

# Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Ontario

## Code of Ethics

Membership in the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Ontario must represent a commitment to upholding and promoting the highest standards of ethical practices both as described herein, and where this Code omits, as good faith and good conscience should dictate.

The Club as a body shall provide a forum for members to voice concerns, queries, complaints or thanks and a system, where appropriate, for disciplinary action.

Submissions for revision to the code of ethics shall be accepted at any time and the code will be reviewed and voted on annually by the general membership.

In keeping with my dedication to the betterment of the Bernese Mountain Dog breed, I herewith pledge to maintain the following practices:

AS AN INDIVIDUAL with a special interest in the breed, I should hold as my first priority the welfare of all animals in my care and resolve to maintain personal contact with my animals and ensure they are kept in good condition.

AS A MEMBER I resolve to abide by the Constitution, By-laws and standards as set down by the Club and always to conduct myself in a manner that will be beneficial to the Club, the breed, and its image.

Among the Club's stated purposes is to provide a forum for its members to share ideas and information and to better educate themselves. To this end, as a member I should actively seek to learn and to share my knowledge with other members, recognizing that continual broadening of all members' knowledge can only benefit our breed.

AS A MEMBER I resolve to:

1. Support the Club in its endeavours.
2. Where appropriate, actively promote responsible and ethical training, breeding, selling and stewardship of dogs.
3. Employ and promote only humane techniques in the handling and training of dogs.
4. Discourage and reject gratuitous or non-instructive physical or psychological punishment of dogs, instead use humane, instructive means of communication with dogs.
5. Discourage and reject inhumane or unkind physical or psychological treatment of dogs (as distinct from punishment in Article 4).
6. Represent the Club in good faith, while refraining from public or private promotion or endorsement of any product or service in the name of the Club without the expressed written consent of the Officers of the Club as directed by the membership.
7. Maintain a spirit of co-operation with other members and refrain from criticizing members in public or to clients. I will not defame other Club members.
8. Consider and protect the interests of the Club and its members.
9. Act within all local laws.

AS A BREEDER I resolve to devote my efforts to the improvement of the breed, by maintaining high standards of temperament, physical soundness and conformity to the Canadian breed standard in my breeding stock and by insisting that the stud dogs I use are of the same high standard. To this end, I shall:

1. Maintain the best possible standards of health and care in my kennels.
2. Refuse to use for breeding purposes and refuse stud service to any bitch I consider in poor health, of unsound temperament, or otherwise of poor quality.
3. X-ray for hip dysplasia and exclude from my breeding programs those dogs with unsound hips. Any evidence of hip dysplasia is, at best, a serious fault.
4. Refrain from breeding a bitch until she is at least 18 months old, preferably two years old and from breeding her on two or more consecutive heats (more than once per year). Seek veterinary approval for all exceptional cases.
5. Refuse to knowingly support or promote, whether by advice or referral or transaction or financial contribution with unethical breeders and any dog wholesalers or retailers. I will also refuse to deal with any buyer where I have reason to believe that the puppy or dog will not be properly cared for.
6. Keep and pass on to buyers of puppies or adult dogs, accurate health, breeding, registration and pedigree records.
7. Deliver only puppies or adult dogs of sound health and temperament and to urge all buyers to have a puppy or adult dog sold by me examined by a competent veterinarian within forty-eight hours.

8. Discuss with all prospective buyers their expectations in a puppy or dog using the general categories of show and/or breeding quality and pet quality. Rate the animal for the buyer to the best of my knowledge and skill at the time of sale, giving full and frank disclosure of any faults which the animal may have or which are known to be in its immediate family background. Provide written guarantee for all animals with acceptable provision for refund or replacement.
9. Provide a CKC non-breeding contract to be signed by the buyer and myself; preferably for all puppies and always for all pet quality animals.
10. Keep in touch with the process of dogs of my breeding in order to better analyze my program and to monitor the welfare of the dogs.

I understand that serious infractions of the above code, where they are deemed detrimental to the breed or individual dog, or another club member, may result in expulsion from the Club.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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(2nd signature required for double membership)

NOTE: A copy of this signed code must accompany any application for membership in the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Ontario