

**BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF ONTARIO
CODE OF CONDUCT
(Adopted: 28 April 2007)**

The membership of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Ontario (BMDCO) is dedicated to:

- * **Protecting the interests of the breed and individual dogs.**
- * **Promoting the standard of the breed.**
- * **Advancing the objectives and integrity of the club and participating in and/or supporting BMDCO events and programs to the best of their ability.**
- * **Promoting quality and integrity in breeding programs.**
- * **Striving for the betterment of the Bernese Mountain dog, and supporting work in draft, obedience, tracking, agility, therapy, etc. which promote the breed's true characteristics and versatility. This code is established to further the objectives of the club as set forth in Section 2 of the BMDCO Constitution. BMDCO members recognize that as individuals, our practices of ownership, breeding, sportsmanship, and ethics directly affect the welfare of the breed. We realize that no code will ever cover all behaviours necessary to protect the breed. Therefore, we acknowledge our actions are the truest reflection of our personal integrity and ethics, our commitment to the enhancement of our breed community, and true concern for the welfare of the breed.**

The BMDCO encourages all members to:

A) Consider submitting and updating data to the Berner-Garde Foundation database (www.bernergarde.org).

B) Complete the health clearances as set out in Part I, Item 2 of the BMDCO Breeders Section. BMDCO members agree to:

A) Notify breeders from whom they have obtained a dog of any change of the dog's ownership or residence.

B) Share knowledge truthfully, constructively and respectfully when conveying information about members and members' breeding programs, as well as about individual BMD's.

C) Display good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in a manner that gives credit to the BMDCO and the breed, as well as maintain a spirit of co-operation with other members.

D) Encourage and promote public awareness of responsible pet ownership.

E) Keep only as many dogs for which they can provide an acceptable standard of health care, shelter, nutrition, attention, affection, and overall care.

F) Provide appropriate training, exercise and supervision to ensure their dogs are well mannered, kept in safe conditions, and are not abused or neglected.

G) Not allow their dogs to roam at large unsupervised, nor to become a public nuisance or a public burden.

H) Assist the breeders of their dogs by keeping them informed of their dogs' development throughout life.

BMDCO breeders shall:

- A) Breed with the full understanding of the responsibility they bear to the future of the breed and with the paramount intention of improving and protecting the breed. Breeders should understand the breed standard, evaluate individual mature dogs' traits, evaluate traits present in a breeding dog's immediate and extended family, and apply the principles of genetics. Additionally, breeders should have a practical knowledge of mating, care of the bitch in whelp, raising a litter, and the time, effort and resources required to engage in this activity.**
- B) Use the breed standard adopted by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) for the Bernese Mountain Dog (BMD) to assess the suitability of dogs' temperament and type.**
- C) Ensure to their best ability that no dogs they place are brokered, wholesaled or consigned through a pet shop, auction or other commercial establishment; and are not offered as prizes in contests, raffles or fundraising events.**
- D) Ensure to their best ability that no stud dog or brood bitch owned/co-owned by them is bred to any dog or bitch whose owner is directly or indirectly involved with any dog broker, puppy mill, pet shop that retails dogs, auction, litter lot sales, or any other commercial enterprise whose business is involved in these activities.**
- E) Provide assistance to owners of dogs of their breeding in need of re-homing.**
- F) Discuss with the prospective buyer the health care and behaviour management needs of the dog and provide recommendations for general care and training.**
- G) Discuss with the prospective buyers of the puppies of their breeding, their expectations in a puppy or dog. Evaluate the animal for the buyer to the best of their knowledge and skill. Give full and frank disclosure of any health issues that the dog may have or which are known to be in its family background. Use a written contract detailing all guarantees, obligations, and expectations of breeders and buyers.**
- H) Mentor novice breeders that have obtained breeding stock/puppies of their breeding.**
- I) Provide to buyers, copies of the following documents:
 - (1) CKC, AKC, FCI or recognized equivalent registration certificates of both Sire and Dam**
 - (2) Hip and Elbow Certificates of both Sire and Dam from a recognized registry (e.g. OVC, OFA, GDC, WCVM, PENNHIP)**
 - (3) Any additional health certificates of Sire and Dam from recognized registries (e.g. CERF)**
 - (4) Minimum three-generation pedigree of both Sire and Dam**
 - (5) Health and veterinary care history****
- J) Encourage all buyers to seek veterinary examination within 72 hours.**
- K) Refrain from having their Stud dogs produce more than 12 litters per year, in order to assess progeny produced using the criteria as set out in Parts A and I of this BMDCO Breeders Section.**
- L) Refrain from breeding a bitch or stud dog until 18 months old, preferably 2 years old.**
- M) Adhere to CKC rules applying to litter and individual dog registrations, ensuring that all litters and puppies they produce are CKC registered.**
- N) Remain available for advice and guidance, when sought, for the lifetime of offspring from their dogs.**

To be eligible to be on the BMDCO Breeders List a member must complete a Breeder's List Application Form, agree to the terms and conditions, and obtain approval from the Executive Committee.

*** Section 16 of the BMDCO Constitution upholds this Code of Conduct. Appeals concerning any of the conditions set out in this Code of Conduct must be made in writing to the Executive Committee of the BMDCO.**

As a member of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Ontario, I agree to abide by this Code of Conduct and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Ontario.

Signature (1) _____ (2) _____
Second signature required for double membership

Date: _____