



Mountain Dog MESSENGER

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

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- Lots of good stuff!

**Next Meeting:
Sun, March 25**

**Board Meeting -
11:30 AM**

**General Meeting -
1:00 PM**

The BMDCR Constitution and By-Laws are under revision and are to be voted on at the March 25th meeting. The proposed changes as well as explanations on why the changes are being made are included with this newsletter so that you can review prior to the meeting. The by-laws changes are the last task to be done in order to be issued AKC licensure so please come to the meeting to discuss and vote on these changes.

Elizabeth Publitz

**'Ideas for Pet-Friendly
Gardens and Lawns' -
2:00pm**

At Laura and Al's house
(for directions see bottom of page 2)

Testing, CHIC, and the Superior Breeder

By Phil Shaffer

As demand for Berners grows and puppy mills flourish the question arises: How do superior breeders distinguish themselves from the second rate? As the breeder referral contact for our club I am challenged with this problem every week. As obvious as good breeding practices may be to many of us there is a lot of confusion amongst typical puppy buyers and the puppy mills like to keep it that way. Fortunately, there is now an objective, authoritative, and documented, solution - CHIC, The Canine Health Information Center. Jointly sponsored by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) and the AKC/Canine Health Foundation, CHIC is an easily accessible, web based database of health test results.

It works like this. The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) established five recommended health tests that all Berner breeders should conduct on their dogs, these dogs must also have an AKC DNA profile number and the results, clear or affected, must be made public via the database. The tests are:

Hip Dysplasia:	OFA evaluation, OVC evaluation, or GDC evaluation
Elbow Dysplasia:	OFA evaluation, OVC evaluation, GDC evaluation
Eye Clearance:	CERF evaluation
von Willebrand's Disease:	OFA Evaluation from VetGen
Congenital Cardiac Database:	OFA evaluation with exam by cardiologist

Once all five tests are done, regardless of results, the dog gets a CHIC number. The CHIC number does not imply normal test results, only that all the tests were performed and the results made publicly available. In fact, a CHIC number could be issued with all tests being abnormal. This information, whether it be the clear results or affected results from any given test, is a must for the breeder and buyer alike to make educated breeding and buying decisions. Having no results from these recommended tests does not allow for good breeding decisions to be made. A CHIC report is issued at the same time as the CHIC number. The CHIC report is a listing of the age of the dog when the tests were done and the test results. CHIC reports are available for free at www.caninehealthinfo.org. Just follow the "search CHIC" link. For dogs with some but not all of the tests completed results are still available at the OFA's web site. See www.offa.org/search.html.

So how does this help the superior breeder? Puppy mills and back yard breeders rarely perform these important tests and by educating puppy buyers about CHIC good breeders create a clear, easily grasped benchmark. The CHIC number and the test results are objective. Every breeder, good and bad alike, will say their breeding stock is sound but the CHIC test results are not opinion – they're fact. The tests are also authoritative. They are not the tests that you, I, or some puppy mill say should be done,
Continued on page 2

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of The Rockies

Officers

President Valerie Horney
Vice President Lou Tucker
Treasurer Sara Karl
Secretary Sharon Keefer

Directors

Gail Brooks
Dr. Laura Haupenthal
Ann Rutherford
Elaine Witulski
Nadja Torling

Newsletter Submissions

Dottie Schulte
1943 Montview Drive
Greeley, CO 80631
dotties911@aol.com

Membership Applications

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

Meetings

Unless members are otherwise notified, meetings are held on the fourth Sunday of January, March, May, July, September and November at Laura and Al's house at 5614 S. Ivy Ct. in Greenwood Village. Board Meetings start at 11:30 AM and the General Meetings start at 1 PM. From I-25 North or South, exit on Orchard Rd. Go west about one mile and turn right onto E. Orchard Drive. Take the third right onto S. Ivy St. which turns into S. Ivy Ct. 5614 S. Ivy Ct. is the tan house at the end of the street.

Continued from page 1

they have been selected by the BMDCA and endorsed by the AKC and the OFA. Furthermore they are conducted by respected independent organizations or veterinary specialists. Lastly, the results are documented and released to the public at no charge regardless of the result. By getting a CHIC number on all breeding dogs a Berner breeder makes a bold statement of superior knowledge that is easily grasped by the typical puppy buyer. Knowledge is powerful. However, ideally only dogs that have cleared all the tests are the only ones that will be bred.

Sign up for the BMDCR Furry Scurry Team!

As always the BMDCR will have a team entry for the Dumb Friends League Furry Scurry. This is a two mile walk for you and your dog around Denver's Washington Park on Saturday, May 5.



This fund raiser helps the DDFL care for as many as 25,000 homeless animals every year. Enjoy refreshments, activities and shop for pet-friendly merchandise.

Go to www.ddfl.org for complete information. You can sign up on line (look for the BMDCR team) or contact Phil Shaffer at 303-526-1365 or pshaffer@bmd.org for more information.

BMDCA Draft Test

Hosted by the BMDCR • Saturday, March 31
Chatfield State Park, Littleton Colorado

Closing date: 3/14/07.

Judges:

Linda Thomas and Jim Maxwell

Draft Chairperson:

Sharon Keefer
(JoyfulBMD@comcast.net)

Draft Secretary:

Vicky Hall
(ravhall@aol.com).



Meeting Minutes - January 28, 2007

General Meeting Minutes January 28, 2007

The regular meeting of the BMDCR Board was called to order at 12:25 pm on January 28, 2007 at Le Central restaurant in Denver.

Present: 22 voting members (a quorum), 5 sustaining members, and 2 guests.

Approval of Minutes: Laura Haupenthal moved to approve the minutes of the November meeting as published in the January/February 2007 newsletter. Elaine Witulski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report: Sharon Keefer reported plans for upcoming programs to follow general meetings. Topics planned are (1) Tracking; and (2) Legal Issues related to Breeding, Buying and Owning a Bernese Mountain Dog.

Treasurer's Report: Sara Karl reported positive balances in all club accounts.

Draft Test Committee Report: Val Horney reminded all of the upcoming Spring Draft Test on Saturday, March 31, 2007. The Premium List is available on the BMDCR website (www.bmd.org). Val also reminded everyone of the Animal Communication seminar on the next day, Sunday, April 1st. Contact Val to sign up for this seminar.

Rescue Committee Report: Patti Morgan announced that BMDCR Rescue booth space at the Colorado Family Pet Expo on March 10-11 at the Colorado Convention Center. Volunteers to work in the booth are needed – please contact Patti.

Regional Specialty Committee Report: Dottie Schulte reported that Sharon Keefer has created an ad for the Regional Specialty that will be published in the catalog at the BMDCA National Specialty in May. All of the judges for the Regional are committed except Rally, which Dottie is working on. BMDCR will host a Fall Draft Test on Thursday, September 6th, the day before the Regional, at Bittersweet Park in Greeley. Ron Abbott will be Draft Test Chairman. A Secretary is needed. Fall Draft Test judges will be Patti Morgan and Kathy Vasquez.

Newsletter: Dottie asked that newsletter items be submitted digitally to her or co-editor Nadja Torling.

Membership Committee Report: Stacy Temples reported that Candace Munsinger had applied for sustaining membership, as listed in the last newsletter. Candace's membership was approved by vote of the membership present.

Unfinished Business: Sara Karl reported that under our AKC licensing status, BMDCR will be able to receive the newsletter by e-mail or paper-mail. The dues (or newsletter subscription only) annual form must be paper mailed, though BMDCR can choose the method for future dues renewal announcements.

New Business: Two advertisements for the BMDCA National Specialty catalog were proposed – one for our Regional Specialty and one for BMDCR to appear in the special section for regional clubs. The ads cost \$55 each. Dottie Schulte moved to pay \$110 and submit both ads; Nadja Torling seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Nancy Fuselier reminded all of the Eye Certification and Heartworm Clinic on Saturday, February 24. Contact Nancy to sign up.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 pm and the BMDCR Annual Awards Banquet began at that time. Minutes submitted by Sharon Keefer.

Board Meeting Minutes January 28, 2007

The board meeting called to order at 2:05 pm on January 28, 2007.

Present: Laura Haupenthal, Valerie Horney, Sara Karl, Phil Shaffer, Gayle Brooks, Nadja Torling, Elaine Witulski and Lou Tucker and Sharon Keefer.

Approval of Minutes: Laura Haupenthal moved to approve the minutes of the November meeting as published in the January/February 2007 newsletter. Nadja Torling seconded the motion. Motion passed.

BMDCR Sponsored Program

Ever stared into your pet's eyes and wonder what they are thinking? Or what they would think if you brought a new brother or sister home to them?

If so, come to visit with animal communicator Linda Thomas at a BMDCR sponsored program to get a better understanding of what is on your pet's mind.

Sunday April 1, 2007

Educational Program 10 AM—11:30 AM

Consultations starting at noon

Program: \$10

Consultations: 15 minutes: \$40
30 minutes: \$55

Consultations must be scheduled and both program and consultations must be prepaid. They may be done either in person or per telephone. Your pet does not need to be present. Contact Valerie Horney (303) 903-5685 to register for the program and to arrange for a consult time. Deadline for both is March 14th.

*to learn more about Linda prior to the program visit her website ispeakanimal.com.

2007 Awards Banquet

The BMDCR annual awards banquet was held on January 28th at Le Central in Denver. Club members celebrated their accomplishments of 2006 by dining on French cuisine. Owners took home doggie biscuits so their four legged companions could feel honored as well.

Human Sharon Keefer was given the Kathy Roth award. Her nomination noted her commitment to the breed, her willingness to do any task without complaint and always with a smile and listed the many contributions she has made to the BMDCR.

Thank you to Nadja Torling for arranging for the banquet site, for organizing the event and for publishing the booklet of all the dogs honored, to Lou Tucker for the human table favors and to Dottie Schulte and Fidoughs for donating the doggie biscuits.

Dogs honored for their accomplishments were listed in the last newsletter. Two additional dogs earned titles in 2006:

Spring's Lady Molly CD, NDD, CGC, UKC-CD
Owned by Nancy Fusilier
8/06 Rally Novice
10/06 Companion Dog Excellent



Prairiefire's Celestial Wind
Owned by Sharon and Mark Johnson
8/18/06 Champion



Club members enjoy a fabulous French meal as they celebrate the accomplishments of their dogs during the year 2006.



Sharon Keefer, accepts the Kathy Roth award, being recognized for her commitment to the betterment of the BMD and for all that she has done for the BMDCR. . . and for always doing everything with a positive attitude and a smile.

Foster Homes Needed

We have quite an active rescue program, unfortunately. Patti has previously been keeping the rescues at her house and we have had little need for use of our foster homes. Thank You Patti! She is now unable to do so on a regular basis and we do not want the dogs to be left in a kennel run type situation if we can avoid it. Most dogs would do best in amore personalized setting.

Currently we need an active list of members that can foster a rescue until their permanent home can be found. It is of course a bit of a pain but we need all the help you can give to get these dogs on the road to a happy ending. If you think you would be able to foster a rescue dog please contact me as soon as possible so that I can start a list of people that we may utilize in the future. Thank you all for your help and dedication to the berners who did not get a good start in life.

Valerie Horney
valhorney@comcast.net

2007 Rocky Mountain Cluster

Club members visited, primed their pets and judged during the four day Rocky Mountain Cluster held in Denver in February. . .and then there were those dogs who just came to hang out.



After placing first in her rally advanced class, Lina shows off her obedience talents as she and owner Nadja Torling wait for the photographer to take their award winning photo.



Baron enjoys being dried by Patti Morgan.



Marshall and Valerie Horney getting ready for the show ring.



Bob Persons puts the final touch on a beautiful coat.

BMDCR Membership Column - March/April 2007

Stacy Temples

Please welcome our new Sustaining member:

Candice Munsinger
6172 S. Lima Way,
Englewood, CO 80111
Ph.# (720) 339-9622
(E) crand@interfold.com

New Voting Member Applicants:

Pam & Barry Solomon have been club members since March 2001. They own 2 Wagontale dogs and they train and show in conformation, drafting, obedience, and rally. They are applying to become Voting members now and they want to become more active in the club. Their sponsors are Nadja Torling and Valerie Horney.

New Sustaining Member Applicants:

Andrea & Scott Kawulok
204 E. Colorado Avenue
Berthoud, CO 80513
Ph.# (970) 532-4329, (303) 641-2034.
(E) BirthAtHome@hotmail.com,
(E) christophersk@yahoo.com.

Andrea is a Midwife and Nonprofit Coordinator. Scott is a Project Coordinator. They are aspiring Berner owners and they want to learn more about them. They are interested in health issues and backpacking. They heard about the club through the internet and in the past they have owned a St. Bernard, a Yorkie, a West Highland Terrier, Labs,

and a Beagle. They train their dogs in general obedience, and have never bred a litter.

Change of Address:
Susan VanDeMark
owner of "BARCs Happy To Be Emily"
2 1/2 years old

mailing address:
PO Box 368
Buffalo Creek, CO 80425
Phone: (303) 838-7095

physical address:
23893 Logan Ave.

EVENTS

Colorado Family Pet Expo
March 10 and 11
Colorado Convention Center
Saturday 9 AM - 7 PM
Sunday 9 AM - 5 PM
Competition demos, helpful
seminars, canine related vendors
BMDCR rescue will have a booth so
stop by for a visit

Terry-All Kennel Club
All breed conformation and
obedience trial
April 14 and 15
Superintendent Onofrio Dog Shows
www.onofrio.com

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of
America
National Specialty Show
Conformation, Obedience, Rally,
Herding, Draft, Tracking
May 7 through May 12
Louisville, Kentucky
www.bmdca.org/specialty/2007



Excerpts from a dog's diary:

8:00 am - Dog food! My favorite thing!
9:30 am - A car ride! My favorite thing!
9:40 am - A walk in the park! My favorite thing!
10:30 am - Got rubbed and petted! My favorite thing!
12:00 PM - Lunch! My favorite thing!
1:00 PM - Played in the yard! My favorite thing!
3:00 PM - Wagged my tail! My favorite thing!
5:00 PM - Milk bones! My favorite thing!
7:00 PM - Got to play ball! My favorite thing!
8:00 PM - Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favorite thing!
11:00 PM - Sleeping on the bed! My favorite thing!

Excerpts from a cat's diary:

Day 683 of my captivity.

My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat while the other inmates and I are fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for the rations perfectly clear, I nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength.

The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the floor.

Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear into their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates what I am capable of. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a "good little hunter" I am. The audacity!

There was some sort of assembly of their accomplices tonight. I was placed in solitary confinement for the duration of the event. However, I could hear the noises and smell the food. I overheard that my confinement was due to the power of "allergies." I must learn what this means, and how to use it to my advantage.

Today I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my tormentors by weaving around his feet as he was walking. I must try! this again tomorrow - but at the top of the stairs.

I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges. He is regularly released - and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously drugged and brain-washed!

The bird has got to be an informant. I observe him communicating with the guards regularly. I am certain that he reports my every move. My captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is safe... for now.

SHOW REPORT by Valerie Horney

Plum Creek Kennel Club

February 16, 2007

WD/BW Best Puppy Prairiefire's Prophecy V Jenda "Prada", owned by Charli Nicholas

RWD Raabhaus Outlaw Deputy CDX "Nakota", owned by Martine Savageau & Molly Rae Hess

WB Outlaw's Calamity Jane, "Callie" owned by Martine Savageau

RWB Blumoons Cuervo Gold "Rita", owned by Christine Mann

BB CH Adesa's And The Beat Goes On "Bono", owned by Ann & Bill Daily, Bill & Bobbi Blewitt

Group 4

OS CH Prairiefire's Time To Shine CD, owned by Patty & Frank Jakos & Sharon Johnson

Qual Score Nov B CH Marben's Tuckernuck Belle "Tucker", Bob & Mary Ann Persons, 178.0

Qual Score Rally Nov B Triad's Marching Tuba "Tuba", owned by Cindy & Robert Still 96.0

Qual Score Rally Advanced B CH Rogel's Many Stars of Nighttime RN NA OAP OAJ "Kylie" owned by Angela & Kirk Hanson
95.0

February 17, 2007

WD/BW Kinvarra's Black Diamond, owned by Sandra Kemper and Pat Hughes

RWD Summit's Lord Greystoke v Loriendell, owned by Richard File & Sandy Dunaway

WB Blumoons Cuervo Gold "Rita", owned by Christine Mann

RWB Sandpiper a Legacy of Wagontale, owned by Stacy Temples & Howard Ramsdell

Best Bred By

BB Prairiefire's It's Showtime "Po", owned by Sharon Johnson

From the Veterans Class

OS CH Prairiefire's Time To Shine CD, owned by Patty & Frank Jakos & Sharon Johnson

Qual Score Rally Nov B Triad's Marching Tuba "Tuba", owned by Cindy & Robert Still 96.0

Qual Score Rally Adv A Wagontale's Lilla Labolina RN "Lina", owned by Nadja Torling & Ryan Johnson & Stacy Temples 94.0
First Place

Colorado Kennel Club

February 18, 2007

WD/BW Kinvarra's Black Diamond, owned by Sandra Kemper and Pat Hughes

RWD Raabhaus Outlaw Deputy CDX "Nakota", owned by Martine Savageau & Molly Rae Hess

WB Kaibab's Bright Angel CD "Halo", owned by Mary-Ann Bowman

New Champion

RWB Blumoons Cuervo Gold "Rita", owned by Christine Mann

BB CH Adesa's And The Beat Goes On "Bono", owned by Ann & Bill Daily, Bill & Bobbi Blewitt

OS CH Lorien Dell's York Peppermint Patty "Patty", Elaine Sheridan & Lynn & George Wood

Best Owner Handled CH Ebnet's Hired Gun From Zanzebern "Marshall" owned by Valerie Horney

Qual Score Nov A Wagontale Henry's Happy Hour "Henry", owned by Nadja Torling & Ryan Johnson 191.0
First Place

Qual Score Rally Nov B Triad's Marching Tuba "Tuba", owned by Cindy & Robert Still 100.0

First Place New Rally Novice Title

Qual Score Summit's Joy of the Rockies CD "Rocky", owned by Matt & Robin Hall, 94.0

February 19, 2007

WD/BW Kinvarra's Black Diamond, owned by Sandra Kemper and Pat Hughes

RWD Prairiefire's Prophecy V Jenda "Prada", owned by Charli Nicholas

WB Firstrax Tanzanight "Tansy" owned by Sharon Montville & Sara Karl

RWB Outlaw's Calamity Jane, "Callie" owned by Martine Savageau

BB CH Adesa's And The Beat Goes On "Bono", owned by Ann & Bill Daily, Bill & Bobbi Blewitt

Group 3

OS CH Lorien Dell's York Peppermint Patty "Patty", Elaine Sheridan & Lynn & George Wood

Qual Score Nov A Wagontale Henry's Happy Hour "Henry", owned by Nadja Torling & Ryan Johnson 181.5
Second Place

Qual Score Rally Advanced B CH Rogel's Many Stars of Nighttime RN NA OAP OAJ "Kylie" owned by Angela & Kirk Hanson
98.0 Third Place



Duce with her 11 puppies, born during the December 21st blizzard. There are 10 girls and 1 boy in the litter. Dad is Hero. Bred by Lynn Wood, owned by Bridget Pfeiffer.

BMDCR Club Information

Meetings

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Rockies holds regular meetings on the fourth Sunday of January, March, May, July, September and November, unless members are otherwise notified. The board meetings take place at 11:30 followed by the general meeting at 1:00 followed by the program at 2:00 if scheduled. Location of meetings will be announced each newsletter. 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.

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. 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. 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.

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.