



# THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

## CODE OF ETHICS

In keeping with my dedication to the treatment of the Bernese Mountain Dog I pledge the following:

As a member of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Southeastern Wisconsin, I will abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the club, and will always conduct myself in a manner beneficial to the club, and to the breed and to its image. I will not defame other club members. I will maintain personal contact with all animals in my care and ensure that they are kept in good condition, share my knowledge with other members, and support the club in its endeavors.

As a breeder, I will devote my efforts to improvement of the breed by maintaining in my breeding stock high standards in temperament, physical soundness, and conformity to the breed standard approved by the American Kennel Club, and by selecting breeding stock that adheres to the same high standards. To this end I shall:

1. Maintain the best possible standards of health and care in my kennel
2. Refuse to use for breeding purposes, and refuse stud services to any bitch that I consider to be in poor health, of unsound temperament, or otherwise of poor quality.
3. X-ray my animals and exclude from my breeding program those evidencing unsound structure, including hip and elbow dysplasia.
4. Be genetically well informed and work to eliminate hereditary defects from the breed (e.g. Hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, eye disorders).
5. Refrain from breeding a bitch or using a dog at stud until the animal is at least 18 months old, and preferably 2 years old, and from breeding a bitch during two or more consecutive heats more than once per year, or seek veterinary approval for all exceptional cases.
6. Refuse to deal knowingly with unethical breeders; with any dog retailers; wholesalers; or brokers; or with any buyer when I have reason to believe that the animal will not receive proper care.
7. Keep and pass on to the buyers of my animals, accurate health, breeding, registration and pedigree records.
8. Deliver my animals in sound health and temperament.
9. Discuss with all buyers their experiences, using general categories of show, breeding potential and companion (not show/breed) potential. rate the animal for the buyer to the best of my knowledge and skill at the time of the sale, giving full and frank disclosure of any faults that the animal may have or that I know to be in its immediate family background.
10. Monitor the progress of dogs of my breeding in order to analyze my program.

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

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