



Blassi-News

March 2016

BMDCFL Official Newsletter

Next Club Meeting

Saturday, April 2, 2016

10:30am, after BMD judging at 9:00am in Ring 8

Syracuse Fairgrounds, Science & Industry Bldg,
Finger Lakes KC Dog Show

BernerFest 2016

Sunday June 12th

Myers Park on the Lake

Lansing, New York

President's Message

Happy Spring?!!

Please join us at 10:30am at the Syracuse Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 2nd, for a meeting of the BMDCFL. Bernese will be judged at 9:00am and the judging should be over by 10am. We will announce the location of the meeting at ringside but anticipate it will be at the restaurant or in the milk house.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2016, please do so by March 31st. Please contact Meagan LaMendola, our Treasurer, regarding the dues (see elsewhere in this newsletter), or bring them to the Saturday meeting. Dues are \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a family.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a call for volunteers for two positions assisting the club. Many thanks to Lynn Nelson for her years of service to the club. Lynn and Lance have moved to Minnesota and are not renewing their membership. Lance will continue to manage the club's website.

Also elsewhere in this newsletter is news of the upcoming BernerFest in June to be capably coordinated by Galen Zimmer with the many volunteers who help make it one of our club's most enjoyable and popular activities.

We are collecting for trophy donations for the Supported Entry at Sampson State Park October 1st. We are offering the custom painted wine glasses again this year! Contact Joan LaMendola or send the trophy donation to Meagan.

We look forward to seeing you at Syracuse!

Sincerely,

Sue Brightman

ArundelBerners@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

The club has two positions open and we encourage anyone interested to inquire further or simply step forward and volunteer:

(1) Rescue/Rehoming Email Coordinator -- Assist Galen Zimmer, Chair of Rescue/Rehoming, with monitoring the daily BMDCA email listserv for possible Berners in need of rescue or rehoming and communicate via email on behalf of Galen and the club.

(2) Breed Information/Puppy Referral Coordinator -- Preferably not a breeder, this member will serve as a resource for people interested in the breed.

Please contact Sue Brightman, President
(ArundelBerners@gmail.com or 585-768-2095)

Thank you.



Wine Country 2015 Supported Entry Donations

Best of Breed \$45 <u>Linda Carney</u>	Bred By Bitch \$15 _____
Best of Winners \$25 <u>Sue Brightman, Arundel</u>	12-18 mo. Dog \$15 _____
Best of Opposite Sex \$25 _____	12-18 mo. Bitch \$15 <u>Tom Herman & Pam Wehle</u>
Select Dog \$25 <u>Joan LaMendola</u>	9-12 mo. Dog \$15 _____
Select Bitch \$25 _____	9-12 mo. Bitch \$15 _____
Winners Dog \$15 _____	6-9 mo. Dog \$15 _____
Winners Bitch \$15 _____	6-9 mo. Bitch \$15 <u>Ellen Lechner</u>
Open Dog \$15 _____	General Trophy Fund: <u>\$5</u>
Open Bitch \$15 <u>Ellen Lechner</u>	Best Veteran \$15 _____
Bred By Dog \$15 <u>Kim Barber</u>	

A few more trophy are still open for donations, names will be published in premium list

Mark Your Calendars!



BernerFest 2016

Sunday, June 12th

Myers Park on the Lake

Lansing, New York



For the BMD CFL members and anyone who loves Bernese Mountain Dogs

Camping is available by registration through the Lansing Park Department. Mention that you are coming to the “Dog Show”. They love our Bernerfest.

Activities are still “under construction”.

As always “the other dogs” in your family are invited, too.

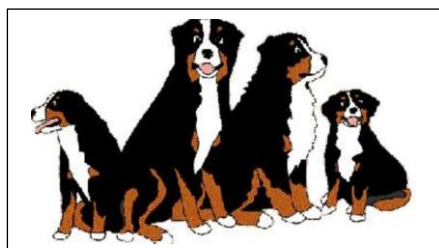
Please bring a dish to pass, and a dog related raffle item.

All this and \$5 per family contribution to our club guarantee a good time for you and yours

Help and ideas are always appreciated.

Hope to see you there!

Galen Zimmer (607)844-4168



Membership renewal is needed as of January 1st each year. The BMD CFL By-Laws state that membership will lapse if not renewed by March 31st. If you haven't renewed, please return this sign-up sheet with dues as soon as possible to:

**Meagan LaMendola
BMD CFL Treasurer
6365 E Bethany LeRoy Rd
Stafford, NY 14143**

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Single membership: _____

Or Family membership: _____



Please select one of the following:

1 Year Single Dues \$10 _____
(2015)

2 Years Single Dues \$20 _____
(2015-2016)

1 Year Family Dues \$15 _____
(2015)

2 Year Family Dues \$30 _____
(2015-2016)

Misc. Donations:

Donation to Rescue: \$ _____

Donation to the Club Treasury:
\$ _____

Website Breeder Referral (\$25/year):
\$ _____

2016 Trophy Donation: \$ _____

Class sponsored: _____

From:

<https://greatdanegnosis.wordpress.com/2016/03/19/bloat-a-major-breakthrough/>

BLOAT: A Major Breakthrough!

Canine Bloat Study
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Michael A. Harkey
Beverly Torok-Storb
3/15/16

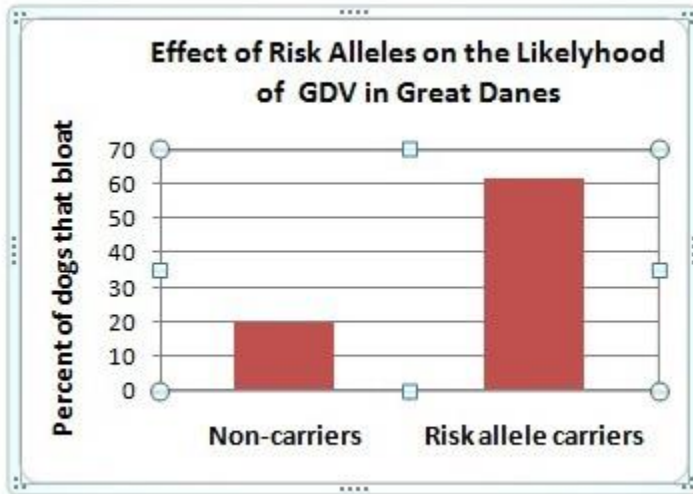
Bloat, known to veterinarians as gastric dilatation-volvulus (or GDV), is an acute, life-threatening condition that occurs at high frequency in many large and giant breeds of dogs. Great Danes are unusually susceptible to this condition. About 37% of Great Danes will experience bloat at some time in their life, and the majority of them will die without immediate medical intervention. Other large and giant breeds are also way too prone to this condition. Yet the causes of this condition have remained a mystery for decades. The goal of our study is to identify the causes of bloat. This information could then lead to diagnostic and therapeutic strategies to minimize the occurrence of this deadly condition.

Our effort over the last two years has been supported by donations from generous pet owners who care deeply about dogs and want to find a cure for bloat. This study could not have happened without the help of all the Dane owners that enrolled their dogs, answered lots of questions, and sent samples for testing. We focused on Great Danes, because the high frequency of bloat in this breed guaranteed a large group of affected animals and increased the statistical power of the analysis. This effort has already produced results that will profoundly affect the community of Great Dane owners, who deal with this disease constantly. Hopefully, these results will soon translate to other breeds.

Importantly, bloat correlates strongly with an underlying condition of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), suggesting a possible pre-existing state in the gut that contributes to bloat. We hypothesized that, since IBD and bloat are co-existing conditions, they may have the same root causes. In both humans and dogs IBD is linked to specific genes of the immune system. It is thought that molecular variants of these genes (alleles) cause changes in the bacterial population of the gut (the gut microbiome), which in turn, sets up an unhealthy condition in the gut. This unhealthy microbiome contributes to chronic, low-level IBD. According to our hypothesis, it also predisposes a dog to bloat. While the causes of bloat are not clearly understood, several risk factors have been described in the scientific literature, including age, dietary, behavioral, pre-existing health and genetic factors. The most significant risk factors appear to be genetic, since strong correlations with bloat exist for breeds, families and gender. The best way to combine all of these factors is envision a genetic predisposition in some dogs, and a non-genetic trigger, such as stress, that sets off the bloat event.

To test this hypothesis, we enrolled two groups of Great Danes, a “bloat” group in which all members survived bloat through surgical intervention, and a “control” group that had never experienced bloat. In a genetic study, five immune genes were sequenced from each dog, looking for genetic variations that associate with bloat. In a microbiome study, the gut bacterial population of each dog was analyzed from stool samples, looking for particular species that are unusually low or high in the bloat group.

We have just submitted the genetic study to the scientific journal, **PLoS one**, to be reviewed for publication. We have established three genes that contribute to bloat in Great Danes. For each of these genes, several alleles (molecular variants) are found in the Great Dane population, and in other breeds. One allele from each gene was found to significantly increase the risk of bloat in Great Danes. As shown in the graph below, those Danes that carried at least one of these risk alleles had a 3-fold higher risk of bloat. In fact, 62% of the dogs carrying a risk allele had to undergo emergency surgery to survive a bloat episode. This information will be crucial for owners and breeders that are trying to decide if preventative gastropexy surgery is appropriate for their dog, or if their dog should be bred. For this reason,



The life-time risk of bloat in Great Danes rises from 20% in dogs that do not carry a risk allele, to 62% in dogs that carry one or more of the three identified risk alleles

we have designed genetic tests for these risk alleles. The tests will be offered to owners and breeders of Great Danes. The second study, microbiome analysis, should be completed in the next couple of months. Since the genetic side of our hypothesis proved to be true, we have reason to expect to see specific microbiome abnormalities in the bloat group. If we do discover that bloat is caused by specific imbalances of the microbiome, then a whole array of therapeutic strategies will be available to combat the disease. For example, probiotics or specific dietary changes may be used to re-balance the microbiome, and thus, prevent bloat.

As you can see, the study has already generated some very significant results and we are excited to push forward with the next phase. We could not have done this without the generous support of our sponsors, and the efforts of all the Dane lovers who contributed their time, information and enthusiasm to this study. Thank you!!!

Many questions still remain: Will the findings for Great Danes carry over to other breeds? Are additional immune genes involved? Did we miss risk factors from very severe cases that were not survived? Will the microbiome data point to therapeutic strategies? All of these questions can be addressed in future studies, if we can find additional funding. We are asking the AKC to help us with the next phase.



Check out the club's website at www.BMDCFL.com for information on the club committees, officers, etc.

Anyone attending the National Specialty in this May in Michigan?

At Registration, there will be a list of volunteer opportunities! If anyone stops by, we can find a place for everyone to help out!