

# HELDERBERG BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF NEW YORK

## CODE OF ETHICS

The Helderberg Bernese Mountain Dog Club of New York (HBMDNY) in keeping with its aims of breeding the best possible dogs while preserving their unique type and character and promoting the best possible care and training of these dogs, adopts the following code.

### All Members Shall:

1. Insure that all dogs in my care are provided with adequate food, shelter, human companionship, veterinary care, basic obedience training and socialization.
2. Act in accordance with the best interest of the club and the breed.
3. Exhibit good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in a manner that gives credit to the club and to the Bernese Mountain Dog breed.
4. Not slander or degrade any other member or kennel.
5. Support and participate in the club's activities and attend its meetings.

### All Members Who Are Breeders Shall:

1. 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, safety and care of their dogs.
  - B. Use only physically and mentally sound stock, and refuse stud service to any bitch that is unregistrable 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. Bernese Mountain Dogs to be bred should be x-rayed for hip and elbow dysplasia. The findings of these radiographs should be made known to the owners of the stud dogs and bitches, and to all buyers of the puppies. If an animal is not free of hip and/or elbow dysplasia, the implications of that fact should be made clear to all buyers. Breeders are aware that it is inadvisable and genetically risky to breed an animal not free of hip and/or elbow dysplasia. All x-rays should be submitted to the OFA, or other recognized registry for interpretation. It is preferable that the dog's final radiographic evaluation be conducted after 24 months of age.
  - D. Refrain from breeding the bitch until her second season, preferably no more than two out of three seasons, depending upon the size of the litter whelped and her condition. It is suggested that in most cases a period of one year lapse between litters, except in situations where medically indicated for the bitch's welfare.
2. Provide only truthful representation about the sire and dam when selling or advertising any puppies/dogs, and provide full disclosure regarding any health concern.
3. Refuse to sell or consign puppies or dogs to any known retail, wholesale or commercial dealers, or brokers, and not knowingly supply dogs for raffles, contests, giveaway prizes or other such events.
4. Provide the buyer with a four generation pedigree, information on inoculations and other veterinary care that the dog has received, and with instructions on the care, feeding and training of the Bernese Mountain Dog.
5. Provide the buyer with a guarantee of the health of his/her stock subject to a veterinarian's examination within 72 hours of the sale or in accordance with state law.
6. Maintain contact with the dogs and their owners to better evaluate the development of their breeding program, and to remain available for advice.
7. Exhibit at dog shows and matches when feasible.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_