

# **THREE RIVERS BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB, Inc.**

## ***CODE OF ETHICS***

The Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club, in keeping with its aims of breeding the best possible dogs while preserving their unique beauty and character and of promoting the best possible care and training of these dogs, adopts the following code:

1. Breeders will strive for perfection of the Bernese Mountain Dog in accordance with the official standard set forth by the American Kennel Club and devote breeding efforts to the improvement of the breed by adhering to the breed standard. In this regard they will:
  - a. Maintain high standards of health and care for their dogs.
  - b. Use only physically and temperamentally sound stock and refuse stud service to any bitch that is unregisterable or shows obvious defects. Study and learn the good and bad points within their own stock, never doubling up on a known or visible fault.
  - c. X-ray for evidence of hip dysplasia at age of two years or older, treating mild cases as any other fault, and excluding from breeding programs any dogs with more severe evidence of hip dysplasia.
  - d. Refrain from breeding a bitch until her second season, preferably waiting to at least 18 months of age. A bitch shall be bred no more than two out of three seasons, depending on the size of the litter whelped and her condition. It is suggested that in most cases a period of one-year lapse between litters.
2. Breeders will not sell adults or puppies to any know retail or wholesale pet outlet or broker. Breeders will not place or sell Bernese Mountain Dogs to individuals with whom there has been no direct (written, telephone, or face to face) contact. Breeders will interview prospective buyers to assure themselves that the dog will be placed in a healthy environment.
3. Breeders will not sell stock without true representation to the purchaser nor use misleading or untruthful statements in selling or advertising. Breeders will discuss buyers' expectations in a puppy or dog and rate the animal for the buyer to the best of their knowledge and skill at the time of the sale.
4. A buyer should be supplied with a four-generation pedigree, with information on inoculations and other veterinary care that the dog has had, and with instructions on the care, feeding, and training of the Bernese Mountain Dog.
5. Breeders will guarantee the health of their stock subject to a veterinarian's examination within 48 hours of sale.
6. Breeders will accept placement responsibility for the offspring produced for the dog's entire life.
7. Breeders will keep in touch with the progress of dogs of their breeding in orders to better analyze their own program.
8. Members will at all times exhibit good sportsmanship at all events related to the Club and dog shows.
9. Members will not degrade any other member or kennel.
10. Members will conduct their business dealings in an ethical, honest, and straight-forward manner.

11. Members will share knowledge with other members, support, work at, and/or participate in Club functions, and support the Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club in its endeavors.

In applying for membership in the Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club, I agree to comply with all the American Kennel Club rules and regulations and the Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Constitution, By-Laws, and Code of Ethics. I understand that serious infraction of the above code, where it is deemed detrimental to the breed or individual dog, may result in expulsion from Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_