



# Mountain Dog MESSENGER

— NEWSLETTER OF THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF THE ROCKIES —

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## Developmental Disorders of the Elbow, Arthritis, and Gene Therapy

Chad Devitt, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS

*This article was submitted by BMDCR/A member Sharon Keefer who felt that it would be of special interest to Berner families. In fact, the first dog enrolled in Dr. Devitt's gene therapy study was a Bernese Mountain Dog. Six dogs have been enrolled to date. Study dogs must be at least one year old, have mild arthritic elbow changes, no other arthritis, no other significant health problems, and no previous elbow surgery. Evaluation for the study may be an option owners of dogs with newly diagnosed elbow dysplasia may want to discuss with their veterinarian.*

### Introduction

Because of its complexity, the elbow is susceptible to several developmental disorders that have been collectively referred to as elbow dysplasia: osteochondritis dessicans (OCD), ununited anconeal process (UAP), fragmented medial coronoid process (FMCP or FCP), and incongruity (IC). Developmental disorders of the elbow cause pain and lameness and eventually result in arthritis that leads to deteriorating function. Surgical treatment of developmental disorders as an open approach or as an arthroscopic approach can improve the short-term

prognosis; for example, relieve pain and lessen lameness. However, the progression of arthritis continues. There has been a need to develop treatments that stop the progression of arthritis.

### Osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis can be thought of as a misdirected healing response initiated by trauma, inflammation, or cartilage defects. The initial phase of cartilage healing begins with a weakening process referred to as the lag phase of healing. Cellular signals that "turn on" the lag phase are not "turned off" effectively and results in progression of cartilage damage despite correction of the initial cause of the arthritis.

### Conservative Treatment

Weight control is the most important aspect of conservative management of elbow dysplasia. By maintaining a patient's weight at or slightly below the ideal level, he or she may be better able to compensate for a given level of arthritis.

Another important factor of conservative treatment includes reduction of activity levels. Exercise is reduced to avoid extreme activities, while a continuum of low  
*Continued on page 3*

# Letter from the President

Happy New Year to the BMDCR members, and our wonderful Bernese Mountain Dogs. I hope we will all have a great year. The club will be having several events throughout the year. So make sure to read the newsletter's for up coming events. If anyone is interested in volunteering for any club actives please let me or one the board members know of your interest.

I would like to thank Sharon Montville for doing a great job as our past secretary, and also a big thanks to Nancy Fuselier for being our Vice President. to the past board members, Ron Abbott, M.J. Berendes, and Jeanne Stanwood; thanks for all your time and effort in making our club a smooth running BMDCR.

Welcome as new Vice President Jeanne Stanwood, Secretary Angela Hanson. Also welcome our new board members Linda Ansfield, Sharon Keefer, & Dr. Laura Haupenthal. I am looking forward to working with our new officers and board members.

Patti Morgan

## AWARDS BANQUET

January 25, 2004  
9:00AM - 12:00PM  
Simms Landing  
11911 W 6th Avenue  
Lakewood, CO  
303-237-0465

Deadline for reservations:  
January 16, 2004

Join us for a FANTASTIC breakfast buffet and awards. Please contact Valerie with your reservations and mail your checks (made out to BMDCR) to: Valerie Horney, 11561 E Dakota Ave, Aurora, CO 80012, 303-367-5059, [valhorney@msn.com](mailto:valhorney@msn.com). \$25 per person, includes all you can eat and drink, tax and tip.

### Officers

*President*  
Patti Morgan  
10180 Shoup Road  
Black Forest, CO 80908  
719-494-0148

*Vice President*  
Jeanne Stanwood  
672 N. Faver Drive  
Castle Rock, CO 80109  
303-688-0436

*Secretary*  
Angela Hanson  
13765 New Discovery Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80908

*Treasurer*  
Sara Karl  
3106 Westwood Boulevard  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918  
719-534-9056

### Club Chair Positions

Breeder Referral  
Phil Shaffer 303-526-1365

Bylaws  
Martha Rosner 303-586-5960

Courtesy  
Dottie Schulte 970-392-1806

Events  
Karen Baru 303-841-9312

Historian  
Martha Rosner 720-565-1641

Hospitality  
Ron Abbott 970-353-1939

Librarian  
Chris Mann 303-443-2837

Membership  
Stacy Temples 970-493-3714

### Directors

2003/2004  
Amy Gonzales  
5150 Tanager Street  
Brighton, CO 80601  
720-685-0186

Toby Pitchford  
2902 Downhill Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80014  
719-548-9578

2004/2005  
Linda Andsfeld  
7639 S. Rosemary Circle  
Englewood, CO 80112  
303-771-1035

Sarone Keefer  
519 W. Aberdeen Avenue  
Littleton, CO 80120  
303-795-0344

Laura Haupenthal  
5614 S. Ivy Court  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111  
303-221-2211

Newsletter Editors  
Jeanne Stanwood 303-688-0436  
Nadja Torling 303-433-4879

Programs  
VACANT

Public Education  
Karen Baru 303-841-9312

Regional Club Council Representative  
Lou Tucker 303-791-4425

Rescue  
Patti Morgan 719-494-0148  
Nancy Fuselier 719-494-0148

Show News Reporter  
Valerie Horney 303-367-5059

Ways & Means  
Patti Morgan 719-494-0148  
Dottie Schulte 970-392-1806

– Any member is welcome to join in any of the above committees.  
Just contact the respective chair and express your interest. –

Submit All Membership Applications To:

Stacy Temples  
PO Box 2490  
Fort Collins, CO  
80522-2490

BMDCR Breed Contact Information Line:

Karen Baru  
303-841-9262

*Continued from page 1*

impact motions is provided that tend to maintain muscle mass and avoid destruction of the joint surface. Short-duration, leash-controlled walking is the activity most easily instituted, and serves as a starting point.

Other conservative options that can be considered include medications and physical therapy. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) help ease discomfort and reduce inflammation in the joint when flare-ups occur. Slow-acting, disease-modifying agents such as glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate have anti-inflammatory effects and may be effective alone or in combination with other medications. Physical therapy techniques – such as range of motion exercises, deep muscle massage, and hydrotherapy (swimming) – may be helpful as well.

### **Surgical Treatment**

Young patients with significant lameness and early radiographic degenerative changes may benefit from early arthroscopic intervention, as the degree of cartilage damage may be reduced.

Major goals of arthroscopic intervention:

- Remove inciting causes of arthritis and free floating intra-articular fragments (joint mice)
- Normalization of forces at the cartilage surfaces
- Attempt cartilage resurfacing

Arthroscopy is a surgical technique that uses a rigid endoscope and video equipment to provide magnification and direct lighting inside the joint. Because only small incisions are required, arthroscopy offers many advantages over open procedures, especially reduced levels of pain. A greater view of the joint and visualization of diseased conditions under magnification allows recognition of early, otherwise undetectable, problems. Additionally, specialized equipment allows arthroscopic resection and shaving of abnormal structures, which can

relieve the pressure points causing wear lesions and perhaps limit the progression of arthritis. An OCD lesion is addressed with complete removal of the diseased area of cartilage to the bone underneath. This allows resurfacing of the cartilage with a cartilaginous repair tissue.

A fragmented medial coronoid process is easily addressed with arthroscopy. The loose fragment is removed, along with any remaining cartilage that may be present. Removal of the fragment usually results in substantial reduction in pain and may help reduce the progression of arthritis.

### **Gene Therapy for Arthritis**

Gene therapy is based on exploitation of natural counter-regulatory mechanisms of the immune system and the inflammatory cascade. An increased understanding of the pathophysiology of arthritis has led to the development of many new therapeutic “biologics” for treatment of arthritis. Most are proteins that present delivery barriers in terms of route and frequency of administration. One way of overcoming the delivery barrier is to genetically modify the target tissue by introducing a gene encoding for the particular protein of interest. Local gene therapy can be expected to provide high therapeutic effects to the target tissue while minimizing exposure to non-target tissues.

Experimental studies have demonstrated anti-inflammatory and chondroprotective effects of IL-1Ra gene therapy. Gene therapy, as an adjunct to conventional arthroscopic treatment of developmental elbow disorders could halt the progression of osteoarthritis and result in an improved long-term prognosis. In my study, the safety and efficacy of IL-1 Ra gene therapy for developmental elbow disorders after conventional arthroscopic debridement is being evaluated as a blinded, randomized, placebo-controlled study.

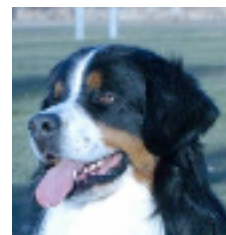
Side effects of intra-articular gene therapy with a viral vector (carrier)

have been limited to a transient inflammatory response. This effect is related to an immune response to viral proteins expressed on the cell surface. Adeno-associated viral vectors are less likely to cause this effect due to their inability to replicate without a helper virus. At most, we expect a mild inflammatory response limited to the local site of therapy without evidence of systemic effects.

### **Specifics of the Study**

This study is designed to determine whether gene therapy can prevent progressive arthritis in dogs with developmental elbow disorder when combined with conventional arthroscopic debridement of the joint. The gene of interest is a canine gene called IL-1Ra and the protein that is produced by this gene is a natural counter-regulatory protein of inflammation. This study is a placebo-controlled clinical study (this means there is a chance that your pet may be randomized into a non-treatment group and not receive the gene therapy treatment). The study is partially funded by Morris Animal Foundation. Costs associated with the gene therapy are completely paid for by the study. Additionally, patients that are randomized into the control group will be compensated a portion of the costs associated with the initial arthroscopic debridement (day 0). The gene is injected into the elbow joint under heavy sedation two weeks following the initial arthroscopic debridement (day 14). At weekly intervals (day 21 and 28), samples of joint fluid, serum, and urine are obtained. At day 60 following the initial arthroscopic evaluation, a brief arthroscopic evaluation of the joint will be performed to grade the cartilage and obtain biopsies of the joint lining and cartilage tissue. Results of the study will be analyzed after a minimum of 15 dogs have completed treatment.

*Chad Devitt, DVM, MS, DACVS is a board-certified surgeon with Veterinary Surgical Services at the Veterinary Referral Center of Colorado (303-874-7387 or [www.vrcc.com/surgery\\_main.shtml](http://www.vrcc.com/surgery_main.shtml)).*



## *Southern Colorado Kennel Club*

November 29, 2003

WD/BW

Prairiefire Charismatic v Ay

owned by S Johnson, K Englert, N Aldrich

WB

Summit's Milagro De Paz

owned by Ann & Bill Dailey & Sandy Dunaway

RWB

Northwoods Dee O Gee

owned by Mary Richards & Travis Clark & Jessica Jay

BB

Prairiefire's Bedtime Story, "PJ"

owned by Sharon Johnson

GROUP 4

BOS

CH Lorien Dell's Luthien Tinuviel

owned by George & Lynne Wood

Best of Breed Veteran

CH Eur-Am's Enough Already CD NA BDD, "Ready"

owned by Valerie Horney

November 30, 2003

WD/BW

Prairiefire Charismatic v Ay

owned by S Johnson, K Englert, N Aldrich

RWD

Blumoon's Broadway Joe, "Joe"

owned by Jeanne Stanwood & Christine Mann

WB

Northwoods Dee O Gee

owned by Mary Richards & Travis Clark & Jessica Jay

RWB

Prairiefires' Time to Shine

owned by Patty & Frank Jakos & Sharon Johnson

BB

Prairiefire's Bedtime Story, "PJ"

owned by Sharon Johnson

GROUP 1 AND BEST IN SHOW

BOS

CH Lorien Dell's Luthien Tinuviel

owned by George & Lynne Wood

## **BVKC - Northern Colorado Canine Winter Symposium**

### **Fellow Dog Friends:**

Just a reminder that BVKC is hosting a great educational weekend in a few weeks. Please help us get the word out to the dog community by forwarding this information to your dog friends. Speakers, seminar schedules and registration forms are available on the BVKC website: [www.bvkc.org](http://www.bvkc.org). Click on the events page and then Winter Symposium 2004. Hope to see you all there.

Buckhorn Valley Kennel Club (BVKC) is pleased to announce an education symposium on canine health, training and management issues pertinent to the canine competitor. The weekend event will be held January 23-25, 2004 (Friday afternoon through Sunday.) The symposium will include over 15 seminars, a vendor trade show, evening events and Saturday night banquet with Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald (Animal Planet ER Vet) as keynote speaker.

The symposium will be held at the Ramada Inn (formally Holiday Inn I-25 Holidome) located at the I-25/Mulberry exit in Fort Collins, CO.

The Ramada Inn also is offering a special symposium rate on rooms during the event - contact them to make your reservation at 970-484-4660

## **New Titles 2003**

Current List of New Titles earned in 2003. If your dog earned a title in the past year and is not on this list please send the information to Valerie Horney at valhorney@msn.com or 11561 E Dakota Ave, Aurora, CO 80012. Deadline is January 18, 2004. Awards Banquet is January 25th, 2004. Don't forget to sign up!!!

- 2/17/03 Champion Mountainairs American Way, Darcy Babb
- 2/2/03 Novice Agility CH Wagontales' Cheyenne Sunrise NDD CGC, Kathy Gray & Stacy Temples
- 2/2/03 BMDCA Versatility Dog
- 3/15/03 Novice Draft Dog Wagontales' Gone To Texas, Pat Tackett & Stacy Temples
- 10/5/03 Draft Dog
- 5/25/03 Novice Draft Dog CH Dallybeck's Roaring Judy CD, Mary Rogers
- 5/25/03 BMDCA Versatility Dog
- 9/4/03 Draft Dog
- 4/6/03 Brace Novice Draft Dog Pioneer's Raven V Kruggerand UD OA OAJ DD, Vicky Hall
- \*3/8/03 Champion Prairiefires Summer Fling , Sharon Johnson & Lisa & Keith Kice
- 3/9/03 Champion Spring's Rio Grande Mick, Nancy Fuselier & George Clark
- 3/29/03 Champion Wagontale's Good Morning Glory, Stacy Temples & Howard Ramsdell
- 4/20/03 Champion Travois Just Bad Enough, Karen Baru & Sara Karl
- 3/8/03 Companion Dog CH Pinnacle Evans En Route, Bob & Lou Tucker
- 3/8/03 BMDCA Versatility Dog
- 5/3/03 Champion Blue Moons Stollen My Heart, Christine and Michael Mann
- 5/23/03 Champion Demetux Afterberner for Takeoff, Linda Ansfield & Philip Keenan
- 5/17/03 Champion Lorien Dell's Bilbo Baggins, Elaine Sheridan & Lynne Wood
- 6/22/03 Champion Hiska Vom Obwaldnerhof Cathy Davis
- \*6/15/03 Champion Prairiefires Legend Lucia Night, Bob & Becky Shuris, Amy Fitzgerald, Sharon Johnson
- 6/23/03 Champion Sasha's Ursa Major, Vicky Whitney
- 5/18/03 Companion Dog CH Lorien Dell's Luthien Tinuviel, Lynne Wood
- 5/30/03 CH Spring's Ripple In Still Water CD VST DD, Fay Benson & Nancy Fuselier
- 5/30/03 BMDCA Working Dog Excellent
- 6/15/03 Novice Agility Preferred CH Sandusky Dazzling Meipaw CD NA NAJ, Angela Hanson
- 6/15/03 Novice Agility Jumper Preferred
- 8/2/03 Open Agility Preferred
- 8/3/03 Open Agility Jumpers Preferred

10/5/03 Novice Draft Dog CH Wagontale's Bettydazzled CD CGC HIC, Stacy Temples & Howard Ramsdell  
 10/5/03 BMDCA Versatility Dog  
 10/12/03 Brace Novice Draft Dog  
 10/12/03 Brace Novice Draft Dog CH Blue Moon's Betenoir Wagontale CD DD HIC CKC DD CD  
 7/15/03 Champion Wagontale's Ivanhoe, Stacy Temples & Judy & Craig Johnson  
 10/15/03 Canine Good Citizen Wagontale Henry's Happy Hour, Nadja Torling, Ryan Johnson, & Stacy Temples  
 9/4/03 Novice Draft Dog Kaibab's Annapurna v Pinnacle, Eden Jonas Jeanne Johnson  
 10/5/03 Brace Novice Draft Dog  
 10/5/03 Brace Novice Draft Dog CH Kaibab's Another Round CD NDD, Valerie Horney  
 10/5/03 Draft Dog Blumoon's Broadway Joe NDD, Jeanne Stanwood & Christine Mann  
 9/4/03 Novice Draft Dog CH Classique's Two Step CD, Marcia Eckhardt & Christina Ohlsen  
 9/4/03 BMDCA Versatility Dog  
 9/4/03 Novice Draft Dog Spring's Lady Molly CD, Nancy Fuselier  
 9/5/03 Champion Kinvarra's Chieftain, Pat & Neal Hughes  
 9/7/03 Companion Dog CH Blue Moons' Bewitched, Christine & Michael Mann  
 9/7/03 BMDCA Versatility Dog  
 9/13/03 Champion Lorien Dell's Praire Dawn, Lynn & George Wood  
 10/4/03 Novice Draft Dog Bernerliebes' Imagine That, Pat & Neal Hughes  
 11/15/03 Top Producer of Champions CH Jalue's Starlight Sonata, Breanne & Sandy Dunaway  
 11/15/03 CGC CH Summit's Oh Be Joyful Sharon Keefer & Sandy Dunaway  
 11/15/03 Champion Summit's Star Gazer, Rick Redmond & Sandy Dunaway  
 8/22/03 Champion Summit's I Wanna Talk about Me, Laurie Farley & Sandy Dunaway  
 5/25/03 Herding Instinct Certified CH Tiptop's Night Musik, Bob & Lou Tucker & Terri White  
 11/16/03 Novice Agility Preferred Brighteye Haute Latte NDD CGC OA OAJ, Glen Hotze and Elaine Witulski  
 11/16/03 Novice Agility Jumpers Preferred  
 10/4/03 Champion Lorien Dell's Storyteller George & Lynn Wood & Mike Cassity  
 10/11/03 Champion Lorien Dell's Hansel the Sumo Stnd & Gail Brooks & George & Lynn Wood  
 5/16/03 BMDCA Top Producer of Champions CH Eur-Am's My Katja CD,NDD,CGC,TDI George &Lynn Wood  
 6/29/03 Canine Good Citizen Spring's Regal Jerbear Jacqueline Morrow-Schuck  
 ASCA Companion Dog Excellent UCD-CDX Ch Spring's Lone Ranger CDX DD CGC, ASCA CD,  
 Nancy Fuselier

Yo!  
Heads Up



Karen Baru

## SHOWS & MATCHES

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1-17

Friends of the Elkhounds Fun Match - Conf & Obedience  
Adams Co. Fairgrounds, 9755 Henderson Rd, Brighton

Reg. between 8:00 and 9:00.

1-18

Terry All KC B match  
All Breed Sanctioned Breed/Ob Match & Agility Match  
Adams Co. Fairgrounds  
Obedience Reg. @ 7:30, Judging @ 8:30  
Conformation Reg. @ 8:30; Jr. Show Reg. @ 9:30  
Agility Reg. in advance and til 8:00AM, Judging @ 9:00  
Agility Info: Brant Roston 303-666-8054

Also swap meet in the Bull Barn-dog items - sell or trade.  
10 x 10 space prepay is \$10; \$15 at the door, set up  
between 7:30-8:30, sale ends at 2:30. Celia Almes, 303-  
637-7886 or email [celiaalmes@msn.com](mailto:celiaalmes@msn.com) for more info.

1-24 & 25

AKC Agility  
Pikes Peak OB Club  
Latigo Trail, Black Forest, CO  
Trial Secy- Debbie Funk, 303-695-4224  
(funkyorkies@juno.com)

Aussie All Breed Obed  
Elbert Co. Fairgrounds, Kiowa  
Show Secretary: Jennifer, 719-683-6277

1-31

Friends of Irish Setters  
Adams Co. Fairgrounds  
Reg. 7:30 - 9:30. Obedience @ 8:30, Conf. @ 9:30.  
\$7 first entry; \$5 second entry same dog.

2-1

Breed Obedience Show 'N Go  
Mantayo Kennels, 1220 S.Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood  
Reg. @ 8:00-12:00.  
Ring Times: Utility (9 - 11AM); Novice (11AM-2PM.);  
CGC 12-2PM (bring rabies certificate).  
For more info: 303-805-1512 or [crockprint@aol.com](mailto:crockprint@aol.com)

AKC B/Ob Sanctioned Match w Cerf/  
Flatirons KC, Boulder Co. Fairgrounds, Longmont  
303-828-0195, for CERF info call Andrea, 303-840-2035  
[leefloyd@aol.com](mailto:leefloyd@aol.com)

2-8

Agility & Ob Fun Match  
Magic Dog Training Center, Elizabeth: 303-646-8900

2-13 – 2-16

AKC All Breed Conf , Ob, & Agility  
Denver Coliseum  
Secretary: [www.onofrio.com](http://www.onofrio.com)  
Meet the Breeds Berner showcase schedule, after 2-10  
call 303-841-9262.

2-20 – 2-22

NADAC Agility  
Latigo Trails, Black Forest  
Contact Liz Williams, [izziew@comcast.net](mailto:izziew@comcast.net)

3-6 & 3-7

USDAA Agility Trial, Island Grove Park, Greeley  
Stephanie Fedewa, [snf@frii.com](mailto:snf@frii.com)

UKC B/Ob – High Plains KC

Elbert CFG, Kiowa  
Secretary: Pat Walsh, 719-392-0432 or  
[patwalsh@adelphia.net](mailto:patwalsh@adelphia.net)

AKC All Breed Shows, Garden City, KS  
Onofrio

3-13 & 3-14

AKC Agility  
Douglas Events Center @ CFG in Castle Rock  
Trial Secretary: Sandy Chiavelli, 303-622-6976 or  
[schiavelli@tiaa-cref.org](mailto:schiavelli@tiaa-cref.org)

## SEMINARS

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3-13 & 3-14

Learn to Massage Your Dog  
A two day seminar with Debbie Towndrow, CMT.  
Contact Mary Rogers 970-484-3209 or go to  
[www.woofandhoofmassage.com](http://www.woofandhoofmassage.com) for more information.

# Membership Report

— Stacy Temples —

Happy New Year Everyone! If you haven't already sent in your renewal forms, then you are officially past due. Please do this right away.

At the annual meeting in November the following new members were voted on and approved for membership.

Please welcome

As Sustaining Members:

Barbara Clark  
PO Box 774512  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477  
970-871-9080  
[clarkbarsu@aol.com](mailto:clarkbarsu@aol.com)

Leanne Nakishima  
9598 E. Coronado Ct.  
Parker, CO 80134  
303-805-0441

Scott Bursell  
2885 Outlook Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
719-494-1266  
[Bscottlauren@aol.com](mailto:Bscottlauren@aol.com)

As Voting Members:

Terri Dittmer

Robert Tucker

Gayle Brooks  
2967 Middle Fork Rd.  
Boulder, CO 80302  
303-443-9140  
[Gaylebrooks@aol.com](mailto:Gaylebrooks@aol.com)

We now have 3 sustaining member applicants who will be voted on during the January meeting which will be held at the Awards Banquet.

Jody Caporaso  
1361 S. Perry St.  
Denver, CO 80219  
303-922-6551  
[jmcaporaso@aol.com](mailto:jmcaporaso@aol.com)

Jody is a Social Worker who owns Gracey, Sommerfeld's First Love, (F,

9/5/01) from Samantha Lovett Judge. Gracey is her family pet and Jody is interested in backpacking and therapy work and hiking. Jody wants to become more involved in the Berner community. She also knows Max Oettli and attended the club Berner Noel 2003. She is willing to attend meetings and to be a contact person for people who may have questions about Bernese. She is a first time owner and trains her dog in obedience.

Rick Strasle  
59 Ridge Rd.  
Evergreen, CO 80439  
303-674-7938

Rick is a Postman who recently adopted 2 Rescue dogs through the BMDRC. Rick had Hans, (M, 9/18/94) before. Rick has met Angela Hanson and Patti Morgan. He has only owned Bernese and wants to join for the love of Berners and for the comraderie and friendship of other dog owners.

Marie-France St.-Pierre &  
Michael Witowski  
18907 Briargate Ln., #2A  
Parker, CO 80134  
720-842-0492  
[marienpistache@yahoo.com](mailto:marienpistache@yahoo.com)  
[nebrsku@comcast.net](mailto:nebrsku@comcast.net)

Marie-France and Michael recently moved from California with their Bernese Mountain Dog Pistache, Best Bet's Cuddle With Me, (F, 4/11/02), from Linda Morton. They would like to join to meet other owners of Bernese in the area and their dogs too. They can help with activities and the newsletter, and they are interested in obedience, backpacking and drafting. They do basic obedience training with their dog now and have also owned a German Shepherd and a Shih Tsu in the past.

Address Change:

Eden Jonas  
2866 Sky Hawk Dr.  
Eau Claire, WI 54703-9141

# Ask Bernice



## The Berner Advice Column

*Dear Bernice,  
My owner wants to have me certified as a pet therapy dog so he can take me to restaurants, and so I can ride in a seat on the airplane with him when he travels. I hope I can have the window seat.  
High Flyer*

*Dear High Flyer,  
Nope, therapy certification doesn't work that way. If you and your handler pass therapy certification, you both will work as volunteers visiting patients in nursing homes or hospitals or maybe going to schools to be part of reading programs. Service dogs are the only dogs who are allowed in restaurants and in airplane cabins. They are there to assist their disabled owners. I hope they do get a peek out the window!  
Bernice*

**Deadline for submissions  
for the next newsletter is  
February 20!**

**Please send photos,  
stories, etc. to Jeanne at  
[stanwood@earthlink.net](mailto:stanwood@earthlink.net)**

## Wisconsin Specialty

The Wisconsin Specialty got off to a rough start when we lost our site at the fairgrounds but, as things go, this year will be bigger and better than ever! Many thanks to show chair Jane Haefner who has been an absolute tiger on this one.

For COMPLETE information go to [www.bmdcsew.org](http://www.bmdcsew.org) or page 45 of your December Alpenhorn.

Date: Friday, February 27 AND Saturday, February 28.

Place: Milwaukee Rampage Sports Complex (rubberized flooring), Ryan Rd., Franklin, WI

Secretary: Ms. Joan Kaml, 4480 N. 144th St., Brookfield, WI 53005. E-mail [twelveoaks5@juno.com](mailto:twelveoaks5@juno.com) Entires are \$25 for first entry, \$15 for second entry or sweeps. Junior showmanship is \$5 if entry is as additional entry.

Entries close February 11.

Judges: Breed (Friday) Mrs. Nancy Russell, (Saturday) Mrs. Deborah Wilkens.

No Sweeps on Friday. Sweeps Judge on Saturday, Ms. Gail Vogel.

Obedience:

Ms. Cynthia Pischke and Ms. Julianne Cepulis.

PLEASE NOTE! Electricity is limited!!!! And we are sharing this facility with Golden Retrievers and Norwegian Elkhounds.

A block of rooms has been reserved at Red Roof Inn 1-800-733-7663, double bed 1 person \$37.99, 2 people \$42.99. You must ay Bernese Mtn Dog Club Group number B031000517.

Cudahy KC show will be on Sunday in Kenosha WI.

We hope to see you there for a spectacular show!

Mary Alice Eschweiler, Shepherd's Patch, WI

## Participants needed for research project

We need more families of Bernese Mountain Dogs for our research projects.

To follow up on the article in the latest issue (November) of The AKC Gazette about genetics and the health of this breed

R = realize that there is a problem  
A = admit that there is a problem  
D = do something about it - like help these research projects.

Just a reminder that VetGen is still needing DNA samples from families of Bernese Mountain Dogs with dysplastic littermates.

Here the info about this research:

For several years we have been researching the genetic causes of Hip Dysplasia in Bernese Mountain Dogs and have made some progress in the area of Hip Dysplasia. To continue our progress in this research

we need to acquire more DNA samples as quickly as possible from Berners.

For our research we need families in which there are two or more siblings who have been diagnosed with hip dysplasia and are available for DNA sample collection. We need to collect DNA from the affected dogs, their parents, and a few unaffected

littermates as well. DNA is collected by means of small oral brush swabs which are simply swiped in the dog's mouth. We send out the number of swab kits requested and enclose instructions, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope for their return.

PARTICIPATION IS FREE AND COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.

If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Hogue at VetGen at either the number or e-mail listed below.

Cheryl Hogue  
Research Coordinator  
VetGen  
800-483-8436  
E-mail: [healthydog@vetgen.com](mailto:healthydog@vetgen.com)  
Website: [www.vetgen.com](http://www.vetgen.com)



## *old friends*

Blue Mountain Roxburgh's Bo Hansel

November 26, 1991 - September 28, 2003

— Willie Miller

Blue Moon St. Moritz

April 8, 1994 - March 21, 2003

— Jennifer Nicols

Both are sadly missed

# Pet Therapy

For the past eight years I have been doing pet therapy work in Colorado Springs, CO. I started out going with a group from an obedience club I was a member of at the time. For me doing group therapy visits just didn't seem to give me or my dog the time needed to visit with the patient. So six years ago I started to do therapy work at Pikes Peak Hospice, I really enjoy my visits at Hospice because it's a one on one visit so I can spend as much or as little time needed. At Hospice it's just me and my dog, I don't have to rush to see the next patient.

I was asked once how long is needed to spend in a patient's room, and the answer came very easy for me. The dog let's me know when it's time to move on. One of the hardest things I learned from doing therapy work is to watch the clues the dog gives you, I suppose it took me sometime before I learned from my dog what to watch for. Sometimes I will have one of my dogs show me that he or she wants to stay in a room with a patients for awhile, clues I will see is the dog will seem to be very comfortable and want to sit or lay next to the patient; I can always tell when one of my dogs is getting tired,

it's like they need a coffee break and I might get them a drink of water or just go outside for a short time, and come back and see more patient's. I can spend from one hour to four hours at Hospice each weeks, it will depend on the patient's and how long each visit will take. When we are done with the visit the dogs are very tired, it really does take a lot out of the dog, but with a little rest they are ready to start again.

I feel that each dog does therapy work different, and if you do therapy work with one or more dogs please know you must understand how each dog will work different. I am so lucky I have 4 dogs I can and do my therapy work with. Dante who is over ten years old is one of my first therapy dogs and he still loves the work, when I drive into the parking lot of Hospice Dante knows where we are and is so happy to be there. Everyone at Hospice knows who Dante is and it shows. This past year two of my dogs were asked to do grant presentation for Hospice and I am happy to say Dante and Ontos helped to raise \$6,500.00 for Hospice, what a great thing

these two dogs helped with.

I feel so lucky I can share my dogs with very ill people and bring a smile to their face and if it's only for a few minutes it can make a big difference in the patient's day. I have also found that if family members are in a patient's room when we visit it also helps them to get their minds off the problems of their loved ones. I will also tell you if I am having a bad day and I go to Hospice for Therapy visits I always coming out feeling great, it really makes you understand that your problems are nothing compared to what the patient's at Hospice are going through.

“Everyone at Hospice knows who Dante is and it shows.”

One other great thing I have been able to share at Hospice is when I have a litter of puppies they always go for a visit at Hospice, talk about a puppy bringing a smile to someone's face; a puppy sure does that.

If you need help in getting started in therapy work and have questions just give me a call or e-mail.

— Patti Morgan

## Heartland BMDC Draft Test

May 30 , Grinnell, Iowa

The Heartland BMDC Draft Test is planned for Sunday May 30, 2004 (pending BMDCA approval) at the Well-Mannered Dog Training Facility in Grinnell Iowa. This is the same site as our test last year. Deadline for entries is May 15, 2004, 5 pm. at the test Secretary's house.

The test is open to Bernese Mt. Dogs first, then any other AKC breed, per the new changes in BMDCA regulations. We may also offer other events the same weekend. Any suggestions?

Judges: Linda Thomas & Fay Benson

Jessica Briggie  
Test Chair

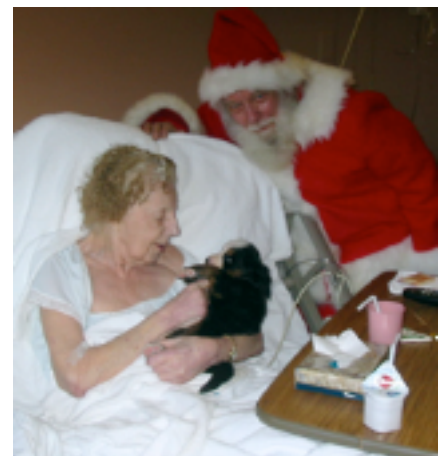
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Dawn Gabig,  
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[Gabig@prodigy.net](mailto:Gabig@prodigy.net)



For more information about pet therapy contact Delta Society, [www.deltasociety.org](http://www.deltasociety.org). Denver Pet Partners is the local chapter, [www.denverpetpartners.org](http://www.denverpetpartners.org), and Dianna McQuarrie is the coordinator, [info@denverpetpartners.org](mailto:info@denverpetpartners.org).

The Denver Pet Partners Delta group is very active, has a variety of places to place teams, provides great support, and runs classes and evaluations several times a year. Or Therapy Dog International, [www.tdi-dog.org](http://www.tdi-dog.org), for information about their programs.



## Happy faces at Berner Noel 2003

### BMDCR Club Information

#### Meetings

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Rockies holds regular meetings on the fourth Sunday of January, March, September and November, unless members are otherwise notified. There is an educational program followed by a business meeting. All programs begin at 2:00 p.m., and the business meeting about an hour later. Location of meetings will be announced each newsletter. Do not bring dogs to these meetings.

In the even-numbered months we will offer a club activity that includes dogs – e.g. the Bernerfiesta, Berner hike, draft clinic, herding instinct certification test, Berner Noel, etc. The starting times and locations of these events will vary, depending on the activity. Please mark your calendars to reserve these dates for 2002. There may also be additional events – club-sponsored fun matches, club fund-raising activities, our supported entry or regional specialty, breeders showcases, or other all-breed events open to Berners – held at other times during the course of the year. You will be notified of these events through the newsletter.

#### Newsletter/Subscriptions

We welcome articles written by members on any topic of interest to Berner fanciers. We also reprint uncopyrighted articles from other publications – such as the Alpenhorn, other regional club newsletters, the AKC Gazette, and other dog club newsletters – as space permits.

The newsletter is sent free of charge to all BMDCR members in good standing and to other regional Berner clubs that send us their newsletters. Newsletter subscriptions are available to non-members for \$25.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to BMDCR and sent to Stacy Temples, PO Box 2490, Ft. Collins, CO 80522-2490. Club members' name and/or mailing address changes should also be submitted to Stacy.

#### Litter Box Policy

BMDCR voting members who have paid the annual \$5.00 Breeder Referral Service fee will be entitled to free Litter Box advertising (for one or more litters) for the entire calendar year. Sustaining members may participate in the BR program if they are sponsored by 2 voting members who also have paid the Breeder Referral fee.

#### Rules for Listing a Litter

Litter must come from a member breeder or stud owner in good standing with the BMDCR who has paid the designated fee. The litter must be registrable with the AKC. Litter parents must have had hips and elbows x-rayed and submitted to the OFA, GDC, OVC or other recognized registry. Dams must be over 18 months of age. Litter owner must provide a 4-generation pedigree to buyers. Puppies must be sold with a health guarantee subject to veterinary exam within 48 hours of sale. Litter owner must have a complete entry in Berner-Garde by the time the litter is 12 months old.

At the September 22, 1991 general meeting, our club voted to follow the format used by the BMDCA for all Litter Box advertising in our newsletter. All ads must be limited to the following information: Sire, Dam, Whelping Date, and Breeder's name, address, and telephone number. In addition, "The only acceptable reference to joint conformation in Litter Box announcements are GDC, OFA, OVC numbers for hips and elbows, including the letter rating and age in months at evaluation. The statement, 'elbows negative for dysplasia,' appearing on OFA certificates issued before institution of the OFA elbow registry, may be used." (October 1991 Alpenhorn) BMDCR Breeder Referral guidelines were modified by vote of the General members on November 18, 2001.

#### Classified Advertising/Display Advertising

The BMDCR newsletter accepts classified ads. This is the perfect opportunity to get rid of that used dog equipment cluttering up your garage, publicize dog-related services, or sell Berner arts and crafts items. Classified advertising should be sent to the newsletter editor. There will be a charge of 10 cents per word. A check for the required amount, payable to BMDCR, should be included with your ad copy. Display advertising will be handled by the editor. All display ads should be sent directly to the editor. Rates are as follows: Full Page: \$25, Half Page: \$15 (these include use of one photo; additional photos will cost \$10 each), 1/4 Page: \$10, Business Card: \$5 (these are no-photo ads). Camera ready ads subtract 25%. Include a check payable to BMDCR with your ad copy.

#### Submission Deadlines for Publication

The BMDCR newsletter is published bi-monthly. All articles, reports, and ads must be received by the editor as follows: the 20th day of February, April, June, August, and December for the next months issue.

BMDCR  
Jeanne Stanwood  
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Castle Rock, CO 80109