



2009 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

MONDAY 9 -11 AM

CONDITIONING THE CANINE ATHLETE CAROL HELFER DVM

Prevention rather than rehabilitation is the smart way to proceed for both human and canine athletes. So exactly how do you condition a Berner? An understanding of anatomy and structure are needed in order to help your dog prepare for successful competition. Your exercise plan must focus on improving endurance, strength, and skills, no matter what your dog's sport. What age can you begin? How do you start? How frequently and for what length of time?

You may find your Berner's exercise goals are surprisingly similar to your own. Carol will cover the tricks or exercises she recommends for our athletes. Learn how to prevent injury and increase your dog's health and pleasure in that performance sport. Bring your dog and get started right away!

BMD HISTORY DAN SERNICOLA

This course will give a basic overview of the history of the BMD breed. Where did Berners come from? How did they get to the United States? What can I learn from history that may help brighten the future of my Berner? These and many other questions will be discussed. Along with learning historical facts, you will also learn about some theories and current research concerning the history of the breed. Many interesting articles, photographs, ephemera, and other historical Berner items will also be shared.

PLANNING A LITTER WITH BMDPEDfw RON SMITH

BMDPedfw (Bernese Mountain Dog Pedigree for Windows) is the long awaited Windows version of the popular BMDPed for DOS program. A joint product of Valleyvu Kennels Reg'd and Longstreet Software, it includes a very comprehensive, extensive and complete database of Bernese Mountain Dogs and is kept up-to-date almost on a daily basis. The software, in conjunction with the database, is designed to be used by Bernese Mountain Dog breeders as an aide in selecting and evaluating potential breeding stock through the use of pedigrees, certifications, titles, longevity, In-breeding coefficients, and sex-linked gene lists, as well as analysis of siblings, half-siblings, and progeny. The intention is to give the breeder as much information as possible for making good breeding decisions. Come and see this exciting new technology first hand and bring your questions.

MONDAY 12-2 PM

AKC BMD STANDARD SHARON SMITH

First things first! This seminar will cover the basic information about Bernese, as approved by the AKC and presented and discussed by a distinguished and longtime breeder and judge. The Standard is the absolute first and most important information to master if you want to appreciate the conformation ring and imagine you might ever consider breeding.

FUNDAMENTALS OF BASIC CANINE MASSAGE: A DEBBIE TOWNDROW

This workshop will introduce the benefits of massage and demonstrate techniques to calm animals and relax muscles. Time will be spent discussing special canine needs of the pregnant bitch, developing puppies/adolescents and geriatrics. Discussion on optimizing performance animals while minimizing injury will conclude the workshop. Please bring or borrow a Berner, and bring along two mats or blankets, one for you and one for your dog. Wear comfortable clothes, as we will work on the floor.

PEDIGREE RESEARCH ELAINE GUNN LAWRENCE

We all know how important the genetic background of any given breeding dog is but do you really know how to make meaningful choices based on that family tree? Repeating a previous successful presentation, Elaine will articulate tools, resources and strategies necessary for productive pedigree research and then demonstrate them using a single potential breeding pair.

MONDAY 3 -5 PM

SIEGER EVALUATIONS FRANDEL BROWN

Fran, a respected and experienced Berner breeder judge, has offered to evaluate your Berner in the European manner. She will closely observe and evaluate over 30 different conformation characteristics while the dog stands in a relaxed, natural pose and then is gaited down and back. She will then give an oral critique of the dog to you and the observing Berner U students. You will also receive a written, signed evaluation of conformation and a Sieger certificate if your dog receives an "Excellent" rating. *Everyone is welcome to come and observe without prior registration.*

CANCER IN DOGS & HISTIOCYTOSIS IN THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG MARLENE SMITH-SCHALKWIJK DVM

Cancer is the leading cause of death in dogs over 10 years of age and in the Bernese Mountain Dog at any age. Marlene will give a brief overview of the various types of cancer in the dog and a more detailed latest information on Histiocytosis in our Berners. She will discuss her perspective and her survey (just released) on the causes of cancer. She will then take a new look at Histiocytosis from a Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medical perspective and what we can learn from that. What treatment options are available from complementary medicine? Can we prevent cancer and can TCVM help us? This lecture will provide a better understanding, recognition and some preventive suggestions on Histiocytosis in the Bernese.

CANINE NUTRITION 101: YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT
NANCY STEWART

This seminar will be a discussion that will guide attendees through the maze of feeding options available to today's dog owner. The session will include an overview of the evolution of the pet food industry, instruction on how to read a label, keys to evaluation of ingredient quality, uses of supplementation, and the potential impact of nutrition on health and longevity. Raw, homemade, kibble, canned, and combination diets will be discussed and compared. There will be ample time for questions and attendees are encouraged to bring food labels with them for comparison.

MONDAY 7 – 9 PM

PUPPY PUZZLE PLUS
PATRICIA HASTINGS

Based on her acclaimed video, "Puppy Puzzle: The Hastings Approach to Evaluating the Structural Quality of Puppies," this presentation has information to benefit every puppy out of a conscientious breeding program. The single most important decision you can make for your puppies is to determine whether each puppy is structurally sound enough to do what you will ask of it in its lifetime. Whether the hope is for the show ring and whelping box or obedience, agility, field trials or flyball, you owe it to your dogs to know in which lifestyle each may best flourish. Pat will explain the essentials of structure and do a demonstration evaluation of a litter.

FUNDAMENTALS OF BASIC CANINE MASSAGE: B
DEBBIE TOWNDROW

This workshop will introduce the benefits of massage and demonstrate techniques to calm animals and relax muscles. Time will be spent discussing special canine needs of the pregnant bitch, developing puppies/adolescents and geriatrics. Discussion on optimizing performance animals while minimizing injury will conclude the workshop. Please bring or borrow a Berner, and bring along two mats or blankets, one for you and one for your dog. Wear comfortable clothes, as we will work on the floor. Workshops A & B have the same content, repeated to accommodate the high demand.

TUESDAY 9 - 11 AM

SIEGER EVALUATIONS
ANN MILLIGAN

Ann, a respected and experienced Berner breeder judge, has offered to evaluate your Berner in the European manner. She will closely observe and evaluate over 30 different conformation characteristics while the dog stands in a relaxed, natural pose and then is gaited down and back. She will then give an oral critique of the dog to you and the observing Berner U students. You will also receive: a written, signed evaluation of conformation, a Sieger certificate if your dog receives an "Excellent " rating. *Everyone is welcome to come and observe without prior registration.*

**INTERNATIONAL CANINE SEMEN BANK
PROFESSOR CARROL PLATZ**

Professor Carrol Platz is the founder of ICSB. He will discuss gathering, processing and evaluating artificial inseminations. We will work along with him to gather data from 32 ICSB locations in United States and from the Berner Garde database to assess success or failure rates for Bernese Mountain Dogs. Any and all of your questions about using frozen and chilled semen to breed your bitch will be answered by the man who advanced an alternative method of breeding.

**AUTOIMMUNE ISSUES
ROBERT FRANKLIN DVM**

'Immune mediated diseases' in dogs cover a lot of territory: rheumatoid arthritis, Lyme, lupus, IMHA, pemphigus and autoimmune thyroid disease among others. Have you had a Berner diagnosed with one of these illnesses? Dr. Franklin will offer a brief overview of the field and then focus on autoimmune issues in Bernese. Bring your case histories and unanswered questions for what should be a valuable few hours.

TUESDAY 12 - 2 PM

**AKC BMD STANDARD
MARY ALICE ESCHWEILER**

First things first! This seminar will cover the basic information about Bernese, as approved by the AKC and presented and discussed by a distinguished and longtime breeder and judge. Mary Alice is also the chairperson of Judges' Education so you will be hearing the same information as the provisional judges will hear. The Standard is the absolute first and most important information to master if you want to appreciate the conformation ring and imagine you might ever consider breeding.

**FROM PREGNANCY TO NEONATAL CARE
CHERYL LOPATE DVM**

Cheryl will discuss care of the pregnant and whelping bitch, specifically management and nutrition from breeding to whelping. She'll cover what constitutes a normal delivery and briefly discuss medical vs. surgical management of whelping problems. In order to be fully prepared for the worst case, Cheryl will address common disorders of pregnancy, whelping and the immediate postpartum period. Should you be fortunate enough to have a litter of beautiful Berner babies, she will describe their normal health and development. Proper management and nutritional concerns will be covered. Furthermore, the most common neonatal diseases, their signs, diagnosis, treatment and prevention will be explained, all essential information for both new and experienced breeders.

**BREEDER ETHICS
DEBBY WILKINS**

This seminar was a HUGE success in Warwick generating thoughtful and lively discussions with lots of provocative questions. Students, experienced and prospective breeders kept the dialogue going long after the class was over. Considering the increasing popularity of the breed, what is our BMDCA Member/Breeder responsibility for breed preservation? What differentiates us from the "backyard breeder" and the "puppy mill"? Frequency of litters? Scrutiny of prospective owners? Willingness to take the puppy back? The price of a pup? Come and join this discussion where ethics, ideals and reality cross paths.

TUESDAY 3 - 5 PM

UNDERSTANDING MOVEMENT

MARJORIE REHO

The language of canine anatomy, the definitions of gait patterns, and the necessity of angulation and balance to good structure - these are the essentials to understanding movement in the Bernese Mountain Dog. We'll look at shoulder assemblies and examples of center lining, crossing, crabbing, pacing, knitting and purling and paddling in our much loved, live companion dogs. What's normal? What's correct? How do you spot faulty movement? Come and learn to see what the judges see!

STUD DOGS, NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE

WENDY BENNETT & VALERIE HORNEY

Consider carefully, should your handsome Berner boy *really* become a stud? How do you evaluate him objectively? What information should you be able to provide to a breeder who requests his services? What responsibilities do you have to his offspring? And what are your responsibilities to the breed? On the other hand, as an owner of a gorgeous bitch, how do you find Mr. Right? What information is essential for you to discover and how do you locate it? Come and listen to the wisdom of two highly successful breeders and learn how they go about making the right match.

GROOMING 101

DEBRA JONES

Join us as Debby offers you tips on basic and show grooming for your Bernese Mountain Dog. With therapy dog visits, parades and performance events becoming more and more popular, you want your Berner to look it's best at all times. As an owner/handler, Debby has been showing Bernese for the last 13 years. Dryers, scissors, combs and brushes as well as a variety of shampoos, conditioners and bodifiers will all be discussed along with an array of techniques to make the most of these tools. We are pleased to have Debby share her advice on grooming for good health and looking great for any occasion.

ESSENTIAL OILS 101

CLAIRE COPPOLA

How and why do essential oils work? This class will explain the basic chemistry of essential oils and demonstrate the ways we should and should not offer to our dogs the most frequently self-selected plant essences. Remedies for common physical and psychological problems will be presented. An opportunity to taste, inhale and/or topically apply a selection of pure essences will give a hands-on knowledge of their therapeutic effects. We will conclude with guidelines for use and safety considerations.

TUESDAY 7- 9 PM *BREEDER SYMPOSIUM*

FORM & FUNCTION

PATRICIA TROTTER

Renowned author, dog handler and Westminster winner, Pat Trotter will give us the portion of her ***Born to Win*** seminar that focuses on canine structure and mechanics. Beginning with an understanding of the notion of motion, Pat will help you see the center of gravity and understand the other mechanics of locomotion in dogs. She'll explain how to evaluate gait, both coming and going as well as side gait. When developing breed specific expertise, Pat feels it's essential to become familiar with the history and purpose of your breed. Because form follows function, she will discuss the 'type versus soundness' debate. How can you develop an eye for a dog? After sitting ringside at your first National Specialty, you *know* when a dog does or does not have correct type!

RESCUE ROUNDTABLE

KATHY DEYO & VILMA BRIGGS

As more and more Bernese are bought online or from breeders who refuse to take back unwanted dogs, the rescue chairs of regional clubs find themselves busier than ever before. In a recent 12-month period, the regional club rescue programs spent over \$51,000 on rescue dogs and we don't see that lessening any time soon. And that does not include the independent rescuers!! This seminar is designed for those involved in rescue to share strategies, resources and methods of evaluating temperament and medical health, finding transport, screening prospective homes, raising funds and networking with shelters and other rescue groups – all with the goal of finding forever homes for dogs in need. All those curious about rescue are welcome to come, learn from each other and contribute creative solutions!

WEDNESDAY 9 -11 AM

SIEGER EVALUATIONS

LISA EBNET

Lisa, a respected and experienced Berner breeder judge, has offered to evaluate your Berner in the European manner. She will closely observe and evaluate over 30 different conformation characteristics while the dog stands in a relaxed, natural pose and then is gaited down and back. She will then give an oral critique of the dog to you and the observing Berner U students. You will also receive: a written, signed evaluation of conformation and a Sieger certificate if your dog receives an "Excellent" rating. *Everyone is welcome to come and observe with out prior registration.*

Information on this site is intended to aid Berner University students in the selection of their classes. Please contact faculty directly for any other use.