

Blassi-News

Aug 2016

BMDCFL Official Newsletter

Supported Entry and Picnic

Saturday, October 1st, 2016
Sampson State Park
Romulus, NY
Wine Country Circuit Dog Shows

Come watch the Bernese Mountain dogs, all looking their best, at the Elmira Kennel Club Dog show. Held in beautiful Sampson State Park on Seneca Lake

Our Club has sponsored the show entry with prizes. The winners will take home custom painted wine glasses, the biggest winner will take home a delicious bottle of local sparkling wine to celebrate.

After judging, and shopping at the many vendors, we'll gather for the hospitality at the campground site, For fun, food, raffle and the club meeting.

Please bring a dish to pass and a raffle item, your dog, too, complete with rabies certificate on hand (it's a state park law) and chairs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Please join us at the Wine Country Show Circuit for the BMDCFL's Supported Entry on Saturday, October 1st, at Sampson State Park, Romulus, NY, in conjunction with the Elmira Kennel Club Show. This is Upstate NY at its finest, fall colors, a beautiful state park, and a gorgeous view of Seneca Lake.

More info on the Supported Entry can be found at www.raudogshows.com as it becomes available. Camping forms are located on that site under Upcoming Shows and must be postmarked no later than August 15th.

We will hold our Annual Meeting tentatively one hour after judging in the camping loop at the site of Tom and Mary Ellen Nawn, who have graciously offered their hospitality. We will hold a potluck meal and raffle, so please bring a dish to pass, your drinks and place settings, chairs, and a raffle donations.

During the Annual Meeting, we will hold our annual election. Before voting on the following slate offered by the Nominating Committee, we will accept nominations from the floor (or earlier). Nominees must be present to accept or submit a signed notification that they accept their nomination.

The Nominating Committee comprised of Chair Galen Zimmer and Members Tom Nawn and Susan Nicholl have selected the following slate for 2016-7:
President: Sue Brightman
VP: Patty Smith
Treasurer: Meagan LaMendola D'Alessandro
Secretary: Lara Riley
Board: Joan LaMendola

Continuing as Board Members to complete their three-year terms are Kim Barber (1 year) and Galen Zimmer (2 years).

If you have a nomination for one of these offices, please notify Galen or Sue Brightman and we will ensure you know the process to be added for consideration during the vote, to take place at the Annual Meeting at Sampson State Park's Wine Country dog show circuit at the end of September. Those voted into office take office at the end of the meeting.

Bernerly,

Sue Brightman
President

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Finger Lakes meeting was held at Myers State Park in Lansing, NY

On Sunday, June 12, 2016 in conjunction with our annual Bernerfest.

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m. by President Sue Brightman.

Members in attendance: Mary Ellen and Tom Nawn. Susan Brightman, Linda Yancey,, Patty Smith, Rita McCabe, Don and Linda Sahlem, Susan Nicholl, John and Sue Stepien, Josh Goodberry and Sabrina Granger, Ellen Lechner, Michael and Linda DeLorm, Tom and Cindy Hernandes, Jan Jewell, Lori Krebs.

The Secretary's minutes were approved by as presented in the newsletter. Motion to accept was made by Tom Hernandes, seconded by Ellen Lechner and passed.

Treasurer's report was not available.

Old Business

Committee Reports:

Rescue- Board met to approve the medical needs for Ralph. Galen Zimmer talked about what was being done for him. Adjacent clubs are helping with expenses.

Sunshine – Patty Smith reported that Lynne Nelson has (been dealing with a health problem) and Lori Shepherd's mother has been seriously ill...

Supported entry – Susan Brightman reported that she, Patty Smith and Joan LaMendola are trying to have the Supported Entry changed to a Regional Specialty.

Nominating Committee - Galen Zimmer reported that her committee consisting of her, Tom Nawn and Sue Nicholl have the following slate to be presented to the membership at Wine Country: President- Susan Brightman, Vice-President - Patty Smith, Secretary - Lara Riley, Treasurer - Megan LaMendola. and Board Member - Joan LaMendola.

New Business

Tom Hernandes brought up the subject of Berner garde. It is a data base of dogs from around the world and is a repository for tissue and blood samples.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Hernandes, seconded by Ellen Lechner and passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Nawn, Secretary

From Galen Zimmer:

I hope Bernerfest was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our picnic lunch was delicious as always and our raffle was wonderful. Thanks to all the contributors. Mary Ellen Naun did a great job taking on the double duty as both registrar and raffle ticket sales person. She was busy every minute. Tom Nawn, our chef, is especially appreciated for his early morning work securing the pavilion and setting up tables. Tom Fernandes led a lively "Simon Says" and promises more doggy games next year. Michael DeLorm was a great help taking on the task of calling our raffle numbers.

Thanks to all who help to make Bernerfest a fun start to summer for all of us and our canine companions be they Bernese or otherwise.

MINUTES of the July 2nd, 2016 Meeting

Vice President, Patty Smith called the meeting to order 12:00 PM at Bainbridge, NY.

Members Present: Linda Carney, Kevin O'Brien, Karen O'Brien and Patty Smith.

Minutes of the June 12th Meeting were accepted as published.
No Reports were given.

Discussion was lively and entertaining but no business was conducted due to lack of a quorum.

Patty talked about the donation of a Dog Works drafting cart that was donated. It needs TLC and Kevin was asked if he would accept the job of restoring the cart to its former beauty. The cart will be offered up for raffle at the Wine Country shows and all donations will be tagged for our rescue fund.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Smith, Vice President

An Update of "Ralph"

Most of you know of "Ralph" and maybe even met him at Bernerfest. He's a rescue dog who has been with me a couple of months. It's been an adjustment for both of us and our household but well worth it. "Ralph" has a heart of gold. Thanks to our Club for giving its rescue fund to assist in meeting "Ralph's" immediate medical needs. He is now recovering from cruciate ligament surgery. A special thanks to Lara Riley, my partner in "Project Ralph", for her dedication to the task and support of my efforts. We've both learned a lot about the process of helping dogs with special needs. Please don't hesitate to contact Lara and /or myself for updates on "Ralph" and what we've learned throughout networking with others.

Galen Zimmer

**BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF WATCHUNG
SHOW SUPERINTENDENT JIM RAU DOG SHOWS
OCTOBER 7-10, 2016
2 INDEPENDENT REGIONAL SPECIALTIES
BETHLEHEM, PA
DRAFT TEST AND WORKSHOP**

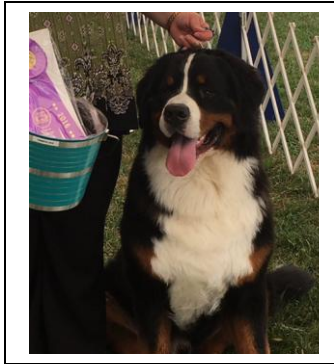
Braggs

From Winterthur Kennel

CH Winterthur's Black Pearl at 10 ½ years young "strutted her stuff" at the Spring Regional Specialty in York, PA. Entered two days-she was chosen the first day, Best Veteran in Sweeps and Best Veteran in Class Competition. The second day, she was chosen Best Veteran in Class Competition. She made me very proud! These wins were very special to me since "Pearl" is my last Show Dog and, as most of you know, I'm no longer breeding.

Galen Zimmer

From Pam Wehle and Tom Herman



CH "Turbo"

Radars son, Arundel's **Here we Go Again V Alpine**, AKA "Turbo", started showing at 6 months. Recently at The Canfield Specialty he achieved his Championship two weeks after his first birthday and moved up to BOB in the ring with his dad. "Turbo" has recorded 2 Majors, best of breed puppy, and a puppy group 2 along with many other awards. Now he will rest at home until he matures.

CH Kitzbuhel von Arundel's Alpine owned by Finger Lakes club members Pam Wehle, Tom Herman and club president, Sue Brightman, recently achieved his Grand Champion status. In the last eight months "Radar", has won Best of Breed several times and three Group placements competing among the top Bernese in the US. Radar has been ranked in the top 20 and is working towards his Bronze.



GCH "Radar"

From Joan LaMendola

We managed to get out one weekend this summer and show "Derrick" as a Special at the Canadian National Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Canada, held in Welland, Ontario. The show was in conjunction with a few local all-breed shows. Five shows for "Derrick" in three days. Kudos to Meagan, for helping "Derrick" present the best he could over a very hot weekend.

Saturday, at the National he won BOS under judge Abby Patrizio. He also earned more points towards his Canadian Grand Championship going Select Dog one day and earning two BOB's with two Group 3 placements at two other shows that weekend.



AM GCHB CAN CH Honeoye Arundel's Arm Candy "Derrick"

Histiocytic Sarcoma Pre-test SH

The histio pre-test is now available in the US. Please read all the information on the web page posted below.

This test is not a cure-all for ridding our breed of histio. You can breed an A to an A and still get C. You can breed a C to C and get an A. It will be interesting to see what this test does to our breeding practices in the US.

[Http://optigen.com/opt9_hs_pretest.html](http://optigen.com/opt9_hs_pretest.html)

Posted on Facebook August 21 Lynn Balsiger

Discuss Responsible Breeding of Bernese Mountain Dogs

More New Information about Histioc Sarcoma

From: Diana Gerba <dgerba@me.com>

Date: May 24, 2016 at 8:02:10 PM EDT

Subject: Dr. Ruple's Histioc Study has been published!!!

Good Afternoon,

We are so pleased to send this email. Dr. Audrey Ruple's article, "Risk Factors Associated with Development of Histiocytic Sarcoma in Bernese Mountain Dogs" has been published in the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine. The article is open access, so it is freely available to view, download and share. Go to Wiley Online Library at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jvim.13964/full>.

It has been an incredibly long road. The Bernese Mountain Dog Histiocytosis Therapeutics Action Task Force (Diana Gerba, Cathi Dovico, Pat Helmbold, Fred Helmbold, Chris House, Tom House, Steve Dudley, Ruth Rudesill and Wendi Wakefield) was formed in 2008. We started as a small informal group of friends, all of whom had lost one or more Berners to Histioc. While applauding the current genetic research being done, we wondered if there were environmental factors that contributed to the development of Histioc. So, we decided to not just sit at the coffee table and talk but to be pro-active and do something.

After contacting researchers all over globe, we were told we needed to enlist a biostatistician/epidemiologist to conduct the survey. Just trying to spell it was a bit of a challenge, the task of finding one was even more perplexing. But luckily Dr. Steve Dow DVM came to the rescue and introduced us to Dr. Audrey Ruple, DVM who generously volunteered to design the survey, coordinate the data collection/analysis and then write up the findings for possible publication in the scientific literature. All we had to do was identify the dogs, contact owners and get them to take the survey. That sounded pretty easy. Yikes were we wrong...it proved to be an incredible task taking almost two years. But remember, we were all committed.

With the help of the Berner-Garde database we were able to identify 216 dogs and littermates for the survey, but it was only with the help of these Berner owners the study could be completed. Contacting you brought up hard and painful memories of losing your dear friend to this horrible disease. For the littermate owners it brought up the fear and trepidation, hearing your dog's brother or sister had died to Histioc. We extend a huge thank you to all of you who participated. We know how hard it was, but hope it is also empowering knowing your dogs are helping in this fight.

Obviously, another huge thank you goes to Dr. Audrey Ruple for all the work she did...and didn't charge us a penny. We are so lucky to have found her. Dr. Ruple's commitment to our breed is unending as her research on Histioc continues. The Berner community has found a true friend in Dr. Ruple. May we continue to work together and find out the cause of Histioc.

So please, read the article and remember.....if you have a passion, whatever it is, instead of just sitting and talking around the coffee table be proactive. Go out and put a ding in the universe.

Best Berner Regards,

Members of the Bernese Mountain Dog Histiocytosis Therapeutics Action Task Force

BMDCA_Bulletin@bernergarde.org

We have heard through BMDCA Member Surveys that one of the most important issues to our membership is Berner-related health.

To that end, the Health Survey Working Group has designed a BMD Health Survey that we would like to ask you to complete. To get the broadest survey results possible, we are surveying BMDCA members, and in partnership with the AKC, also sending out the survey to those individuals who have registered a BMD within the last 10-years.

Therefore, you may receive links to this survey from several sources.

Please complete the survey once for each dog owned in the specified time period.

The survey, should take you approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. It contains general health-related questions, and if you are a breeder, it also includes breeder-specific questions. All results are anonymous and only summarized survey results will be shared. The survey will be open through October 31, 2016. We will share the results of the survey with the fancy in mid-2017.

We anticipate the results from the BMD Health Survey will provide valuable information in recognizing commonly known and possibly new emerging health concerns in our breed. This will further aid us in determining where research efforts and financial support may most benefit our breed.

Thank you for your willingness to share health-related information today, to make for a healthier future for our breed for tomorrow!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016bernesesurvey>
BMD Health Survey Workgroup

Information

Knowledge

Health

