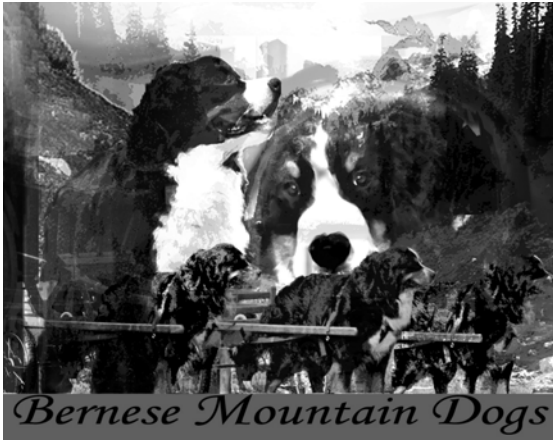


# Berner Handbook



The Berner Handbook was created for puppy buyers, new owners and breeders. **Read** - tips for puppy shoppers; learn about care & training of Berner puppies and adult Bernese Mountain Dogs.

## INTRODUCTION

Bernese Mountain Dogs are strikingly beautiful, tri-colored, large, working dogs and companion animals. The breed's reputation for possessing a pleasant disposition, a gentle, reliable character and their adaptability is attractive to a steadily increasing number of pet owners who are searching for an ideal companion dog.

Not so long ago Bernese Mountain Dogs were a relatively rare breed. Berners were kept by owners who understood the essence of the breed and could provide an environment in which the dogs thrived. The dogs lived on farms and in rural settings serving as watch dogs, multi-purpose farm dogs and as farmers' companions. Times have changed. Many Berners are no longer working farm dogs or the well kept secret of a few knowledgeable owners and conscientious breeders who carefully produced and placed puppies.

**THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG WAS DEVELOPED AS A COMPANION DOG.  
THE BREED DOES BEST WHEN INTEGRATED INTO A FAMILY'S HOME AND LIFESTYLE.**

Before getting a Bernese ask yourself if you have a dog friendly lifestyle and are willing to spend quality time with your Berner so he or she has the best chance of remaining physically fit and content in your situation. Berners want to be where their people are. Any dog isolated from people and companionship will become bored and stressed. Many destructive, neurotic behaviors are a result of boredom and lack of exercise.

When considering whether a Bernese Mountain Dog is a good choice for you, take into account that you will need to spend time teaching the dog manners and self control beginning at a young age so the dog acts appropriately at home and in public when the dog is grown. Where you live will determine to some extent what types of activities you can provide for your dog. Berner owners should realize that in the past Bernese served as working farm dogs which provided the dogs with a stimulating environment. You may not live on a farm, but what will matter the most to your Bernese is how you manage your dog in your particular situation with the goal to maintain a workable and mutually rewarding relationship.

## COST

### The Real Costs of a Puppy

The initial cost involved in obtaining a Bernese depends on from whom or where you buy your dog.

► Prices for Bernese Mountain Dog puppies range from around one thousand dollars upwards to several thousand dollars. In today's market expect to pay \$1500.00 - \$2000.00 for a well-bred pup.



**DON'T FALL FOR SLICK SALES PITCHES or GET RIPPED OFF BY PROFITEERS or PET STORES** that charge puppy buyers the same price for Berner pups as conscientious breeders charge! Pet stores cater to impulsive puppy buyers.

For more information on the pitfalls of purchasing a puppy from a Pet Store or profiteers please see [http://www.stoppuppymills.org/puppy\\_buying\\_tips.html](http://www.stoppuppymills.org/puppy_buying_tips.html). Price is not necessarily a reflection of quality nor does it reflect the upfront and ongoing services offered by a breeder you might think are essential at the time of purchase or those you could potentially desire later.

► Purchase cost is only a small portion of what it will cost you to maintain your Berner from day to day. Think about how much disposable income you have to spend on dog food. Add costs for training classes and routine veterinary care. Does the disposable income you plan to use for your dog affect other things you might want to do with your family or children, like vacations or providing your child with unique enrichment activities?

► Would it be important to you in determining that you could afford to care for a Berner if your dog developed a catastrophic illness or was affected by an inherited condition that required a lifetime of medications or an expensive medical procedure? Some medications and dietary supplements for a dog of this size can run into several thousand dollars a year. If your dog had allergies or a medical condition that could be managed through feeding a 'prescription diet' ask yourself, is the extra expense to purchase a special formula dog food doable? Prescription diet feeds could add \$10.00 or more dollars to the cost of food per month.

► When considering costs, ask yourself whether the breeder of your dog has done everything possible to provide you with a pup that has the

best chance of living a life free from debilitating illness. Then ask yourself how you will handle unplanned for expenses that might arise in relationship to owning a Bernese, because that possibility exists. Pet insurance might be worth looking into.

Normal First Year Costs For owners

Food \$200 - \$1200	He's scratching! \$25 - \$500	Toys (trust us) \$50 - \$500
Veterinary care:	License, AKC, local, microchip \$50	Replacement for chewed rug/chair/etc \$?
Checkups and vaccines \$150 - \$250	Obedience class \$75	New vacuum \$150 - ?
Fleas, heartworm preventives \$80	Supplies: \$150 - \$500	Better air conditioning/more servicing \$?
Neuter/spay \$80 - \$250	Dog bowls, leash, collars, unused dog bed,	New car for big dogs \$?
Oh no, he's limping! \$25 - \$800	baby gate, etc	New house with bigger yard \$?
	Lawn plant replacement?	Fencing \$200-\$5000

## EXERCISE

A common question puppy buyers ask is, how much exercise do Bernese need? Answer: Depends on the Berner. Several on leash walks per day or at least two 15 to 30 minute off leash play periods will provide most adult Bernese with an outlet for their energy. For some this would not be adequate. Striking a balance between your lifestyle and schedule and the activity requirements of your dog at various stages of development is challenging to some owners. Bernese can be quite active and energetic, but they are not likely to self exercise adequately in a yard alone. Some Berners are happiest when resting and need encouragement to get moving! By providing a Bernese with exercise that meets his or her needs owners can expect to have a calmer, contented, healthier house pet. Playing "Go fetch" is a great activity for some breeds of dogs - not so with most Berners. A typical Berner might chase a ball a couple of times, stand over the object and look at the owner who threw it as if to say "See, I saw, I followed, I found it and aren't I smart!". No further action required! What about exercising with other dogs? Often owners believe another dog will serve as an exercise companion. Some dogs play well together, but some do not. Dogs roughhousing and playing together can be a great form of enjoyment and exercise. But supervision is required to prevent overly excited and exuberant dog pals from hurting each other.

## DO BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS SHED? THEY SHED A LOT!!!!

IT IS TRUE. ALL this hair came from one 85# Berner!



Berners are a double coated breed; they have an undercoat and topcoat. Combine their large size (80-110 pounds average) with an abundance of thick, long hair. Then try to imagine just how much coat a Berner carries and what it will be like when the hair isn't on the dog anymore and is floating around all over your home. If you are looking for a dog that does not shed a Berner is not for you.

**BERNESE ARE BIG HAIRY DOGS!!!! THEY SHED!  
THEY SHED ALL THE TIME!!!!**

▶ Ask yourself if you have time to spend grooming your dog to keep hair in your home under control. See more on grooming at [http://www.bmdca.org/info\\_sheets/grooming.pdf](http://www.bmdca.org/info_sheets/grooming.pdf). A heavy seasonal shedding occurs once or twice a year. Even with consistent grooming there are times when 'Bernerfur' is an unavoidable fact of life. It gets on your floors, on furniture and it can even get in your food.

If you don't have time, the strength or facilities and equipment needed to groom the dog yourself, be advised; professional grooming services for big hairy dogs can cost \$100.00 or more per session.

▶ Ask yourself if allergies to hair might be a problem for your friends or any member of your family. Are you willing to have a lint brush handy for use by your guests? Does the thought of dog hair in your butter bother you? Do you have the time to vacuum regularly or even daily when your Berner is REALLY SHEDDING A LOT?



## CHILDREN AND BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS

People frequently choose a Bernese Mountain Dog because they have read or heard the breed is great with kids. Generally speaking, most Berners are gentle and nurturing; and most have the tendency to interact well with children. As a parent or owner please understand that you will need to spend time teaching children and your dog how to conduct themselves. Young children and puppies and even adult dogs should be closely supervised to avoid behaviors that could lead to injury of child, dog or both. Parents should also plan on providing guidance to children who visit their yard or home to ensure safe interactions.

### YOUNG CHILDREN AND BERNERS - BASICS

All dogs have space boundaries just like people. Have you ever heard a person say, "heh, back off, you're in my space!"? Well, dogs don't talk; but they do have other ways to express the same thought. Children and some adults may not pick up on the language a Berner speaks when trying to tell a human to back off. Teaching children how to read a dog's language and respond appropriately to a dog's boundaries and tolerance levels is a big part of parents keeping kids safe. Berners are big dogs and could potentially frighten a child unaccustomed to interacting with dogs. Due to their size, a Berner might inadvertently knock over young children or toddlers.

Berner puppies, if left to their own instincts, will often chase and nip or bite as a form of play. Teaching children how to respond to these instinctual behaviors can be challenging. See <http://www.loveyourdog.com/keepsafe.html>.

Teaching small children not to grab skin or fur, pull on legs, or tails, not to stare at or scream in the dog's face can be tough - since those kinds of behaviors are fairly common when young children interact with a pet. Children while playing can be noisy and abrupt in their movements. A dog can get overwhelmed by the busy activity and high pitched voices of children. Some Berners are sound sensitive and may become anxious, nervous or disinterested in children's playtime activities. For information on dogs and loud noises see: [http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/dogs\\_loud\\_noises.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/dogs_loud_noises.pdf).



Most Berners will seek private space in a quiet location if they are stressed due to sensory overload, tired or don't want to be bothered. Owners who are not familiar with raising dogs with children are encouraged to take advantage of information available in books and on websites which provides common sense tips for parental management of dogs and children.

### Parent's Book List

Living with Kids and Dogs...Without Losing Your Mind by Colleen Pelar

Raising Puppies & Kids Together: A Guide for Parents by Pia Silvani

Childproofing Your Dog: A Complete Guide to Preparing Your Dog for the Children in Your Life by Brian Kilcommons

## WEBSITES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

▶ The American Veterinary Medical Association's "The Blue Dog Parent Guide" and CD can be ordered

<https://ebusiness.avma.org/EBusiness50/ProductCatalog/ProductCategory.aspx?ID=118> is designed to help parents and children safely interact with dogs both inside and outside the home. The material is targeted and tested for children from 3 to 6 years old.

▶ The Kids and Dogs: A Common Sense Approach article by Vicki DeGruy at <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/kidsdog2.html> discusses dogs' instinctual behaviors, training and management to prevent bites, and offers information to anyone interested in dog behavior as it relates to child safety.

▶ The Safety Factor Challenge at [http://www2.the-kennel-club.org.uk/safe\\_and\\_sound.html](http://www2.the-kennel-club.org.uk/safe_and_sound.html) is a fun interactive website that teaches children how to safely interact with dogs.

▶ The Kids Guide to Dog Care website at <http://www.loveyourdog.com> provides older children with sound advice on how to care for their dog.

## BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS – HEALTH

Individual Bernese Mountain Dogs can be affected by a variety of ailments that affect longevity and quality of life. Among the most common problems are cancer, autoimmune disorders, hip and elbow dysplasia, allergies, thyroid disorders, bowel disorders, torsion and bloat, eye disorders including PRA, cataracts, droopy eyes, and inverted eyelids. Veterinary treatment of health problems can cost hundreds or thousands of dollars.

- ▶ Hip Dysplasia (one hip) \$1000-\$4000 for diagnosis and surgery
- ▶ Elbow Dysplasia (one elbow) \$1000-\$4000 for diagnosis and surgery
- ▶ Entropion \$1000-\$2000 for surgery to correct eyelid problem (can lead to blindness if left uncorrected, sometimes takes multiple surgeries)
- ▶ Bloat—stomach torsion \$600.00-\$3500.00

It is always best to inquire with individual breeders as to which health problems may be more or less prevalent in the families of dogs from which their breeding stock come.

## LIFESPAN

The Swiss have a saying about the lifespan of Bernese Mountain Dogs. They say, 'three years a young dog, three years a good dog, three years an old dog... all else a gift from God'. At this time, the average age of a BMD at death is about 7 - 8 years.

Berners can live as long as 14 years of age or more.



The facts are: No family of Bernese Mountain Dogs is free from health problems typically seen in the breed. No breeder can offer you a 100% guarantee that the pup you get will not face health challenges.

Many Bernese can live long healthy lives. But, awareness of health issues by both breeders and owners is essential to enhance management and improve the quality of dogs' lives. Genetics and health are interlocked in many cases so breeder understanding of health issues that exist in families of Bernese is essential if improvements in health and soundness are to be made over generations of breeding.

QUESTION: How will you know the breeder you buy your puppy from is doing everything possible to select breeding pairs to minimize the occurrence of health problems?  
ANSWER: Find out if the breeder you are working with conducts health and genetic testing on dogs they are using for breeding purposes. Find out if the breeder knows and cares about the health of puppies they placed with others – better breeders keep track of the dogs they produce.

If the breeder you are planning to purchase your Berner puppy from doesn't know about health registries and databases or doesn't mention health and genetic testing, ask yourself if that breeder is really focused on producing healthy puppies.

For more information on some of the most common health problems found in the Bernese Mountain Dog breed see the BMDCA's health pages at

<http://www.bmdca.org/health/index.php>

The Berner International Working Group website is perhaps the GOLD STANDARD for providing up to date health articles and presentations related to understanding Bernese Mountain Dog health issues and their management.

IWG Resources on BMD health and longevity are located at <http://www.berner-iwg.org/index.htm>.

#### **AVOID DOING BUSINESS WITH ANY BREEDER WHO TELLS YOU: "ORTHOPEDIC CLEARANCES AND GENETIC TESTING IS ONLY FOR SHOW DOGS"**

Keep in mind the heartache and cost of owning a Berner that is affected by orthopedic conditions or inherited diseases – these problems affect pets as well as show dogs.

Shopping the internet & newspapers

Can you get a Bernese Mountain Dog?

Answer - YES!

It's easy to find Bernese breeder websites, ads in the newspaper, breed information websites and pictures of beautiful Bernese.

The search for a pup and a breeder can be as simple as clicking on a website, picking up the classified section of the newspaper, a dog magazine with breeder ads, looking at a few dogs pictured on a site or listed in an ad and picking up the phone or emailing a breeder.

If the dogs' pictures look good, what could possibly be more important than that? If the breeder has a pup available, what more do you need to know? It seems pretty simple and straight forward. You just want a puppy, not for showing, not for breeding – a dog to be your friend, a loving puppy to become your child's pet.

You want one, the breeder has one. Buy the puppy.

But wait! Just what are you buying? You think you are buying a puppy that will become a wonderful pet. Will you be that lucky? Did the breeder seem to care about you? Did they ask you any questions about the things you wanted in a dog? Or did they quickly rush you into completing the transaction? Did this breeder ask you for your credit card number and tell you no problem; the Berner pup will be on your doorstep as soon as possible?



Better breeders take a PERSONAL interest in knowing what the dog's life will be like and, in YOU as a person, as well as a future owner of one of their dogs.

#### **PUPPY SHOPPER SOLUTIONS**

We suggest you contact a Bernese Club member breeder.

Be aware Club Member breeders are supposed to be ethical and theoretically are breeding and selling dogs according to the highest standards. Do not assume all club breeders are reasonable and do not sign any contract with terms or conditions you do not fully understand! Clubs typically have a very high percentage of good breeders; but they may still have some that do not comply with their Dog Club(s) Codes of Ethics or follow breeding, placement and post sale protocols embraced by conscientious breeders!

As a puppy buyer, you should be focused on finding a breeder that you both like and respect. You should have the same or similar views on raising and keeping dogs. Have an idea about how any breeder will approach resolving problems that might arise related to the dog's health and behavior management. You should understand and agree with the breeder's goals, both in general and with respect to sharing a similar focus and reasons for keeping dogs. You should be comfortable that the breeder will be a resource available to you in future years. Remember... in all likelihood you will choose a breeder or breeders months before the puppies are actually born. Since most breeders have waiting lists, you are truly choosing a breeder and not choosing a puppy.

#### **BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG BREEDERS - BREEDER REFERRALS**

National Breed Club Websites in North America

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) <http://www.bmdca.org>

BMDCA Breeder Referral (database - searchable by location) <http://www.bmdca.org/olbr/>

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Canada <http://www.bmdcc.ca/>

Bernese Mountain Dog Regional Clubs - Websites / Breeder Referral Contacts

Regional Bernese Mountain Dog Clubs are the place to start your search for a breeder if you want to purchase a Bernese Mountain Dog puppy. There is a Regional Bernese Mountain Dog club located in your area!

Where can you find out more about what you need to know about Bernese Mountain Dogs before you purchase one?

► Visit a Regional Club website. <http://www.bmdca.org/rcc/>

Each Regional Bernese Mountain Dog Club website offers educational resources including information on the breed's traits and requirements, training methods, canine behavior and management, health, genetics, care, feeding, grooming, breeding and showing. After you've done a little "homework", and you're sure you have the time and financial resources to provide a good home and environment for a Bernese Mountain Dog.

Take the next step.

► Make plans to attend a Regional Club event!

Club events offer a friendly, casual environment in which you can meet dogs and talk with their owners and breeders. Regional Club websites list dates and times for club events.

The Regional Clubs' Breeder Referral programs goal is to help buyers find a Berner puppy that has the best chance to live a long healthy life from a conscientious, supportive, knowledgeable breeder.



When contacting Regional Club breeders, be honest and open about what you are looking for in a companion dog and talk with the breeder about why you think a Berner would be a good match for your goals and reasons for keeping a companion dog.

Club breeders will want you to tell them about:

- type of dog, pet(s) you own(ed);
- your current household members, schedule and lifestyle;
- whether you are looking for a 'Pet' or 'Show' or 'Working' dog;
- activities you think you might have an interest in pursuing with your Berner;
- the area in which you live, type of housing, and safe areas in which you can exercise your Berner.

Regional Clubs listed on the next page have up to date information about their Club's member breeders who are expecting litters or are looking for caring homes for Bernese Mountain Dog puppies, older dogs and rescued Berners.

## BE PREPARED FOR A BERNER PUP'S ARRIVAL

### 1) PUPPY PROOFING

Before the puppy is ready to come into your home, there are some things you can do to prepare. Please take the time to 'puppy proof' your home. Puppies are curious and can get into all sorts of mischief, much the same as human toddlers.

- ▶ **INSIDE THE HOME** - Use baby gates to block open doorways for rooms that the puppy will not be permitted access on a regular basis. Wiring is a favorite puppy target; so when possible tape or tack electrical cords 2 feet above floor level. Books, magazines, laundry, trash bins should also be placed above floor level unless you plan to watch what your pup is up to every minute. Happens frequently - dish towel gone missing!!!! Berner puppies are notorious for eating inappropriate things like dishtowels, socks, underwear, string or soft toys. Once ingested, cloth can cause serious damage to the stomach and intestines. Some dogs will eat these things and they will pass through their system a day or several days later. If you find that an object is missing and your dog does not want to eat, has thrown up or seems to be in any kind of digestive distress, she may need to see a vet. A training tip: Some pups play a chase game with objects and some will gulp things down. By chasing you encourage the dog's game to continue. Instead, try using another acceptable toy or treat to get your pup to give up his object for yours by offering to play your game with your super fun toy. Most dogs just want their owner's attention and will readily change gears to get it.
- ▶ **DROP OFFS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE** - A dog's vision does not allow for good depth perception. Dogs are not able to judge vertical distances well. Check for any areas indoors and outdoors that might cause a fall, such as open stairways or landings or open decks with drop-offs. Young puppies may not have developed a good sense of how to navigate stairs and may jump from landings. You will need to have an awareness of your new puppy's familiarity with walking up and down stairs. Providing guidance to the pup to teach him to calmly & safely navigate stairs is advised. Many Berner owners use baby gates to limit puppy's access to stairs for the first 6 months.
- ▶ **INSIDE/OUTSIDE** - Please place any hazardous chemicals, garden fertilizers, insecticides, cleaning substances, antifreeze, glues, paints or other poisonous chemicals up off the ground at least 4' - 5' or put them away in a closed secure cabinet.
- ▶ **OUTSIDE** - Yard decorations such as cocoa bean mulch and some indoor and outdoor plants can be hazardous. Qualified nurserymen can advise you on which of your plants are pet friendly. Rashes, vomiting, diarrhea, and even convulsions and death are symptoms of poisoning. See the ASPCA's page on toxic plants here- <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/>
- ▶ **KEEP THIS INFORMATION HANDY** - post on your 'frig' or in address book! The ASPCA Poison Control Center provides emergency assistance. The contact information is at <http://www.aspc.org/Pet-care/poison-control.aspx>. If you think that your pet may have ingested a potentially poisonous substance, call the ASPCA's Hotline at (888) 426-4435. It can mean the difference between life and death.
- ▶ **FENCING** - Check for any small holes in and at the base of outdoor fences and repair them so your puppy can't get under or through the fence. Puppies can easily get their heads stuck in small openings, so make sure holes or gaps are completely covered.
- ▶ **WATER HAZARDS** - Pools should be fenced. Generally speaking, most young Berner pups do not have good swimming skills. If your property allows access to a natural body of water with depth be aware Berner pups can fall in, whether water is liquid or partially frozen. Make sure that if the puppy (or adult) has access to walk on frozen ponds, creeks or lakes that the ice is thick enough to hold his weight.



### 2) ENROLL IN A PUPPY TRAINING/SOCIALIZATION CLASS

Getting your puppy enrolled in a puppy socialization class should be looked into before you bring her home. Often kennel clubs or private training clubs have set schedules and limited class sizes. Check out where and when local classes will be offered. The yellow pages will usually list training facilities or kennel clubs or ask at a local pet store. Planning ahead of time to join a class will allow you to attend the class scheduled during a time that best fits into your schedule. Always ask about how the instructor of the class will be handling corrections. Positive training methods work best with Bernese Mountain Dogs. Early puppy socialization classes will not only provide a necessary social outing for your BMD puppy, but the class instructor will offer you tips on how to begin training your puppy to master basic commands.

TRAINING CLASSES VARY.

Going to training class can present concerns. There are good trainers and not so good trainers. Some classes are very large and may not allow for much one on one instructor to owner contact. It is up to you to find the kind of class that best suits you and your dog's training needs. Watch how the instructor in your class works with people and other dogs. If you feel that your dog is very sensitive or shy you may not want to turn over your dog to the instructor for a demonstration, especially if the trainer seems loud or heavy handed with the other dogs. If you don't think you or your dog are well served in the class you are attending, try another training facility or trainer. The reason for attending classes – your puppy needs and will benefit from exposure to other dogs and people.

### 3) ARRANGE FOR THE SERVICES OF A VETERINARIAN

Your veterinarian will be very important to maintaining your dog's health throughout a lifetime. Make sure you are comfortable talking with your dog's health care provider. Make sure you can ask questions and express your concerns about your dog to the veterinarian you have chosen. Many people are intimidated by medical doctors and vets. Don't be! You know your own dog better than anyone. The best vets listen and do not dismiss their client's concerns as insignificant or unimportant. If you do not already have a pet and are looking for a good veterinarian, contact a local AKC all breed kennel club (look in the yellow pages); or better still get a referral from a Bernese Mountain Dog club member. (See the regional club links to find a local BMD club.)

Arranging for an appointment with a veterinarian several weeks in advance of getting your pup will assure your dog is examined and determined to be in good health soon after arrival. \*If you are not sure about what kind of vaccines or wormers your puppy has received, be sure to ask the breeder to provide the pup's health record at the time of pick up. Remember to bring the health record provided by the breeder to your vet and present it to the vet at the beginning of the first appointment.

Some puppies are sold with a written contract that calls for the new owner to have the puppy examined by the buyer's vet with the first 2-7 days after the pup has been placed. Regardless of whether you are contractually obligated to have your pup examined by a vet soon after you get her; it is a good idea to do so.

#### ▶ FIRST APPOINTMENT TIPS

##### a) Do Fecal Check

It is a good idea to have your veterinarian do a fecal exam on the initial visit. While your puppy may have been dewormed one or more times by the breeder, sometimes the stress of placement can awaken dormant stages of various intestinal parasites. Parasites can cause diarrhea, intestinal upset and a host of other problems.

##### b) Get Microchip

It is advisable to microchip your Berner pup if the breeder has not already done so. Your pup's veterinarian can implant a tiny rice sized microchip in

your puppy so that if she should become lost there will be a greater chance of her being identified by either a veterinarian or by shelters that have scanners designed to read the digital number on the microchip. The microchip manufacturers maintain records on each registered microchip. A telephone call to the manufacturer can quickly provide the vet or shelter with the necessary owner contact information to reunite the stray dog and owner. There are several Microchip companies available including Avid and AKC's Home Again.

#### c) YOU & YOUR VET NEED TO KNOW...

##### A NUMBER OF BERNERS ARE IMMUNE SYSTEM CHALLENGED!

Notes on vaccines, heartworm & flea/tick medications

Do not over vaccinate/unnecessarily medicate a Berner puppy or dog. Berners with sensitive immune systems react negatively to the accumulation of vaccines, heartworm medications, flea and tick preventatives and insecticidal dips. Some vets give dogs vaccines and administer preventatives for fleas, ticks, and heartworm as a matter of routine in their efforts to safeguard pet's health.

Vaccines can protect dogs from serious illnesses by stimulating the dog's own system to produce antibodies that will protect the dog from life threatening illness if exposed to bacteria or viruses that cause diseases including distemper, parvo virus, hepatitis and rabies. But vaccines given too frequently or too many at a time can overwhelm some Bernese Mountain Dog's immune systems. Current studies have provided increasing documentation that over vaccination has been associated with harmful side effects.

The health status of any Berner and infectious disease risks should be considered in the selection of an appropriate vaccination program. Berner owners should consider scheduling separate vet appointments for rabies and combo vaccines a few weeks to a month apart. Owners are encouraged to ask their pup's vet about titer testing which is an alternative method of managing the immunity status and vaccine administration.

**NEW BERNER OWNERS - READ THIS!!!** Dr. Jean Dodds is a distinguished researcher who has addressed vaccine protocols. Dr. Dodds' Recommended Vaccination Schedule is available at <http://www.weim.net/emberweims/Vaccine.html>.

Use of preventatives like HeartGuard (ivermectin), or Advantage Plus (Imidacloprid Moxidectin) should be approached with common sense and caution.

While flea (itchy skin, dermatitis) / tick (Lyme disease or Ehrlichiosis & others) / mosquito (Heartworm born illnesses can be debilitating or deadly, carefully consider your dog's risk factors. See more on Lyme disease at <http://workingdogs.com/doc0043.htm>. See more on Ehrlichiosis at <http://www.cvbd.org/3953.0.html>. See more on Heartworm at <http://www.heartwormsociety.org/article.asp?id=1141>. If your dog spends a lot of time outdoors

in an area where fleas, mosquitoes or ticks are prevalent, administration of preventatives may be advisable. Ask your pup's breeder how they handle use of preventatives with their dogs. If your Berner comes from a family of dogs with a history of neurological disorders, epilepsy, seizures or dogs susceptible to or affected with immune dysfunction, immune-mediated disease, immune-reactions associated with vaccinations, or autoimmune disease or other health problems, adding Heartworm medication or other preventatives to the dog's system may negatively impact your dog's overall health. Annual testing for heartworm infection is recommended.

Be aware that pre-surgery blood panels are advisable due to bleeding disorders and other health conditions including kidney diseases and renal dysplasia found in the Bernese breed.

#### 4) INVESTIGATE EMERGENCY VETERINARY CLINICS & SERVICES

A serious health crisis could develop with any puppy or adult Berner at any time. Fortunately, emergency veterinary services are also available in some communities for after hour medical needs. Ask your vet if their clinic refers to a particular emergency clinic; and be sure to find out which emergency veterinary clinics and emergency vet services are available to you and your pup. Puppies do not have many physical reserves, can become dehydrated and may become critically ill more quickly than a fully mature adult dog. It is important that an owner be able to judge when a dog is in need of prompt or immediate veterinary care. Bloody or watery stools should be investigated promptly, or repeated incidents of diarrhea, repeated incidents of vomiting, inability to hold down food or water, listlessness, and extreme agitation or inability to get comfortable or debilitating injuries to joints or bones or serious wounds require prompt veterinary attention.

Please keep in mind that after hour emergency clinic services may be VERY expensive compared to veterinary services provided by your regular vet for procedures conducted during regular business hours.

#### THINGS TO BUY FOR YOUR NEW BERNER PUPPY



New to dogs?

First recommendation - purchase a book on veterinary care. Be your dog's best friend. Aids for health management advocates are great tools for any Berner owner. Find them at <http://www.speakingforspot.com/advocacyaids.html>.

Veterinary Care Books

Dr. Nancy Kay - Speaking for Spot ★★★★★ (trust us!) ♡

<http://www.speakingforspot.com/>



Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook (at amazon.com or other booksellers)

The Merck / Merial Manual for Pet Health

<http://www.merckbooks.com/mmmph/index.html>

#### DOG GEAR - YOU & YOUR BERNER PUPPY WILL NEED THIS STUFF!

- ▶ Get a crate large enough to house an adult BMD. Your new puppy will grow very quickly; so investment in a crate large enough to be used throughout your dog's life is best. A crate sized at around 36" X 24" X 27" should be adequate for most Bernese. Where can you find a crate? A local pet supply store; or check out Midwest crates at <http://www.midwesthomes4pets.com/category/default.aspx?submenu=2&catid=126> for a broader range of styles. Keep in mind a crate for car travel is not a bad idea. Many Berner owners have a crate for home use and one for car travel. Having 2 crates is convenient & saves time and effort involved in hauling crates from home to car.
  - ▶ A 2 - 3 quart stainless steel or ceramic food bowl and a heavy ceramic or stainless steel 2 - 4 quart water bowl
  - ▶ A six foot long training leash and a heavy duty flexi-lead
  - ▶ A cloth buckle or break away collar (Choke collars should only be used when training and should never be left on an unattended puppy or adult.)
  - ▶ Nail clippers or a nail grinder & Quick stop in case you accidentally cut your puppy's nail too short
  - ▶ A dental kit, a dog tooth brush and teeth cleaning paste
  - ▶ A mild dog shampoo - Ask your pup's breeder for a recommendation; or
- #1 All Systems has a great selection of products. <http://www.1allsystems.com/doc-eng/menu-eng.html>

▶ Toys and treats that are safe for puppies.

"Kongs" are a great toy for pups. <http://www.kongcompany.com/>

\*\*\*A note on dog treats - choose treats that are preserved with vitamin E; treats that contain BHT, BHA, ethoxyquin additives and/or artificial coloring can cause allergic reactions

in some dogs.

\*\*\*Toys selection advice Puppies can eat cloth items or small toys and they can get their muzzles or heads stuck in small sized ring toys. Monitoring puppies with raw bones, rawhide chews and cloth toys is a good idea.

►The food your puppy will be eating. Your puppy's breeder should provide you with your puppy's nutrition requirements, including the brand of food your puppy has been eating along with recommendations for where you can find the food, the amount of food to feed and feeding schedule. Young puppies often eat 3 times a day which may be continued for several weeks after placement. Always rely on feeding recommendations from the breeder, who has, through observing development of their own dogs, chosen a diet that works best for their families of dogs.

### THINGS TO HAVE WHEN PICKING UP YOUR PUPPY



- Bring a crate with washable bedding or a bundle of shredded paper or newspapers.
- Bring along safe toys for your puppy to play with on the journey to his new home.
- Bring water and an unbreakable water dish.
- Bring some food and an unbreakable food dish if the journey home is more than 8 hours.
- Bring an 8" - 10" Break-away collar and a leash or a martingale type slip lead. (To be sure the collar will fit, ask your puppy's breeder what size collar will be suitable for your new pup or dog.
- Bring paper towels and spray cleaner in case the puppy soils his crate.
- Bring treats.

\*\*\*Please remember your puppy has been securely kept with his dam and litter mates since birth. The puppy may be a little scared and lonely for a few days until getting comfortable with a new environment, learning about what is expected and learning to trust you, his new caretaker. Patience and tender hands will go a long way to building a rewarding relationship with your new puppy.

### FOOD FOR BERNER PUPPIES AND ADULTS

A well balanced diet provides quality nutrition and in turn keeps the cells, tissues and organs healthy. This enables a Berner's immune system to stay in top condition to fight any invaders. The

physical condition, coat quality, condition of the eyes and ears, and eating habits and preferences will guide feeding decisions you make throughout your Berner's lifetime.

### HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT FOOD

Your dog's breeder should recommend a diet for your dog. Your dog's breeder has experience in selecting a specific diet that has proven to meet the nutritional needs of dogs from the families of dogs from which your puppy comes. Veterinary advice on diet can be helpful; especially if the dog develops short or long term health issues related to digestion. BUT do keep in mind your dog's breeder is likely to be a good source for advice on what kind of food will work best with your new pup and adult dog.

Bernese Mountain Dog owners feed a range of food from raw diet, homemade diets to commercially prepared kibble. No matter what type of feed, Berner owners seem to agree to feed a high quality food with relatively low protein level, approximately 18 -26% and a moderate fat content, less than 16%. High protein/fat feeds (> 28%, >16%) can be 'too much' for many Bernese, especially those that are not very active working/performance dogs. Feeding a diet that is too 'heavy' in protein has been known to precipitate hotspot outbreaks in some Berners. A diet too high in fat adds unwanted pounds and in some cases causes diarrhea.

### CANINE DIET'S BOOK LIST

- Holistic Guide for a Healthy Dog (Volhard, Brown )
- Real Food for Dogs:50 Vet-Approved Recipes to Please the Canine Gastronomer (Moore, Davis )
- Better Food for Dogs: A Complete Cookbook and Nutrition Guide (Bastin, Ashton, Nixon )
- Raw Dog Food: Making It Work for You and Your Dog (MacDonald )

### RAW FEEDING WEBSITES/YAHOO GROUPS

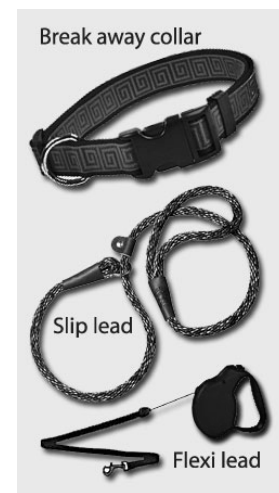
- Dr. Billinghurst's BARF Diet - [http://www.barfworld.com/html/barf\\_diet/barfdiet.shtml](http://www.barfworld.com/html/barf_diet/barfdiet.shtml)
- BARF/Raw Diet Support - <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/raw-lite>
- Raw feeding - <http://www.pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/rawfeeding>
- Carnivore Feed-Suppliers - <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/CarnivoreFeed-Supplier>

### TIPS FOR FEEDING BERNERS

Feeding some raw foods or a raw diet can improve your Berner's immune system function and overall health. Many Bernese love to eat a variety fresh food. Small additions of yogurt, cooked or lean raw meat, fish, eggs or fresh fruits, including banana, apple or pear and vegetables, including carrots, broccoli, squash, cooked pumpkin or yams can be offered as a way of introducing enzymes to a diet. Your Berner may have certain preferences - dog loves carrots, green beans and apples, but not so fond of other fresh foods - picky, picky, picky! - Dog says, 'you really expect me to eat broccoli?'. Preferences are normal. Before embarking on feeding a raw diet read books or articles on canine nutrition. Ask others who have been successfully managing their dog(s) with feeding raw foods how to proceed. Understanding how to balance a raw food diet requires research and keen observation of the dog's reaction to eating raw foods. Choosing the most beneficial food sources and striking the correct balance of ingredients in a raw diet for the individual dog's activity level, metabolism and digestive system can be challenging.

### SUPPLEMENTS - NUTRACEUTICAL SUPPORT LIST

See the list below for some of the more commonly used supplements to address either overall immune system support and/or specific support for conditions such as allergies, dry skin, digestive, arthritis. Determining the correct supplement(s) and the dosage for your particular Berner is serious business. Be aware of the possibility of interactions of supplements with other medications your dog may be taking. For best results it is wise to discuss adding supplements to your Berner's diet with the dog's breeder and vet.



Antioxidants - vitamins C & E

B-complex supplement

Kelp

Omega 3 & 6 fatty acids - fish oil, flax seed oil

Joint support supplements - glucosamine sulfate, chondroitin sulfate, Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM)

Probiotic / plant enzymes

Garlic

### ABOUT KIBBLE

For optimal development and maintenance combined with minimal food preparation time, many Bernese owners choose to feed a good quality commercially prepared food. The cheapest food available in the local supermarket or pet store is not a good choice for Bernese Mountain Dogs. Some commercially prepared kibble and canned or frozen feeds contain human grade ingredients and use vitamins C and E as preservatives instead of BHT, BHA or ethoxyquin. There is strong anecdotal evidence to suggest additions of chemical preservatives and additives may result in allergic reactions

(itchy skin, seeping ears or eyes, pink staining around mouth or feet, or a host of more serious immune system challenges) in some Bernese. Protein sources in commercial kibble and canned dog foods usually come primarily from meats, eggs or fish and grains. Many Bernese owners prefer to use foods with meat sources listed first in the feed ingredients list found on the bag.

If you'd like to do a little research on dog foods, the following informative website <http://www.doberdogs.com> lists a number of commercially prepared dog foods, ingredients, website addresses, and contact information.

The "Whole Dog Journal" at <http://www.whole-dog-journal.com> prepares an annual list of quality feeds. Whether the feed is grain based or meat based, owners should use common sense and powers of observation to determine which foods work best for their dog. Rely on your breeder for tips on managing puppy diet to optimize development.

#### FEEDING - EXERCISE

Manage your Bernese puppy's play schedule or adult's activities so exertion and exercise will occur at a minimum of 1 - 2 hours after mealtime - A puppy or dog that is very active or exercised with a belly full of food could experience bloat or gastric torsion. Also, if the dog has been exercising allow for a cool down of a half an hour or so before feeding.

#### FOOD AND MANNERS

Offering a short 1-3 minute training session, even something as simple as requiring a sit from your dog prior to delivering a meal, will foster polite behavior related to feeding time. Children should be taught to leave a dog alone when it is eating. Teaching your puppy to remain calm during an intrusion while the pup is eating is especially important if you have children. If your puppy has resource guarding tendencies, consult a professional trainer.

#### MANAGING FOOD INTAKE

The best favor any owner can do for their puppy is to manage activity and feeding to allow for as steady as possible growth. The ideal weight of any dog should depend on how large a frame and how much bone and muscle he or she has. Feeding more food to a pup to accelerate growth is NOT advised. Over feeding a Berner puppy will cause the dog to become fat which can place increased strain on joints, ligaments, tendons and bones. Overfeeding can also cause digestive difficulties such as diarrhea. A bit of firm flesh covering the ribs and when the dog feels tight fleshed but not bony is reasonable.

#### HOW MUCH FOOD?

Food intake will increase steadily as your pup grows. Usually healthy pups from 8 - 10 weeks of age eat roughly 3/4 - 1 and 1/2 cups of food per meal. Usually young pups are offered 3 meals between 2 - 6 months. After 6 months, offer the dog two meals per day. The amount of food a puppy needs to maintain good body condition will vary depending on the individual metabolism and activity level. As a general rule healthy Bernese will eat from 3 - 6 cups of good quality food daily. A four-month-old will eat more than an eight-week-old pup. At 6 - 8 months the food intake will usually be at an adult proportion or slightly greater depending on the dog's environment and system.

#### SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS

Most breeders feed puppies in a litter from one or two large communal food dishes. Getting a puppy to eat from his own bowl, with no competition from litter mates, can present minor challenges. Some puppies are easily distracted, may wander away before finishing. An easily distracted pup that wants to move into other pets' food dishes can be confined to a crate or different area during feeding times, unless the owner is willing to act as a constant monitor. It is not unusual for puppies to be less interested in meals at particular times of the day while gobbling up food at other times. Finicky eating behaviors are often learned and may be the result of poor management or an owner making an incorrect choice of feed for a particular dog.

Generally speaking most puppies do best with planned regular feeding times; that is when food is set down and left for short periods, 5 -15 minutes. Any uneaten food is then picked up and stored safely, refrigerated until the next meal time. Scheduled feeding also can allow an owner to establish a housebreaking routine since what goes in does come out.

Free feeding, that is having food available at all times, is something to be discussed with the puppy's breeder.

Coddling by holding the food bowl while the puppy eats or by adding delectable treats after the bowl has been put down can tend to establish poor eating habits. If the puppy is hungry, the puppy will eat. Dogs have a great sense of what they need to survive. No healthy puppy will starve itself. Bernese that do not get daily physical exercise may become less than enthusiastic eaters. Some puppies are real "chow hounds." Using a flat shallow pie plate or tin will slow down food gobblers since the food is spread out rather than all mounded in as in a steeper feeding dish.



Resource guarding, meaning dogs that growl, become territorial or overtly aggressive when food is removed or when a person comes around while the dog is eating must not be permitted to develop. Start early to train your puppy to be comfortable by placing your hand in or around puppy's food bowl - you should be able to move or pick up a bowl, at any time.

It is hoped this handbook will enhance knowledge and promote a true understanding of Bernese Mountain Dogs. We further hope the information in the handbook and available through other websites dedicated to the welfare of dogs will translate to better care, training, socialization, and suitable home environments for Berner puppies and adult Bernese Mountain Dogs.

**Visit <http://www.bmdinfo.org>  
for more information on Bernese**

**Mountain Dogs, articles, & breed education.**

**Special thanks and appreciation are extended to all those in the Berner community who contributed to breed education efforts.**

**PUBLIC EDUCATION FROM AKC - URL's to the AKC's library (PDF's) – See WWW.AKC.ORG for more information.**

**TIPS - FIND THE RIGHT DOG**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/GBDR3S.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/GBDR3S.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/dogs\\_in\\_community.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/dogs_in_community.pdf)

**AGILITY/OBEDIENCE/CGC**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/agility\\_matching.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/agility_matching.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/agility\\_obstacle\\_course\\_fill\\_in.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/agility_obstacle_course_fill_in.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/agility\\_obstacles.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/agility_obstacles.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/obed\\_agility\\_cgc.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/obed_agility_cgc.pdf)

**BARKING**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/Barking.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/Barking.pdf)

**BASIC CARE**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/tips\\_on\\_basic\\_care.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/tips_on_basic_care.pdf)

**BEFORE BUYING A DOG**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/dog\\_is\\_for\\_life.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/dog_is_for_life.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/considering.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/considering.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/worksheet\\_doggie.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/worksheet_doggie.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/the\\_right\\_dog.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/the_right_dog.pdf)

**BOATING WITH DOGS**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/boating\\_safely.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/boating_safely.pdf)

**CHILDREN FAMILY, KID'S CORNER**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/safety\\_around\\_dogs.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/safety_around_dogs.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/safety\\_checklist\\_for\\_kids.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/safety_checklist_for_kids.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/how\\_to\\_greet.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/how_to_greet.pdf)

**CLASSROOMS PLANNING PROGRAMS**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/choosing\\_your\\_dog.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/choosing_your_dog.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/dog\\_parks.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/dog_parks.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/dogs\\_in\\_community.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/dogs_in_community.pdf)

**CROSSWORDS, GAMES & QUIZES**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/CanineCrossword.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/CanineCrossword.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/grooming\\_crossword.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/grooming_crossword.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/responsible\\_crossword.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/responsible_crossword.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/matching\\_game.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/matching_game.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/hidden\\_picture.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/hidden_picture.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/safety\\_scramble.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/safety_scramble.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/word\\_search.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/word_search.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/where\\_breed\\_come\\_from.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/where_breed_come_from.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/True\\_or\\_False.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/True_or_False.pdf)

**DOGS & CATS**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/Dogs\\_and\\_cats.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/Dogs_and_cats.pdf)

**DOG PARKS**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/worksheet\\_dogparkrules.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/worksheet_dogparkrules.pdf)

**DOG SHOWS**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/seven\\_groups.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/seven_groups.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/show\\_etiquette.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/show_etiquette.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/showing\\_your\\_dog.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/showing_your_dog.pdf)

**FUN MATCH MANUAL**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/educational\\_match\\_manual.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/educational_match_manual.pdf)

**GROOMING**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/Grooming.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/Grooming.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/grooming\\_tools.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/grooming_tools.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/grooming\\_your\\_dog.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/grooming_your_dog.pdf)

**HAZARDOUS PLANTS**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/hazardous\\_plants.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/hazardous_plants.pdf)

**HOLIDAYS**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/holiday\\_caution\\_list.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/holiday_caution_list.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/stocking\\_stuffers.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/stocking_stuffers.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/dogs\\_holidays.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/dogs_holidays.pdf)

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/dogshows\\_jrshow.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/dogshows_jrshow.pdf)

**LEASHES**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/leash\\_your\\_dog.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/leash_your_dog.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/flex\\_with\\_care.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/flex_with_care.pdf)

**LOUD NOISES**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/dogs\\_loud\\_noises.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/dogs_loud_noises.pdf)

**MENTORS**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/mentee\\_application.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/mentee_application.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/mentee\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/mentee_flyer.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/mentor\\_application.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/mentor_application.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/mentor\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/mentor_flyer.pdf)

**REGISTERING DOGS**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/whats\\_your\\_name.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/whats_your_name.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/ilp.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/ilp.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/register.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/register.pdf)

**RESCUE**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/adoption.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/adoption.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/why\\_consider\\_rescue\\_dog.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/why_consider_rescue_dog.pdf)

**SAFETY/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INFO / FIRST AID**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/dangers\\_backyard.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/dangers_backyard.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/emergency\\_info.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/emergency_info.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/dangerous\\_products.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/dangerous_products.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/prepared.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/prepared.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/first\\_aid\\_starter\\_kit.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/first_aid_starter_kit.pdf)

**TRAINING**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/canine\\_courtesy.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/canine_courtesy.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/benefits\\_trained\\_dog.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/benefits_trained_dog.pdf)

**TEETH**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/Teeth\\_clean\\_repro.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/Teeth_clean_repro.pdf)

**TRAVEL**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/BaileyTakes\\_a\\_Trip.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/BaileyTakes_a_Trip.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/warning\\_hotcar.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/warning_hotcar.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/Drive\\_safely.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/Drive_safely.pdf)

**WINTER**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/winter\\_hazards.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/winter_hazards.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/winterized.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/winterized.pdf)

**WORKSHEETS**

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/worksheet\\_bestbreed.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/worksheet_bestbreed.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/worksheet\\_cost.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/worksheet_cost.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/worksheet\\_designing.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/worksheet_designing.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/worksheet\\_doggie.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/worksheet_doggie.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/worksheet\\_family.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/worksheet_family.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/worksheet\\_going.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/worksheet_going.pdf)  
[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/worksheet\\_ideal\\_dog.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/worksheet_ideal_dog.pdf)