



## BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF THE FINGER LAKES CODE OF ETHICS

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**The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Finger Lakes, in keeping with the aims of breeding the best possible dogs while preserving their unique beauty and character, and of promoting the best possible care and training of these dogs, adopts the following code:**

1. Breeders shall strive for perfection of the Bernese Mountain Dog in accordance with the official standard set forth by the American Kennel Club. In this regard, they shall:
  - a. Maintain high standards of health and care for the dogs.
  - b. Use only physically and temperamentally sound stock and will refuse stud service to any bitch that is unregistered or shows obvious defects. They shall study and learn the good and bad points within their own stock, never doubling up on a known and visible fault.
  - c. Ideally x-ray for evidence of hip dysplasia at age of two years or over and strive to breed dysplasia-free Bernese.
  - d. Refrain from breeding the bitch until her second season, and preferably waiting until at least 18 months of age. A bitch shall be bred no more than two out of three seasons, this depending on the size of the litter whelped and her condition. It is suggested, that in most cases, a period of one year lapse between litters.
2. Breeders will not sell stock without true representation to the purchaser nor use misleading or untruthful statements in selling or advertising.
3. No member shall sell adults or puppies to any known retail or wholesale pet outlet.
4. A buyer shall be supplied with a four-generation pedigree; with information on inoculations and other veterinary care that the dogs have had; with instructions on the care, feeding and training of the Bernese Mountain Dog.
5. A breeder will guarantee the health of their stock subject to a veterinarian's examination within 48 hours of the sale.
6. A breeder should try to keep in touch with the progress of dogs of their breeding in order to better analyze their own program.
7. Breeders shall exhibit at dog shows and matches where feasible.
8. Members shall at all times exhibit good sportsmanship at all events related to the club and dog shows.
9. Members shall not degrade any other member or kennel.

*Adopted October 4, 1986*

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I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Code of Ethics.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_