



2020 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES ©

MONDAY 9-11 AM

CANINE ORAL CARE 101

Don't get "Berned" at the Dentist: Helpful Hints for Oral Care of Bernese Mountain Dogs
KIRK HERRMANN DVM

Dental disease is an often overlooked but important part of canine healthcare. Understanding homecare and regular oral examination may help alleviate problems before they start and help initiate proactive care for your pet. We will discuss common concerns and treatment options for the most prevalent issues regarding oral health of the Bernese Mountain Dog.

Dr. Herrmann is a third-year resident at The Center for Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery in Gaithersburg, MD. He graduated from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine and completed a rotating internship at The Veterinary Specialty Center of Delaware before joining CVDOS. He and his family have been involved in purebred dogs for the good majority of his life where they have bred, owned and handled over 50 champions in Poodles and Great Danes. He looks forward to giving back to the purebred dog community by promoting appropriate husbandry and well-being for our canine patients and debunking myths and outdated practices concerning oral health.

WHELPING 101

SAMANTHA JUDGE DVM & SUE BRIGHTMAN

A veterinarian and a Berner breeder each bring their perspective to this exciting occasion. Their wealth of experience surely has the answers to your whelping questions whether you are considering becoming a breeder or are planning your fourth litter. This informal presentation will describe the signs leading up to whelping, the various stages, what to be aware of and what to do, and post whelping care for moms and neonates. They will also discuss how to think about and respond when unfortunate events surprise you (oxytocin use, resuscitation, C-sections.) Questions and discussion focused on the experiences of students are encouraged and welcome.

Dr. Judge is originally from Culpeper, VA. In her youth she showed Old English Sheep Dogs and Brittany Spaniels in 4-H. Even prior to attending veterinary school, she had a long and diverse career in veterinary medicine. She was a licensed veterinary technician, research technician in neuroendocrinology at the University of Virginia and supervisor of small animal surgery at Colorado State University. After graduating from CSU with a degree in veterinary medicine, she worked in private practice in Fredericksburg for four years before realizing her dream of opening her own veterinary hospital in 2007. Her special interests include oncology, acupuncture and canine reproduction. Outside of work she can be found showing one of her six Bernese Mountain Dogs, in addition to paddle boarding, and kayaking.

Sue fell in love with the Bernese Mountain Dog in 1978. Since 1983, she has bred 66 litters under the kennel name Arundel after helping other breeders whelp and raise litters. Her ideal when breeding is the natural farm dog that will breed and whelp without assistance and raise a litter readily. For conformation, her emphasis is on an all-around Berner, well-balanced and substantial who represents his heritage as a Swiss farm dog. Sue is a member of the BMDCA (US) and the BMDCC (Canada), as well as a founding member and current Treasurer of the BMDCFL (Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Finger Lakes, NYS). She currently serves as BMDCFL health liaison, a BMDCA Breed Ambassador and Breeder Mentor. She has regularly attended national and regional specialties and is active in conformation showing. She has had the honor of judging Sweepstakes and Futurity at a number of national and regional specialties in the U.S. and Canada. In the past, she has judged local all-breed matches, conducted a breed standard workshop, served as Sieger evaluator, assisted with judges' education, and served as a professional steward for Tri-State Stewards

MONDAY 12 NOON - 2 PM

GENETICS OF HISTIOCYTIC SARCOMA JACQUELYN EVANS DVM

Interested in understanding more about dog genetics? This presentation will touch on key genetic concepts, in lay terms, to gain a better understanding of how traits are inherited in dogs. Special focus will be on histiocytic sarcoma (HS), many Berners, and the research our lab is doing to advance our genetic understanding of this disease. Participants will learn how canine geneticists identify genes responsible for diseases in dog breeds and how this information can be utilized to benefit canine and human health. This class will be of interest to anyone wanting to learn more about genetics and its role in breed health.

Dr. Evans is a postdoctoral research fellow in Dr. Elaine Ostrander's canine genetics laboratory at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland where she studies the genetics of certain canine cancers, including histiocytic sarcoma. Dr. Evans obtained her Ph.D. in genetics at Clemson University, where she identified three genes that in combination confer low, moderate, or high risk for developing a skin and muscle disease in Collies and Shetland Sheepdogs. One of the favorite aspects of her job is communicating with owners and breeders, often at specialties and breed club events, and conveying the relevance of her research to those whom it most directly impacts!

CHOOSING A SIRE

JESSICA HEKMAN DVM PHD

You're thinking about breeding! What goes in to picking the best match for your bitch? Jessica Hekman, DVM, PhD, is a veterinary geneticist who will talk about how to pick the right genetic test(s) and how to evaluate them, along with how genetic testing works. She will talk about how to weigh the benefits of choosing a sire with an impressive show career versus the dangers of popular sire effect; tips for breeding for longevity; and how to keep the good of the entire breed in mind. Jessica will cover a range of topics from basic to advanced, and will take questions to make sure everyone's interests are covered.

Dr. Hekman is a veterinary genetics researcher who is fascinated by dog behavior. She works at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard as a postdoctoral associate, studying the genetics of behavior in pet dogs through the Darwin's Ark project and the Working Dogs Project. She also teaches online and consults with breeders about genetic testing and breeding choices. Jessica lives in Raymond, NH with her husband and three dogs. You can follow her on Twitter [@dogzombieblog](#) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/dogzombieblog](#).

RECENT ADVANCEMENTS IN ONCOLOGY

CRAIG CLIFFORD DVM MS DACVIM, KRISTIN KICENUIK DVM DACVIM & CASSANDRA WILCOX DVM

This lecture will cover the latest and the greatest that is coming down the pipeline in veterinary oncology. Part 1 will cover Immunotherapy in the form of vaccine for osteosarcoma and lymphoma as well as novel personalized immunotherapy and supportive care medications for nausea and appetite. Part 2 will cover stereotactic radiation therapy, when is it applicable and a general understanding of radiation therapy and the phenotyping of lymphoma, what is it, how do we do it and why. Specifically, we will report on a novel form of lymphoma called indolent lymphoma.

Dr. Clifford is a graduate of Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine and received an MS degree in Animal Science/Virology from the University of Delaware. After completing an internship and a medical oncology residency at the University of Pennsylvania, he became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Oncology) in 2003. He is a medical oncologist, Director of Clinical Studies and co-owner of Hope Veterinary Specialists in Malvern, Pennsylvania. He is active in clinical research within a referral setting and serves as an advisory board member with both industry and non-profit foundations. He is a renowned oncologist who has authored/co-authored over 60 papers and book chapters. He is a frequent lecturer at major veterinary meetings in the USA and abroad.

Dr. Kicenuik obtained her DVM from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2011. She completed several rotating and specialty internships in New Jersey, Texas, and Georgia before completing a 3-year residency in Medical Oncology at the University of Georgia and becoming board certified in 2017. Dr. Kicenuik has presented scientific research at the annual Veterinary Cancer Society meeting and has authored and coauthored several journal articles. She also provides continuing education lectures to veterinarians in the region on topics in oncology and she has a special interest in clinical trials, translational medicine, and chemotherapy safety.

Dr. Wilcox obtained board certification in radiation oncology from the American College of Veterinary Radiology in 2017. Her professional interests include improving patient comfort and palliative care. Dr. Wilcox graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in 2014. She completed a rotating medical and surgical internship at VCA West Los Angeles Animal Hospital, followed by a residency in radiation oncology at the University of California at Davis. Prior to attending veterinary school, Dr. Wilcox obtained a BS in biology from Point Loma Nazarene University. Dr. Wilcox is originally from southern California. She lives in Montgomery County with her significant other and their 2 adorable miniature dachshunds, Winne and Walter.

MONDAY 3-5 PM

HERDING 101 BUCK SYKES

Just the thought of Herding with a Bernese Mountain Dog is something that will bring an instant smile. But 'How to start?' and 'Where to go?' This seminar provides a basic overview of the sport of Herding with a Berner and dispels some myths along the way. Along with tips and techniques to help brighten your path in 'getting started', you will also learn about the AKC and AHBA (American Herding Breeds Association) Herding Programs, and their eligibility for BMDCA's medallions and awards.

Buck and Priscilla Sykes fell in love with Berners while hiking in the Swiss Alps during the mid-1990s. They have shared their lives with Berners since bringing 'Molly B' home from Switzerland in 2000. While they participate in conformation, performance and working events, their greatest love is in the working events dance of responsibilities where the handler has to strike a balance between directing the dog and allowing the dog to do the job it knows best! They have earned herding titles on six Berners since 2004. Their current companions, ANDY and ANJA, began their herding careers by earning the JHD-s title at BMDCA's Del Mar Specialty (when 9 months and 1 week old). They are now approaching 10 years of age. Each is titled as an AKC and AHBA Herding Champion, and each continues to enjoy participating in the sport. Only 3 BMDs have earned AHBA's HTCh title; only 2 have earned AKC's HC title.

BARC UPDATE AMY KESSLER

Knowing how much you worship and adore your Berner, it's difficult to believe those adorable pups in the pet store or online photos may have come not from caring breeders like yours but instead came from the horror of puppy mills and/or dog auctions. The popularity of Bernese has been a joy as many new families fall in love with our breed but it has also been a curse for way too many dogs who are bred and grow up in squalor without proper nutrition, veterinary care and socialization. Fortunately, a group of dedicated fanciers, led by Amy Kessler, work to rescue and rehome dogs specifically from these awful circumstances. Dozens of Berners have been fostered and adopted through BARC and Amy will recount the history and bring us up to date on current state of her non-profit. You will hopefully be inspired to join the fight against puppy mills and make a difference on this front.

Amy is the founder and president of the Bernese Auction Rescue Coalition. BARC, Inc. a non-profit corporation dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating Bernese Mountain Dogs from dog brokers, dog auctions, puppy mills and any other dangerous, exploitative or abusive situations. BARC, Inc. places these dogs specifically Amy received the BMDCA Outstanding Service Award in 2002 for her dedication and work rescuing Bernese and setting an example for all member breeders. She has had Berners since 1993 and breeds under the kennel name Lionheart.

OBEDIENCE TRIAL PREPARATION LISA BALDWIN

Performance sports are partnerships between you & your dog. Two important things that can help our dogs to be their best in dog sports are proper warm up and good cuing in the ring. Doing a proper individual warm up helps both of you to be ready for the ring. Inside the ring, proper cuing can take a mediocre performance and turn it into art. This class will concentrate on helping you learn how to pick an appropriate warm-up routine and, once in the ring, how to smoothly let your dog know what is coming up next. This class is aimed at obedience and rally, but would be helpful for draft as well.

Lisa has owned Bernese Mountain Dogs for over 30 years. Ever since she bought her first Bernese Mountain Dog and the breeder told her she had to take him to obedience classes, she's been hooked. She currently owns a Rottweiler and her fifth Bernese, who is competing in rally and learning obedience and draft.

MONDAY 7-9 PM

BMDCA BREEDER SYMPOSIUM

OPEN TO ALL

BERNER CANCER RESEARCH RESULTS

What Have We Learned After 10 years of Genomics Research?

MATTHEW BREEN PHD CBIOL FRSB

Dr. Breen is the Oscar J. Fletcher Distinguished Professor of Comparative Oncology Genetics, Dept. of Molecular Biomedical Sciences at North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. He is a member of NCSU Forensic Sciences Institute, the Comparative Medicine Institute at NCSU, the Center for Human Health and the Environment, NCSU and the Cancer Genetics Program at the University of North Carolina and the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. An Associate Member of the Duke Cancer Institute, Dr. Breen is most of all a longtime advocate and devoted friend of the Berner community and working tirelessly to extend longevity in our dogs.

TUESDAY 9-11 AM

GENETICS 101

Genetics Explained

Bert KLEI PHDDS

For many of you, genetics was right up there with statistics as most hated classes in high school. Lots of formulas and many abstract ideas that were hard to visualize. Since genetics are partly what creates your dog, as a dog breeder or owner, genetics is part of your everyday life. Genetics is one of the fields that have been changing rapidly. Many concepts that we did not know anything about 20 years ago are now part of the everyday lexicon. In this class we are going to explore the different terms that are being used in genetics and how they relate to the dogs that you breed or own. This will include terms that you are likely familiar with such as inbreeding, dominant, recessive, and genes. Other, newer, terms such as DNA, alleles, loci, polygenic traits, penetrance, risk scores, etc. will be discussed as well. We will put all this in context of diseases that you are familiar with such as hip dysplasia, degenerative myelopathy, and histiosarcoma. At the end of the class you should have a working knowledge of many of these terms. This should help you in discussions with your veterinarian, with other dog breeders and when you make breeding decisions.

Bert earned a PhD in animal breeding and genetics from Cornell University in 1995. After graduation he worked as a geneticist for the American Simmental Association (beef cattle) and the Holstein Association (dairy cattle). After a short foray into teaching introductory statistics at Carnegie Mellon University, he settled down as a computational geneticist at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Bert's main research focus is in better understanding the genetic background of schizophrenia and autism, two highly heritable human diseases with a very complex genetic origin. Berners have been part of the Klei family since the late 1980's. So far they have owned five of these magnificent beasts. Currently they own Willem (BG78532). Berners in his household lead their lives as pets.

FOUNDATIONS OF DOG SPORTS SHANNON HALL

There are so many fun dog sports and activities to do with your dogs these days. While each requires specific knowledge and training, there are common foundational underpinnings that span many. Shannon will go over some broadly applicable principles and skills and some easy to train behaviors that will set you up well to start in any of several different dog activities, or just to help you build your relationship with your dog.

Shannon started training dogs for AKC obedience in 1994, and added rally and agility along the way. She started teaching obedience in the early 2000s and now also teaches agility. Her first dog was a lovely Dalmatian. Now on dogs #7 (Australian Cattle Dog) and #8 (Border Collie), she is a dedicated herding dog lover, married to a Labrador Retriever guy. She is an avid hiker and always has a dog along for good company.

END OF LIFE DECISIONS, END OF LIFE CARE, LOSS & GRIEF MARY-ANN BOWMAN PhD

When our beloved dog begins that final mile of her journey, it typically and understandably precipitates an emotional crisis – how could it not? But when we are in crisis it can be difficult to learn what we need to know in order to engage with the hard decisions that may need to be made, to choose the best caring option(s), and/or to navigate the all-encompassing grief. Advanced Care Planning is not just for humans! In this participatory and interactive Berner U session, Dr. Sontag Bowman brings together her unique professional expertise and her experience and reflections about Life with Dogs to invite participants to think about the related processes of End-of-Life Decision-making, End-of-Life Care, and Living with Loss and Grief. In doing so, participants will gain critical knowledge and skills to inform future end-of-life experiences with their dogs, and to better support others who may be walking their final mile with a dog they love so very much.

Dr. Bowman is an Associate Professor at the University of Montana where she specializes in issues related to loss and grief. She has long combined her expertise in dogs with her professional interests, including conducting a large study that gathered data from thousands of individuals about the death of a beloved dog and the grief that followed. A recent book chapter reflects her ongoing mental collaboration between professional expertise and reflections about Life with Dogs; the chapter, published in 2018, is titled “Final gifts: Lessons children can learn from dogs about end-of-life, loss, and grief.” Mary-Ann has lived with Bernese Mountain Dogs since 1994, and her Kaibab Berners reflect generations of BMDCA Versatility Dogs, consistently excelling in performance events while also maintaining fidelity to the Breed Standard. She is currently on Sabbatical engaged in yet another study involving loss and grief, and also having fun training and showing her well-loved Berners: Harper, Sparkle, Daisy, and Claire.

TUESDAY 12 NOON- 2PM

BLOAT!! KATHY BERGE DVM

Gastric dilatation-volvulus or “Bloat” is a devastating disease that disproportionately affects large and giant-breed dogs. A true medical emergency with a rapid onset and short timeline during which to seek treatment, it is critical that owners and breeders understand how to identify and prevent GDV. In this presentation, Dr. Berge will discuss what we know about GDV; including risk factors, symptoms, treatment, and prevention strategies.

Dr. Berge has been in general small animal practice in Des Moines, Iowa since 1989. She purchased her first Bernese Mt Dog in 1984 and has exhibited since then in draft, obedience, tracking, rally and conformation. She breeds the occasional litter under the Ahquabi prefix. She greatly enjoys being a part of the draft community and travels through the United States as a draft judge.

INTEGRATIVE VETERINARY CARE 101 SARA FOX CHAPMAN DVM

We all want the best possible veterinary care for our beloved Berners, and an integrative approach holistically utilizes the most appropriate modalities for each individual. Many patients are helped by complementary therapies such as nutrition, homeopathy, acupuncture, herbal medicine, flower essences, physical therapies, and energy work. Indeed, these approaches are gaining interest in human and veterinary medicine worldwide, as we search for ways to use antibiotics rationally and minimize the use of other medications with serious side effects. This presentation will explore how we can integrate modalities in veterinary medicine that expand beyond conventional medicine, for the benefit of our Berners. An introduction to complementary modalities will be followed by an acupuncture demonstration, and a more in-depth look at how specific modalities are particularly useful for the major health concerns of our breed.

Sara has owned dogs her entire life. She couldn't have her own dog until she was 15, so she borrowed the neighbors' dogs for walks and training. After earning her veterinary degree, she worked in small animal practices, continued training her dogs and occasionally showed. After about ten years of practice, she was frustrated with the side effects of the treatment options for animals with serious chronic diseases, so she began studying clinical nutrition and homeopathy. Her family lived in the UK for three years (fabulous place for dogs!) and she took this opportunity to take a three year, in depth course in homeopathy in Oxford. Back in the US, she continued to expand her modality range, studying acupuncture with IVAS, and Reiki. Sara wanted a 'naturally reared' dog, and thought Berners were wonderful, so in 2008 she brought Rubiy home from Bernvonrust in Ontario. Lesley Rouillier has been her Berner mentor as she has raised four litters of her own NR Berners. Sara trains her three beloved girls in obedience, agility, and draft, and shows in conformation occasionally.

THE AKC BMDCA BREED STANDARD JUDGES MENTOR

“First things first” at Berner U means “Know the Standard”. Presented by a BMDCA Judges’ Mentor, this is the same presentation given to provisional judges later in the week prior to the Best of Breed competition. Learn to ‘see’ the dog under that gorgeous, black fur coat the way the judges and experienced breeders see. In this class you will have the chance to ask questions until you really understand and can identify the correct structure, gait and appearance of the ideal Bernese as described in our breed standard. Bring your dog along so we have examples of conformation strengths and weaknesses.

TUESDAY 3-5 PM

**RESCUE 24/7
KATHY DEYO**

OPEN TO ALL

RESCUE 24/7 aims to address how rescuing Bernese is accomplished by the national club, the regional clubs and independent rescues such as BARC. 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. The discussion will enable you to become more aware of the process and perhaps, find a way to participate. Anyone curious about rescue is welcome to come without prior registration.

Kathy has been blessed with Bernese since 1986 and has bred five generations of Bernese under the Hapi Mtn kennel name. She joined the BMDCA in 1987, served on the BMDCA board in 2001-2002 and again in 2007-2008, and became the BMDCA National Rescue & Rehome Coordinator in 2001 after helping with several Bernese rescue situations in her area. She currently shows in conformation, teaches obedience, showmanship and agility classes, works with 4-H kids, and just enjoys her dogs including Spam, a 4-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier. She continues to compete and also performs with the family entertainment group, *The Superdogs*. Kathy’s mantra is, “If you breed, you are responsible for your dogs throughout their lifetime.”

FREESTYLE 201
Twists, Turns & Tricks
MARJORIE GEIGER

Canine Freestyle is a creative obedience discipline that is rooted in a balanced partnership. This class will explore Freestyle and its value in and outside of competition. Games and activities will be explored that add flexibility in mind and body of dogs and their humans. Bring your Berner and plan to have a good time!

Marjorie has been an educator who enjoys many aspects of teaching in varied classroom settings, including dogs and their people. Training is a lifelong creative pursuit and specifically clicker training is her foundation teaching method. The connection it encourages allows dogs learning abilities to grow, and the canine/human partnership to flourish. Marjorie has two Berners (Tommy 6 year old male, and Juby a 4 year old girl). They enjoy training in obedience, rally, draft, nose work, agility, barn hunt, musical freestyle, and conformation.

DOGS ARE WELCOME IN ALL CLASSES.

The information provided above is intended to aid Berner University students in selecting their classes. Please contact faculty directly for any other use.