to control or manage their dog(s) and be willing to take council/advice and become educated on more appropriate handling techniques.

(b) Members will encourage training activities, puppy socialization classes, obedience training, show training or carting or any other suitable work and socialization appropriate for the development and mindset and wellbeing, of the breed.

(c) Members will commit to providing good and proper nutrition, regular and preventative health care and to supplying adequate housing indoors and outdoors, maintaining a positive, caring environment on a daily and ongoing basis.

(d) Members will have no more dogs than may be properly cared for in terms of nutrition, health care, socialization and facilities (e.g. fenced yards and housing etc.)

(e) Members should at all times have control of their dog(s). No member should place any other person or animal at risk or place their dog(s) in potentially dangerous situations, which might result in serious trauma.

(f) Members, having due regard for their dog(s) and for the general public, will make every effort to prevent their dogs from roaming unsupervised, causing a nuisance or to be picked up and placed in an animal shelter situation.

(g) Members will assist in the improvement of the breed by keeping the breeder of their dog(s) informed of the dog(s) development throughout their life.

3. BREEDING BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS AND RELATED MATTERS

Breeders shall breed for the specific purpose of improving the breed whilst maintaining their unique beauty and character and do so in accordance with the official standard set forth by the ANKC and in this regard will: -

(a) Ensure that appropriate health checks/measures have been taken prior to a mating

(b) Ensure that all breeding stock be x-rayed for evidence of hip dysplasia (min 12 months of age) and that the x-rays plates, along with the dog's microchip number, be submitted for scoring under an approved Canine Hip Dysplasia scoring scheme such as the AVA/ANKC Canine Hip Dysplasia Scheme (CHEDS) or Penn Hip.

(c) Give priority to those animals assessed for breeding that have obtained hip evaluation that does not exceed the breed average and preferably is lower than it.

(d) Ensure that all breeding stock be elbow x-rayed for evidence of osteochondrosis of the elbow (min 12 months of age) and that the x-ray plates, along with the dog's microchip number, be submitted for scoring under an approved Australian Canine Elbow Scoring scheme (such as CHEDS).

(e) As stated in clauses (b) and (d) in this section it is recommended that all dogs at the time of X-rays submit both their full kennel name and microchip number for identification on the X-ray plates.

(f) Give priority to those animals assessed for breeding that have obtained an elbow grade of 0: 0 as any other score represents a greater risk of producing a problem; with the risk increasing generally as the score increases. Thus a grade of 1:1

represents a greater risk than a grade of 0:0.

(g) Breeders shall identify and use physically and temperamentally sound stock and will refuse to breed from dogs or bitches that are (i) of a different breed, (ii) are unregistered (iii) are known to have obvious hereditary/genetic defects.

(h) Breeders will endeavour to give priority to dogs and bitches with proven longevity in their bloodlines.

(i) Breeding shall be carefully planned and must be carried out selectively in an attempt to reduce as much as possible hereditary defects such as hip dysplasia, osteochondritis of the shoulder and elbow, entropion, ectropion, trembler (hypomyelinogenesis), elongated soft palate and elongated undershot jaw. This list is not exhaustive.

(j) Breeders will understand the strengths and weaknesses of their stock, always striving towards the elimination of faults and the maintenance of strengths.

(k) Breeders will aim to preserve the temperament and working ability of the breed, breeding for soundness, durability and ease of movement.

(l) Breeders will co-operate with the collection of data on hip and elbow status, the health status of breeding stock, and be pro-active in introducing accredited recommended measures to assist in breeding programs, i.e.: DNA testing and data collection, eye testing i.e. PRA, temperament testing etc.

(m) Breeders should ensure that nervous or aggressive Bernese should not be bred from. Refer to Breed Standard requirements.

(n) Except under exceptional circumstances with veterinary approval, breeders should not mate a bitch prior to 20 months of age, and ensure that the last litter shall be whelped before the bitch's 7th birthday. They will ensure that no bitch shall be bred from in any way that is deleterious to the bitch or the breed.

(o) Breeders should not breed a bitch causing her to whelp more than twice in eighteen months.

(p) Breeders will not allow any of their dogs or bitches to be bred to any bitch or dog whose owner is directly or indirectly involved in puppy mills, or who act in ways contrary to the standards set out in this code of ethics.

4. SALES

(a) A breeder will sell stock with a true representation of information informing all prospective owners of the negative aspects of the breed and must not engage in misleading or untruthful statements in selling or advertising.

(b) No breeder should sell puppies or adult dogs to any known retail or wholesale

outlet.

(c) Breeders must be discriminating in the sale of puppies or dogs and be concerned with the type of home/environment in which the animal is to be placed.

(d) No puppy should go to its new home before 8 weeks, of age, thus allowing for vaccinations to be given at 6 weeks of age.

(e) A buyer will be supplied with a Certificate of Registration showing at least a 3-generation pedigree with information on inoculations certified by a veterinarian surgeon. This should also include information on any other veterinary care that the dog may have received and instructions on the care feeding and exercise and training of Bernese.

(f) No member will knowingly export or assist in the export of a dog or dogs to any country that does not have legislation for the protection of animals.

(g) Breeders will try to keep in touch with the progress of the dog(s) of his or her breeding.

(h) Breeders should be prepared to take back any dog(s) of his or her breeding or be instrumental in the re-homing of the dog at any time throughout the dog(s) life.

(i) A breeder will guarantee the health of their stock as disclosed by them, subject to a vet examination within 72 hours of the sale.

(j) Members of the club will ensure that neither directly nor indirectly shall any dog to be given as a prize or donation in any contest of any kind.

(k) Breeders will provide the purchaser of a puppy with a "Contract of Sale" which clearly defines the differences between the Open and Limited Register of dogs and in accordance with the appropriate Canine Controlling body's Regulations. The contract will also state on which register the puppy has been placed and any other obligation that the purchaser is required to fulfil regarding ownership of the puppy.

(l) Breeders who engage a purchaser in a contractual agreement over the sale of an animal are required to honour the contracts they engage themselves in, being sure that both parties understand all requirements and all clauses prior to signing.

(m) Breeders should keep accurate records of breeding and or stud service and should register all puppies with the VCA or other appropriate State Controlling body.

FINALLY

Any member failing to observe any provision of the Code of Ethics as determined by a Special Meeting of the committee may be dealt with under the Rules of the Victorian Canine Association.

In applying for membership to the BMDCV, I agree to comply with the provisions set out in the above Code of Ethics as bound by the Rules and Regulations and by- laws referred to in the Constitution of the BMDCV.

Signed Date
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