



2018 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES ©

MONDAY 9-11 AM

NATURAL PROTECTION PROTOCOL AGAINST LYME DISEASE GEOFF D'ARCY Lic. Ac., DOM

Bernese Mountain Dogs have a breed predisposition to Lyme Disease according to a recent study. The study showed that Bernese Mountain Dogs more often had antibodies against *B. burgdorferi* compared to control dogs. This coupled with the massive increase in the US to Lyme exposure, leads to a growing crisis. Learn how you can naturally protect and support yourself and your companion animal against the dangers of Lyme Disease with a Natural Herbal Supplement Protocol developed by NaturalPetRx.

Geoff brings the wealth of Eastern philosophy and training to the healing arts of acupuncture and herbal medicine. He began his training in Japan in the mid-1970s, and returned to England to gain his licentiate in traditional Chinese acupuncture. Geoff went on to study Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in hospitals and colleges in China, (including a short Veterinary course) and received a doctorate in Oriental Medicine in the United States.

He is president of D'Arcy Naturals, Inc., and Natural Pet Rx, a company that produces All-Natural Herbal Formulas for Pets based on the most effective herbs from all over the world. Geoff has practiced Herbal Medicine for over 25 years. He has authored several books on using a holistic approach to healthcare including, "Veterinary World Herb Handbook".

AKC BMD STANDARD DENISE DEAN

"First things first" at Berner U means "Know the Standard". This seminar will cover the basic information about Bernese conformation using the AKC BMD Standard, as well as many of the finer points that only the experienced eyes of a longtime breeder and judge might notice. Denise will share the presentation given to provisional judges along with some of her slides and will use live examples to demonstrate what makes a truly spectacular conformation BMD.

Denise has been involved in purebred dogs since 1975 when she got her first Old English Sheepdogs. She has been involved with Berners since 1978 and has attended all the National Specialties since then. She has finished over 100 champion Bernese under the *Deer Park* kennel name, including a national specialty Best of Breed winner, best in sweeps, winner's dog and winners bitch at the national through the years. Denise has been judging for AKC for about 20 years and is currently approved to judge the Working Group, Herding Group and six Non Sporting breeds. She judged sweepstakes at the National in Kansas City, served as editor of *The Alpenhorn* for several years, has worked on many Nationals, and served in various capacities for several dog clubs.

BALANCE 2 THE CORE – K9 CONDITIONING 101

DEBBIE GROSS TORRACA DPT, MSPT & MARTHA MCCORMICK

This seminar presents canine conditioning and body awareness specifically designed for the needs and size of the Bernese Mountain dog. Participants will gain an understanding of proper warm up, cool down, and stretching for their dogs. A basic conditioning program for dogs and the five beginning core exercises will be discussed. In addition, the class will learn conditioning for specific areas of the body including hind end weakness, forelimb weakness and spinal weakness.

Debbie has been involved in the field of canine physical rehabilitation and fitness for over twenty years. Her clinic, *Wizard of Paws Physical Rehabilitation for Animals*, treats a variety of dogs with different goals. She is on faculty at the University of Tennessee's Canine Rehabilitation Program and has lectured all over the world on canine physical rehab, canine fitness, and other canine specific topics. In addition, she has authored articles, professional journals, and book chapters. Debbie is the co-owner of *TotoFit*, a canine fitness equipment company aimed at quality and safe canine fitness equipment.

Martha, co-owner of *TotoFit*, has been raising, competing and breeding Bernese Mountain Dogs since 2006. Her vet tech background, combined with experience as a dressage rider, led to her interest in canine movement and fitness. As a Certified Professional Canine Fitness Trainer, she enjoys helping dogs stay healthy and in peak performance condition. Recently she attended the 2017 World Dog Show in Germany, where her homebred 2-year-old male won a very large Open Dog class, in large part due to his balance and core strength.

MONDAY 12 NOON – 2 PM

PET HEALTH INSURANCE: NUTS & BOLTS & CONSIDERATIONS

TRACEY KEITH

One of the most frequent questions asked by a new Berner owner is whether s/he should purchase a pet health insurance policy. The question is a complex one, and the decision to do so is highly individualized. If you have questioned whether pet health insurance is right for you and your Berner, or if you have already decided pet insurance is right for you and you are ready to shop for a plan, then this is the class for you! It can be very confusing to choose a pet insurance company. This class will introduce some of the basics for understanding pet health insurance policies and highlights some of the areas that Bernese owners should carefully pay attention to when researching plans. Tips and questions will be discussed for Berner owners to consider when comparing various insurance companies. Its purpose is to arm you with tools to analyze pet insurance plans so you can find a plan that is right for you.

Tracey became an avid Berner enthusiast after being introduced to the breed while stationed overseas in the 1990's. She is a retired Air Force Officer and has over 30 years' experience as a registered nurse, primarily in the critical care and aeromedical evacuation arenas. She has been involved with dogs for most of her life and due to various positive and negative experiences with pet health insurance, she has researched and educated herself as much as possible about this complicated, often frustrating, topic. Tracey currently serves the BMDCA as the Registrar for Berner U, Member of the Health Committee and The Alpenhorn Content Team, and Chair of the International Relations Committee. Tracey, with her husband's assistance, breeds, trains, and enjoys competing with their *Wyndrift* Bernese in conformation and various performance venues.

BEHIND THE SCENES: PLANNING & PUTTING ON A SPECIALTY DOTTIE SCHULTE

Planning a specialty, either the National or a regional, can be a daunting task. Securing a site, contracting judges, fundraising, getting equipment, completing the AKC application, managing finances so that all is cost effective and profitable. . . not to mention the organization on the actual day. Volunteering for a specialty can be both fun and rewarding as well as a great way to give back and contribute to our dog show community. Come learn how to simplify the process by building an effective team, utilizing BMDCA and AKC resources and becoming confident that you can do this.

Dottie is the current BMDCA National Specialty Coordinator. She has experience with all aspects of specialty planning. She volunteered as Way and Means chairperson in 1996, trophy chairperson in 2004 and then chaired the National Specialty in 2013. In addition, Dottie has chaired the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Rockies regional specialties for more than 10 years. She understands the good, the bad and the ugly of specialty planning and will be sharing the information with you as well as answering all the questions you might have.

REALLY RELIABLE RECALL LESLIE NELSON

Come join us for a Really Reliable Recall class. There will be a quick review of the basics and then we will jump into playing games such as “The Recall Race”. “The Potato Chip Drive By” and the “Look! There’s a person on the floor!” There will be other fun exercises to strengthen your connection with your dog. It’s fabulous to see your dog turn on a dime and come running back to you with enthusiasm, looking like they might knock you over (and maybe they do!) because they are so excited about returning to you! Better yet, you will be improving your casual recall at the same time – win/win!

Leslie has a degree in education and has been teaching classes since 1973. She has been involved with animals her entire life and has bred and shown numerous Afghan breed champions and performance dogs. Two of her Afghan Hounds earned the Utility Dog title. She continues to compete with her own dogs, which include Afghan Hounds, Whippets and Standard Poodles and she has recently caught the very contagious agility bug.

Leslie instructs both family and competition classes and has an active schedule of private lessons and behavioral consults. She is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and this past year was honored as a keynote speaker at their annual convention. A sought after seminar speaker, she was featured along with Ted Turner and Patty Ruzzo in the popular training video, [The Power of Positive Training](#) and its follow up, [Proof Positive](#). Her booklets, [Management Magic](#), [The Really Reliable Recall](#) and her [Family Dog](#) workbook are used in training classes across the country.

MONDAY 3-5 PM

RESPIRATORY DISEASES IN BERNERS, INFECTIOUS & OTHERWISE ELIZABETH ROZANSKI DVM

This class will discuss the spectrum of respiratory conditions in Berners; including infectious causes, as well as common acquired diseases. We will review what tests help to make a diagnosis, and what therapies are known to be effective as well as on disease prevention. Specific disease to be covered include kennel cough complex, aspiration pneumonia, histiocytic sarcoma (pulmonary) and laryngeal paralysis.

Elisabeth is an emergency and critical care veterinarian at Tufts University. Some of her research has been funded by the AKC CHF, as well as the Morris Foundation. She has had Gordon Setters and Golden Retrievers and currently shares her home with a Gordon.

BREEDING BETTER BERNERS: WHAT THE PAST CAN TEACH US ABOUT THE FUTURE BERT KLEI

In late August 2017 there was an active discussion on longevity and inbreeding in our breed on Berner-I. This prompted Berner U to contact me to see if I would be interested in giving a lecture on this topic based on a presentation I gave at Berner U in 2012. Instead of presenting data from five years ago I would like to update the analysis with information that has been recently submitted to Berner-Garde. Over the last few years the Coefficient of Inbreeding calculations on planned breedings can be made on Berner-Garde. The data might be able to show us if this has had an effect on the inbreeding trend. In this class, we will examine trends in longevity and inbreeding in Bernese as observed in the data submitted to Berner-Garde. We will also learn about some novel ways of looking at the data and what it can tell us about tools needed to breed Berners for the future.

Bert's family has owned Berners since 1988 (BG#43939, 43941, 60541, 60542, and 78532), all of them as pets. Currently they are owned by Willem.

FARM DOG DAYS JESS LUDWICKI & BARB GIBSON

Join Bernese Mountain Dog owners Jess Ludwicki and Barb Gibson as they share stories about farm life and how they put their canine companions to work. Their Berners Nessa, Tugboat and Daisy are engaged daily in herding, draft, hunting, protection as well as hospitality services. The class will include training tips and valuable lessons learned that dog owners should find both useful and entertaining. The new AKC Farm Dog Certificate will also be discussed.

Jess founded *Echo Orchard & Farm* with her husband Steve Jewett in 2017. Since taking the reins, Jess and Steve have expanded the existing apple orchard and hope to launch a you-pick operation in 2018. Currently, they run a farm stay where guests are able to interact with their pigs and chickens, and pick from whatever is ready to be harvested. This ranges from garlic to apples, blueberries, tomatoes, leeks, potatoes which are all sold at their roadside farm stand operated on the honor system. Daisy, their Berner, was recently featured in *Modern Farmer* magazine as a working farm dog who herds, protects and greets farm stay guests. Given the couple's desire to start farming and their geographic location, the breed felt very appropriate and they acquired Daisy almost immediately after moving to the mountains.

Barb has owned and worked with Bernese Mountain Dogs for nearly 35 years. Together, they have earned titles in Conformation, Obedience, Draft, Agility, Rally, Tracking, Trick Dog and Herding. Her small farm contains 6-9 sheep and 20-30 ducks. The stock is used for herding lessons. Barb and her two Berners have taken lessons for 6 years. The dogs help move livestock, cart grain etc., and protect the livestock.

MONDAY 7-9 PM

BMDCA BREEDER SYMPOSIUM

OPEN TO ALL

IN SICKNESS & IN HEALTH: 2016 HEALTH SURVEY RESULTS

AUDREY RUPLE DVM, MS, PhD, Dip ACVPM, MRCVS

Assistant Professor of One Health Epidemiology Department of Comparative Pathobiology College of Veterinary Medicine Purdue University

Audrey obtained her DVM degree from Colorado State University. She continued her studies post-graduation with an emphasis on Biosecurity and Infection Control; the research she conducted during that training pertaining to hospital acquired infection (HAI) served as the basis for the thesis associated with her MS degree in Epidemiology. She completed a PhD in Cancer Biology with an emphasis in Cancer Epidemiology. Dr. Ruple is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and is a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. She has been an Assistant Professor of One Health Epidemiology at Purdue University since January 2015. Her primary research interests are companion animal epidemiology, comparative oncology, one health education, biosecurity and infection control.

TUESDAY 9-11 AM

INTEGRATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE: MICRO BIOME RESTORATIVE THERAPY

MARGO ROMAN DVM, CVA, COT, CPT

Dr. Margo Roman will discuss Microbiome restorative therapy (MBRT) and how it can improve a range of immune mediated and gastrointestinal-related health issues such as irritable bowel disease, diarrhea, GI infections such as *Giardia* and *Clostridium perfringens*, skin disorders, and aggressive and anxiety driven disposition in Berners, through enhancing the immune system and reducing inflammation. MBRT can be administered by oral or enema fecal transplant from a healthy donor. Using ozone therapy as a rectal insufflation along with subcutaneous saline with O₃ is important in reducing the colon biofilm. Prebiotics, probiotics, and gastrointestinal gut support have always been a part of her clinic's care, but the addition of MBRT speeded the recovery remarkably and kept the balance by adding hundreds of species to the gut flora. Animals who had already tried probiotics and diet change for months without complete improvement reverted from positive *Giardia* and *Clostridium perfringens* to negative fecal tests within 5 days after the MBRT. Including ozone is crucial for overall healing and success of MBRT treatments.

Margo graduated from the Veterinary College at Tuskegee Institute of Alabama, and was on the faculty of Tufts University, teaching anatomy, physiology and acupuncture. Her integrative practice, Main Street Animal Services of Hopkinton (M.A.S.H.), offers chiropractic, physical therapy, massage, Reiki, acupuncture, herbs, conventional medicine and more. She has lectured at over 25 conferences and universities on Integrative topics both nationally and internationally. She is a contributing author for the classic veterinary textbook "Integrating Complementary Medicine into Veterinary Practice".

**BREEDING DECISIONS IN THE AGE OF GENETIC TESTING:
WHAT WE KNOW & WHAT REMAINS TO BE LEARNED
ERIN CHU DVM**

While canine genetics research has made great advances in the past thirty years, choosing a DNA testing service, interpreting DNA test results, and using them to inform breeding decisions can be overwhelming. This talk will discuss and compare existing commercial testing services, with a focus on genetic tests available for the Bernese Mountain Dog. It will discuss the differences between types of genetic tests and how a breeder might interpret test results. It will also discuss measures of genomic diversity and immune genetic diversity as they relate to the Bernese Mountain Dog, both topics of active research and interest.

Erin earned her DVM from Cornell University in 2014, went on to pursue a PhD in molecular genetics and epigenetics, and is now a Senior Veterinary Geneticist at Embark Veterinary, Inc. Her best friend, Shiloh, is a Labrador-German Shepherd mix who has never met a stranger.

**RALLY-FrEe 101
JENN MICHAELIS BA, CPDT-KA, RFE-CI**

Rally FrEe is a unique sport combining trick behaviors of Canine Musical Freestyle with the format of Rally-Obedience. In Rally FrEe, dog/handler teams move through a course of 15 stations, performing tricks and freestyle moves like spin, around, back, weave and bow with points awarded for precise execution, teamwork, creativity and difficulty. Each course features 4 "Free Choice" stations where the team gets to show off their best moves! It emphasizes the precise execution of fundamental freestyle and obedience skills in a uniquely enjoyable and supportive competitor environment. Learn the foundational freestyle tricks, how to navigate a rally freestyle course, and get started in this rapidly-growing sport!

Jenn is the owner of *SassyT Canine Academy* and a Rally-FrEe Certified Instructor committed to training dogs with force-free positive reinforcement. She has been teaching and competing in canine musical freestyle for over 9 years. Her Cane Corso, Terra, is the first dog to earn Musical Dog Sport Association's highest title, a Premier title, and the first dog to earn Rally Freestyle Element's highest freestyle title, Musical Freestyle Grand Champion. Her students regularly compete and title in rally-free and musical freestyle; she teaches both sports through group classes, online private lessons and workshops all over the northeast.

TUESDAY 12 NOON – 2 PM

**DIAGNOSING KIDNEY DISEASE EARLIER: WHAT'S NEW & HOW WILL IT HELP?
MARY LABATO DVM, DACVIM (SAIM)**

This lecture will be a review of new biomarkers (blood and urine) that can be used as indicators for early diagnosis of kidney disease. Typically, we use urine's concentrating ability, the blood test BUN and creatinine to diagnose kidney disease. These parameters do not increase until there is loss of 60 -75% of function. With earlier recognition, we may be able to institute treatments to slow disease progression.

Mary is currently the proud parent of two five-year-old brother and sister litter mates, Calvin and Patty. They are number 7 and 8 of the Berners that she has shared her home with. She's a member of the Nashoba Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club and enjoys going on walks with the dogs, agility and Nose Work.

EUROPEAN-STYLE SIEGER EVALUATIONS LORI JODAR

OPEN TO ALL

Lori, President of the Berner-Garde Foundation, Berner breeder and respected judge, has offered to evaluate your dog in the European manner. She will closely observe and evaluate over 30 different conformation characteristics while your dog stands in a relaxed, natural pose and then is gaited down and back. She will then give an oral critique of your Berner to you and the observing Berner U students. You will also receive a written, signed evaluation of conformation, and a Sieger certificate if your dog receives an "Excellent" rating. Everyone is welcome to come and observe without prior registration.

Lori's introduction to Bernese Mountain Dogs in 1977 was a life altering event. She has spent the last 40 years deeply involved with the breed as an exhibitor, breeder, judge and most importantly advocate for the health of the breed. She served the BMDCA in several capacities including President. She was part of the founding group of the Berner-Garde Foundation and has served as its president since 1997. Lori has often been honored to judge the breed at major specialty sweepstakes. She is looking forward to the much more detailed and intricate method of Sieger evaluations.

TUESDAY 3 - 5 PM

RESCUE 101 & RESCUE ROUND TABLE KATHY DEYO

OPEN TO ALL

RESCUE 101, the first hour of this seminar, will be a presentation of how Bernese rescue works on both the regional club level and national level. The discussion will enable you to become more aware of the process and perhaps find a way to participate. We'll review all aspects of running a Bernese rescue committee: working with shelters, finding evaluators we can trust, identifying strategies for both supporting owners and for removing the dogs, attending to legal concerns, evaluating behavioral issues, finding foster homes, finding volunteer transporters, funding the program, using the web to locate and interview potential families - all with the goal of finding forever homes for dogs in need. Anyone curious about rescue is welcome to come.

The RESCUE ROUND TABLE, the second hour of this seminar, offers an opportunity for BMDCA recognized regional clubs, BARC, and people who individually rescue Bernese to share problems, concerns and solutions. We find that when online friends meet face-to-face it allows us to support each other and create an even stronger network for the next time we need to rescue a Berner. Newcomers are welcome to join us for one or both hours as we always appreciate fresh perspectives.

Dogs have been part of *Kathy's* life since she was a little girl but she was blessed with her first Bernese in 1986 and will never be without them. Since Hapi Mtn Kennel began, she has been a part of the Bernese community, becoming a BMDCA member in 1987, helping form the Inland Northwest regional club, being active in conformation, obedience, clinics and workshops, helping with National Specialties, and taking in her first rescue Bernese in 1995. Kathy teaches obedience classes locally, gives clinics, and has been a dog 4-H leader for 20 years. In 2001, she took over as BMDCA Rescue & Rehome Coordinator. She has also been elected a BMDCA Board Member on three different occasions. Kathy's mantra is, "If you breed, you are responsible for your dogs throughout their lifetime."

HOW TO FIND A PUPPY LAUREL WOOD & LINDA SEAVER

Prospective Puppy Owners might look online to the AKC for advice to find a pure-bred puppy. Logical, right? Click on the How to Find a Puppy page, select the breed, gender and the distance you would drive to meet your pup. In four pages of Bernese breeder listings, there was not one BMDCA or regional club member. A half dozen were puppy mills and known disreputable breeders. So, if that's the advice from AKC, how *can* you find a healthy puppy? In this class, we will explain the sometimes frustrating but most often successful process of finding a well-bred Berner puppy from a responsible, honest and ethical breeder. Patience and perseverance are essential but there really is a way to reduce the risk of disaster and bring home a soft bundle of puppy joy. Bring questions and take notes!

Laurel adopted her first Bernese Mountain dog 18 years ago. She fell in love with the breed at the age of 15 and waited to get her first puppy until she was old enough to be a responsible pet owner. Laurel found the breeder of her first puppy through a regional club breeder list she stumbled upon. It took two years to get her puppy, but she spent lots of time before and after as kennel help, going to shows, classes, and club events, taking every opportunity to learn more about the breed. Laurel served on the Board of the BMDCA for six years and has been the club's Puppy Referral Chair since 2003 where she has charted a successful course from the time of snail mail, phone, and in person referral to the internet age. Laurel shares her home with three Berners, Scarlett and her offspring, Esther and Lucious.

Linda is most familiar as Berner University co-creator with Andrea Brin. She began volunteering for the BMDCA as the special features editor when the Alpenhorn was several mimeographed sheets. More recently she was the BMDCA Breeder Education Chair developing the annual Breeder Symposium and the Breeder Mentor Program, the recipient of the 2010 BMDCA Outstanding Service Award and the 2010 Berner-Garde Foundation's Winston Neff Award. Linda continues with Berner U, as a Breed Steward and as a ringside mentor for Judge's Education. She has enjoyed success with her dogs in conformation, obedience, draft, agility and rally. Beginning in 1983, she bred Bernese under the *Tschuggen* kennel prefix and with her husband Bob, cartoonist of *Bob's Best Berners*, they now have the privilege of living with Jam and Xodi, their ninth and tenth Berners.

MESSAGE TECHNIQUES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS BERNERS DEBBIE TOWNDROW LCT/CCMT, VT

This class will focus on learning massage techniques for Berners with special needs such as veterans, geriatrics and amputees. Those dogs with juvenile lameness (traveling and forelimb), post C-section surgery or post cruciate ligament surgery all can also profit from specific massage techniques. Athletic backyard Berners and active performance competitors all benefit from massage during conditioning and training. The performance of your canine partner in agility, freestyle, dock diving, obedience and even tension-filled conformation will be enhanced, safer and more enjoyable with a massage before and after ring time.

Debbie began her education at Center of Advanced Therapeutics earning her CMT/LCMT and at the Boulder College of Massage Therapy, she earned her Canine Massage Certification Program – CCMT. She became a Veterinary Technician while studying for her Associate of Applied Science degree at the Bel Rea Institute of Animal Technology where she mastered the Healing Touch for Animals, Canine Levels 1,2,3 and Healing Touch for Animals, Equine Levels 1,2,3. At the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association she taught "Medical Massage – the Canine Course. She is also a member of the Associated Bodyworkers and Massage Professionals.

In 1998, Debbie launched *Woof and Hoof Massage, Inc.* serving the massage needs of pets and people. *Woof and Hoof Massage* regularly travels to area training/veterinary facilities, dog shows, trials, and other events across a large region from Debbie's home base in Broomfield, CO. She has been a repeat member of the Berner U faculty leading the "Fundamentals of Canine Massage" workshop.