



2022 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES ©

MONDAY 9-11 AM

TRUTH ABOUT TEETH

PERIODONTAL DISEASE AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON OUTCOMES FOR PUPPIES

JUDI STELLA PhD

Periodontitis is the most common dental issue in dogs. It is caused by the accumulation of dental plaque and tartar on the teeth, which triggers inflammation. Periodontitis can result in gum infections, bone loss and, if left untreated over time, the loss of teeth and other serious health problems. This presentation will include the causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of periodontal disease in puppies and dogs, so you are well prepared to care for your Berner's oral health.

Judi is the Head of Health, Standards and Research at **Good Dog**, and her goal is to empower dog breeders and owners so they can bring out the best in every puppy and dog and improve the health and happiness of generations of dogs to come. Since **Good Dog's** mission is to build a better world for our dogs and people who love them, they are honored to sponsor her talk at Berner U.

RESOLVING ANXIETY: DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY!

SARA FOX CHAPMAN MS DVM, VETMFHOM

Anxiety is a common problem in dogs and can seriously affect quality of life for them and their guardians. This presentation will examine the various manifestations of anxiety. Participants will learn which dogs are more likely to be anxious, predisposing causes, triggers, and useful environmental and behavioral management of anxiety. Participants will also learn how and when pharmaceuticals, pheromones, herbal medicines, TCVM, homeopathic medicines, and essential oils can help treat anxious pets.

Sara has been owned by 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 ten years of practice, frustrated with the side effects of the treatment options for animals with serious chronic diseases, 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 has continued to expand her modality range, studying acupuncture with IVAS, and Reiki. She 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 occasionally.

EUROPEAN-STYLE SIEGER EVALUATIONS MARGIE REHO

Our European-Style Sieger class is an adaptation of the way conformation shows take place in Switzerland. A respected and experienced Berner breeder judges your Berner by closely observing and evaluating over 30 different conformation characteristics while the dog stands in a relaxed, natural pose and then is gaited down, back and around the ring. She will then give an oral critique of all aspects of the dog to the owner and all the observing Berner U students. The owner receives a written, signed evaluation of conformation and if the dog receives an "Excellent" rating, a Sieger certificate. Questions and discussion are encouraged so please speak up. Everyone is welcome to come and observe without prior registration.

Margie has owned Bernese Mountain Dogs and been active in the BMDCA since 1978. Under the kennel name of *Dallybeck*, she has bred 24 litters, and has produced some of the top dogs in the United States and Canada. At National Specialties, her own dogs, Dallybeck-produced dogs, and offspring of Dallybeck dogs, have won such prestigious awards as High In Trial, Best of Opposite Sex, Winners Dog, Best of Winners, Award of Merit, first in Stud Dog, first in Brood Bitch, both Best and Best of Opposite in Veteran Sweeps with son and dam, and many class placements in obedience disciplines, and conformation, regular and non-regular, puppy through veteran classes - some of these awards won several times over. Many dogs from her breeding have been Versatility Award Winners over the years. She has produced the BMDCA Top Producer, Conformation Dog. Margie's active interests in the breed focus on the total dog: structure, soundness, type, temperament, working ability and longevity. She became the first recipient of a Dog World Award for Bernese in obedience, as well as earning a Tracking Degree on her bitch. In conformation, she has judged Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes classes in Canada, and at the BMDCA National Specialty in Colorado.

MONDAY 12 NOON-2 PM

RALLY NOVICE 101 DORENE McCUNE

Rally provides an excellent yet relaxing introduction to formal obedience that improves the relationship between you and your dog. Teamwork is the goal. Performing at a Rally trial is much like going to a match, as you are allowed to verbally and visually cue your dog and you can earn titles while doing it. Rally is fun! That was the intention of Rally inventor, Bud Kramer. This workshop offers a hands-on introduction to Rally Novice and we'll practice the NEW Novice level signs. Following an introduction to Rally you'll do a run through of an actual rally course

and will receive feedback at the end of your run. Relax and enjoy these precious moments with your dog. Working team? Bring treats! Auditors are welcome.

Dorene became involved in performance sports when she got her first Bernese Mountain Dog in 2010. Since then, she has worked with her girls in Draft, Obedience, Rally, Barn Hunt, and recently Conformation. She has had two girls achieve the highest award in draft, the Grand Master Draft Dog. She has been working her girls in Rally since 2015 and has been a Rally Instructor at her local kennel club since 2017.

DRAFT DOGS 101 JACK CRIFASI

Your Berner is a working dog who needs a fun job that combines exercise and teamwork – the essence of drafting! Participants will be introduced to teamwork skills needed to work with a draft dog. With a logical step-by-step approach, this hands-on training class will give you an opportunity to try carting with your Berner partner. All dogs should be at least 1 year old and have some basic obedience training, but no draft experience is needed. A limited number of harnesses and training equipment are available for sharing; please bring your own if you have them. Working team? Bring treats! Auditors are welcome.

Jack and his Berners have achieved many draft titles in all-breed tests conducted by the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, and he loves sharing his draft training techniques in his popular workshops and demonstrations. He excels at introducing students and their dogs to draft work techniques with an emphasis on dog safety and control, and developing a happy, trusting and fun-filled handler-dog relationship.

THE DOXYCYCLINE/HISTIO CONNECTION CAROL LYNN FOX

*** NEW DAY & TIME***

A group of Berner enthusiasts have been using Doxycycline on a yearly basis for more than 20 years. There is currently a non-scientific study, in Berner-Garde, that seeks to show whether Doxycycline has a positive effect on preventing histiocytosis. With additional participants, we are hoping to spark the interest of a researcher to conduct a cohort study. Come learn about the previous studies (both canine and human) used as the basis of our hypothesis, current non-scientific statistics and how you can join the study.

Carol Lynn has been involved with dogs since the age of three and has been training for more than 30 years. She has also owned Rottweilers and Dalmatians before falling in love with a Bernese who was her first official obedience client 30 years ago. Carol Lynn is the owner of Blue Ribbon K9 Academy and is an advocate of positive, force free training methods. Nothing has been more satisfying for her than getting students involved in Rally and Obedience and watching the dog/handler bond develop while helping the team earn titles and blue ribbons! Breeding under the prefix of *Maha Raja*, Carol Lynn has bred 15 litters and enjoyed better than average longevity with Shanti living to 14 years old. She currently has 7 Berners and is the first BMDCA member to be awarded BOB and HIT at the same AKC show. Her continued dedication to improving the health and longevity of Bernese has led her to initiate this study.

As a steward of the breed, Carol Lynn has served as 2011 BMDCA National Show Chair, BMDCA Recording Secretary, BMDCA Breed Ambassador Chair, GCSBMDC President and

currently serves as BMDCA Club Relations Chair, and PBMD of SC President. She is also an AKC Conformation Judge, Farm Dog Judge and CGC Evaluator. Carol Lynn's Berner-Garde People ID is 14050.

MONDAY 3-5 PM

BERNESE HISTORY

Mary Alice Eschweiler

This class will give a basic overview of the history of our breed. Where did Berners come from? How did they get to the United States? Who were the first Berner owners and how did they steward the breed? At what point did those who loved their dogs form the BMDCA? Along with historical facts, Mary Alice will share her personal perceptions of the growth of our beloved breed. Come for a rare experience with one of our founders who has experienced and guided Bernese from the beginning.

Mary Alice bought her first BMD in 1959. She trained and showed her Berner to the first North American title, a CD, in 1962. She has trained and shown many Bernese to multiple titles, including the first Champion UDT. She finished 12 AKC champions under the kennel name *Shepherd's Patch*. A charter member of BMDCA and BMDCSE Wisconsin, Mary Alice served as President and on the Board of BMDCA and BMDCSEW. She belongs to Waukesha Kennel Club and Western Waukesha County Dog Training Club and currently is an instructor for both clubs. She has judged Sweepstakes, Futurity and in 2000, and regular classes for BMDCA National Specialties. She is also approved by the AKC to judge BMD's and Junior Showmanship. Her volunteer record is voluminous and demonstrates devotion to the breed. She served as Records Chair of BMDCA for 15 years, was on the Standard Committee 1980 and 1990, became a BMDCA draft judge and has served on the Working Draft Committee. She served as Chair of BMDCA 1987 National Specialty and continued to serve on the National Specialty committees for 1981, 1990 and 2000. Currently Mary Alice serves on the BMDCA Judge's Education Committee. She has attended every BMDCA National Specialty and one Swiss Zuchtschau.

HERDING 101

BUCK SYKES

The thought of Herding with a Bernese Mountain Dog brings an instant smile. But 'how to start' and 'where to go?' This seminar presents an overview of the sport, (even about 'ducks' & 'handlers'), together with some tips & techniques that will 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 & Priscilla Sykes fell in love with Berners while hiking in the Swiss Alps during the 1990s. They have shared their lives with these pups since bringing Molly B home from Switzerland in 2000. While the Sykes 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!

All of the pups have earned a cartload of herding titles. ANDY and ANJA are both AKC and AHBA Herding Champions. ANDY is the only Berner to ever have been awarded AKC's prodigious 'Dual Champion' title, and ANJA, almost 12 years old, actively participates in herding trials.

MOLLY B. Debby vom Worblental CDX, DD, BDD, JHD-s
FRONNY Fronny vom Worblental CD, RE, TD, DD, BDD, JHD-s
TAVI Ottavia vom Worblental CD, RE, TD, MDD, BDD3, HTAD-Is, JHD-s
ROBYN CH Robyn vom Worblental CDX, RAE2, TD, HSAs, GMDD, HTAD-IIIIs, HRD-IIIIs, RLF-Is, JHD
ANDY DC HTCh Tranquility's Andy Robynson CDX, RAE2, HXAsd, GMDD, HTAD-IIIIs, HRD-IIIIs, RLF-IIIIs, JHD-s
ANJA HC Tranquility's Anja Jungfrau CDX, RAE2, HXAsd, GMDD, HTAD-IIIIs, HRD-IIIIs, RLF-IIIIs, JHD-

CURRENT TOPICS IN GENETICS

BERT KLEI PHD

Ever wonder why the COI from Berner-Garde are so different from what commercial companies like Embark provide on the same dog? A genetic test for Histio is now available. How is this test different from other genetic tests that we are familiar with? Come to this class and we will explore these topics in more detail. Bert will also entertain any questions that you may have. Please let him know your questions beforehand so that he can prepare for it (klei@zoominternet.net).

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. Willem, BG78532, their most recent Berner lived 10.5 wonderful years. Berners in his household lead their lives as pets.

TUESDAY 9-11 AM

ESSENTIAL OILS 101

LIZ RALSTON

How and why do essential oils work? This class will explain the basic chemistry of essential oils and demonstrate the ways we should and should not offer to our dogs the most frequently self-selected plant essences. Remedies for common physical and psychological problems will be presented. An opportunity to taste, inhale and/or topically apply a selection of pure essences will give a hands-on knowledge of their therapeutic effects. We will conclude with guidelines for use and safety considerations.

Liz breeds Berners under the prefix *Lira Bernese* and is dedicated to the future of the breed. She participates in a variety of canine sports so she can get to know each dog's mental and physical strengths and weaknesses. This helps her breed for physical structure, health, and temperament. All her dogs are listed in the BernerGarde health database. She is always available for her owners for the life of their Lira Bernese Mountain Dog.

**WISE WOMEN ON THE BUSINESS OF BREEDING:
A CONVERSATION FOR NEW BREEDERS**

**NANCY MELONE, HEATHER AUSTIN, SUE BRIGHTMAN, HELEN DAVENPORT-WILLIS,
SANDY DUNAWAY, LISA EBNET, SARAH TENNESSEN & KATHY WORLEY**

A panel of esteemed breeders/breeder-judge provides insight about the Business of Breeding. What clauses are most important in your puppy contract? What do stud dog owners expect from bitch owners? Have you ever produced a pup with a serious defect? How did you handle it both practically and emotionally? How is your kennel business organized for breeding and tax purposes? What records do you keep? Have you ever been sued over a dog? What attributes are easy to lose in breeding Berners and hard to get back if lost? How has the breed changed over time? What is the most serious problem you see facing this new generation of breeders? Panelists will initially respond to a list of pre-defined questions many of which have no “right” or “wrong” answer, and then we will open it up to the audience. The goal is to help new breeders think about these issues and feel welcome in the breeding community.

Nancy has owned Berners since 1998, acquiring her first show dog in 2000. She got serious about breeding in 2007 when she went to the Netherlands to bring back GCH Bente, the start of *ThornCreek Bernese*. While she has bred just 33 puppies, she has done well. She confesses that she is proudest of winning Best Veteran in Sweepstakes at the 2019 BMDCA National Specialty over 62 other lovely veterans. Her involvement with Bernese has included editing *The Alpenhorn* when it won its first Maxwell Medallion and serving on the boards of the Berner-Garde Foundation and Bernese Auction Rescue Coalition. Currently she serves on the board of the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA (NKCUSA) and chairs the NKCUSA Health and Genetics Committee. Her informative articles on canine health have won multiple Dog Writers Association of America Maxwell Medallions, a Morris Animal Foundation Advances in Canine Veterinary Medicine Award, and multiple AKC Club Publication Excellence Awards.

Heather's start in Berners began when Nancy Melone generously agreed to place a singleton boy with her nearly nine years ago. Sh had a great experience raising, training and showing him and co-owning with Nancy. She practiced draft, agility, obedience and conformation. A few years and a lot of study later she was ready to add to the pack, with an eye toward breeding. Her first bitch came from Angela Evans. She was fortunate to then have both Nancy and Angela as mentors, as well as some other great friends she had picked up along the way. She has had four litters of experience under her belt now and never could have – or would have -- done it on her own. That's why she volunteered to chair the Breeder Education Committee. Breeding has become a very intense and interesting part of her life. Helping new breeders navigate the process and sharing new information about Berners has become a real passion.

Sue fell in love with the Bernese Mountain Dog in 1978. Since 1983, she has bred on a limited basis under the kennel name *Arundel*. Her emphasis is on an all-round 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 Secretary-Treasurer of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Finger Lakes (NYS). She currently serves as BMDCFL health liaison and as 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 at several regional specialties (PVBMD, BMDCSEW, NCBMDCO, BMDCSWO (Canada), BMDCNV); Sweepstakes (2), and Futurity (1) at BMDCA National Specialties a number of years ago; and Sweepstakes at an early BMDCC

National Specialty. 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.

Helen has been a member of the British Kennel Club since 2006. She retired in February, 2020 as the Features Editor at *Our Dogs* after 35 years working for this company. She was a founder member of the Northern BMD Club and was their magazine editor and public relations officer for over a decade. She served on the BMDC of Great Britain committee for 9 years and edited the first *Champions* book for the club. She also took over as GB club magazine editor from Diana Cochrane in the mid 1980s.

Helen started judging in 1987 and had judged the breed all over the world. She judged Bernese at Crufts in 2008 and the BMDCA Specialty in 2013. Next year in 2022 she is to judge both sexes at the Golden 50th Anniversary Champion show for the BMDC of GB. She is a practical "hands on" owner/ breeder/handler of all her dogs - including her champions. Together with her husband Dr. Malcolm Willis, she co-wrote the best-selling, *The Bernese Mountain Dog Today* and has edited the last two versions of the prestigious, international book, *The World of Bernese Mountain Dogs*. Helen is an avid reader and researcher, a student of canine anatomy and construction/movement and has a canine reference library of over 3,000 books.

Sandy and her family met their first Bernese in 1993, and by early 1994, the family was complete with their first BMD. Sandy exhibited him to several group placements, learning every step of the way, and beginning a passion to produce excellence and a desire to inspire others. A BMDCA and BMDCR member since 1994, Sandy has bred, owned, and handled dogs that have been successful at the regional and national specialty levels and has earned the distinction as an AKC Breeder of Merit. *Summit* dogs have been successful in obedience, drafting, junior showmanship, agility, herding, and therapy work, as well as in serving as professional service dogs.

One of her greatest joys has been mentoring others, many of which have gone on to make very meaningful contributions to the breed, their regional clubs, and the BMDCA. Sandy was deeply honored to judge the 2017 BMDCA National Specialty Sweepstakes and Veteran Sweepstakes, BMDCA 2014 Futurity, and has judged puppy and veteran sweeps at regional specialties. In addition to many BMDCA and BMDCR volunteer duties, she has chaired the BMDCA Futurity since 1999, and has enjoyed serving on the BMDCA Judges Education Committee and as a BMDCA-appointed judge mentor.

Lisa is currently a judge for both Conformation and Draft. She has been a purebred dog fancier all her life. Her family bred and showed Poodles and Shelties. In college in Switzerland, she met her first Berner on a ski slope. It was love at first sight! After college and a two-year search Lisa acquired her first Bernese. She has since only raised and bred Berners. Lisa has always believed that open sharing of health data and full litter submission are vital to preserving the breed. She strives to be sure all health data is in Berner-Garde for all to use and see. Believing that puppies can learn a great deal in the first eight weeks, she focuses on early learning to aid new owners in the puppyhood transition.

Sarah has produced/shown multiple dogs under the kennel name *Snowbound Bernese*, to their AKC CH, GCHB, GCHS and GCHG. She has produced multiple group winning, Top 20 dogs, as well as an Award of Merit, Select Dog and Best in Show at the national Level. Besides breeding, she has had the honor of judging at regional specialties and Futurity at nationals. Sarah does not breed for quantity but instead strives for quality through thoughtful

research, with the betterment of the breed in the forefront of her decisions. Breeding is a passion for the breed and for its future.

Kathy started professionally in dogs in 1975 with German Shepherds and also working at a dog training facility. After 5 years of training dogs full time and going to their homes, she took time off and took over the management of a large boarding kennel, which allowed her time to pursue showing and breeding Berners under the prefix *Katley's Bernese*. She attained the Breeder of Merit recognition from the AKC, indicating her dedication to breeding purebred dogs with the appearance, temperament, and abilities that are true to their breed standard, and for her commitment to health screening and 100 percent puppy registration. After 18 years, it was time for a change and for the last 26 years, Kathy has been a vet tech specializing in physical therapy and rehabilitation. She is still teaching and added a show handling class about 15 years ago. There are always new things to learn!

BETTER BREED HANDLING STACY SLADE

Stacy will offer an overview of conformation ring protocol and introduce the specific skills of conformation handling to beginning students but also welcomes intermediate students for a timely review. She will cover ring procedures, and specific advice on how to enter the ring, how to stack your dog, and how to gait for the judge in a professional manner. Questions of all kinds are welcome. You may bring a dog to work or audit without one.

Stacy has had Berners since 2003 and has been training for obedience, draft, conformation, rally, tracking and other performance events since she was a child. She breeds, raises and trains dogs and her biggest passion is providing a great life full of activity for her dogs. She also spends a lot of time grooming and showing big hairy Berners!

TUESDAY 12 NOON- 2PM

THE NEW BMDCA ILLUSTRATED BREED STANDARD LORI JODAR & NANCY STEWART

“First things first” at Berner U means “Know the Standard”. This seminar will cover the basic information about Bernese using the *new* BMDCA Illustrated Standard. Preview the beautiful illustrations and the excellent photographs that give meaning to the words describing the ideal Bernese Mountain Dog. Discussion will provide an opportunity to explore the purpose and educational value of an illustrated breed standard as it applies to judges, Bernese Mountain Dog breeders and fanciers.

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 and even Seiger evaluations. She was a member of the Task Force that revised the Illustrated Standard.

Nancy has been a member of the BMDCA since 1986 and is a Lifetime Member. She acquired her first Bernese Mountain Dog in 1985 and has shown her dogs in Conformation, Obedience, Rally, and Draft. She has been licensed to judge Bernese since 2008 and has been honored to judge many regional specialties as well as Best of Breed and Dog classes at the 2015 National Specialty. She served the BMDCA as President, Vice President, and Board Member. She has been a committee chair at several national specialties, most recently as Trophy Chair for the 2021 National Specialty. Nancy served on the National Specialty Committee as Coordinator of Ways and Means. She is a founding member of the Grand Canyon State Bernese Mountain Dog Club and has served that club in all board positions. Nancy is a member of the Judges Education Committee and a former Berner-Garde Trustee.

In 2018 she was honored to be a member of the Task Force charged with revising the Illustrated Standard of the Bernese Mountain Dog for the BMDCA. She believes that the Standard is the official blueprint for the judging of our dogs and the text to which prospective and current judges can refer in the pursuit of properly judging the breed. It is also meant to be a resource for students of the breed which include breeders, exhibitors, and owners.

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TESTS MARGE GEIGER

CGC training creates long-lasting trust between you and your pup. It is the foundation for performance sports and activities. There are three CGC tests and all three will be offered as time permits. Our first priority will be the CGC. AKC Community Canine test is conducted in real life situations and CGC Urban is for an active town setting. There are 10 test skills in each test, and each has slightly different criteria. We'll review the necessary skills and then test as many teams as we can.

Marjorie is an educator and enjoys many aspects of teaching in varied classroom settings which include dogs and their people. Training is a lifelong creative pursuit and Clicker Training is the foundation teaching method she prefers. As the dog's skills increase, their partnership flourishes. She has 2 Berners (Tommy 6-year-old male, and Jubby a 4-year-old girl). They enjoy training in Obedience, Rally, Draft, Nosework, Agility, Barn Hunt, Freestyle and Conformation.

TUESDAY 3-5 PM

RESCUE ROUNDTABLE PATTI FINLEY & CAROLYN PAIGE

This presentation will discuss how rescuing Bernese is accomplished by our many successful regional clubs. We'll review all aspects of running a rescue committee including working with shelters, finding trustworthy evaluators, identifying strategies for both supporting owners and removing the dogs, attending to legal concerns, evaluating behavior issues, finding foster homes, funding the program, using the web to locate and interview potential owners, finding volunteer transporters – all with the goal of finding forever homes for Berners 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. We look

forward to welcoming everyone to the Rescue Roundtable to discuss how we can help you with the rescue efforts in your area and to discuss the many issues facing BMDCA rescue.

Patti has owned Berners since 1997. She became a member of the B.A.R.C. family in 2006 when she adopted her heart dog, Willow. She has been Vice President, President, and Rescue Liaison of the Kentuckiana Bernese Mountain Dog Club. She has continued to answer rescue calls in what had been KBMDC's jurisdiction. In 2018 Patti became the Co-Chair of the Berner Rescue Gallery with Carolyn Paige. She served on the Board of Directors of WAGS Pet Therapy of KY, Inc. since 2019 and as President in 2020. She is on their Evaluator's Committee where she assisted in training and evaluating pets to become therapy animals throughout the Kentuckiana area doing Animal Assisted Therapy. Patti personally trained two of her dogs, Leonardo and Ripple, to become therapy dogs. Additionally, she is an AKC CGC Evaluator.

Carolyn has shared her life with Berners since 1998. Her first rescue Berner was adopted from B.A.R.C. in 2006 and she knew she had to help Berners in need in the southeast. She was past President of the Blue Ridge BMD regional club, and she was the Rescue Coordinator for ten years. She adopted out over 250 Berners and stays in touch with most of them, who have become like family. The dogs that couldn't be placed, for behavioral or health issues, lived out their lives in her home and enjoyed a quiet country life on ten fenced acres. She owned thirteen rescue Berners over the years, some who survived only living a couple weeks after taking them in because of health issues, and a few who lived eight or nine years. Carolyn also has extensive experience in animal shelter side of rescue with a kill shelter in NC. She was an active dog volunteer, Board President, and fundraising liaison for the shelter that handled over 6,000 animals a year and operated a budget of \$1.5 million.

She and Patti Finley became Co-Chairs of the Rescue Gallery in 2018 to continue the labor of love of Nell Ward and Ron & Kristi Davis to share many wonderful stories of rescue Berners at the Specialty each year.

BECOMING A CONFORMATION JUDGE DAWN GABIG

CORRECTED DESCRIPTION

If you are ready to start the process or have ever entertained the idea of becoming an AKC Conformation Judge, the time to start is now. Being approved to judge is an extensive, costly and timely process. Judging a ring full of BMDs is a lot easier ringside than when you are responsible for all the placements. Come learn the process from an experienced Breeder Judge. Even if you have no desire to judge, knowing what the judges go through to earn the privilege of judging can be invaluable to exhibitors, kennel club volunteers, stewards and more.

There are two methods to become an AKC approved judge. The most common is the 12-5-4 method which requires you to have 12+ years conformation experience in your breed, have bred & raised 5 litters on your premises and be the breeder of record for 4 Champions. In addition, there are many more requirements such as exams, interviews, publications, previous judging and stewarding assignments.

We will discuss how to get started with the requirements for your first breed application, as well as additional breeds and Junior Showmanship. We will cover the following How-To's: Fill out, organize and store the voluminous paperwork. Use the online AKC Canine College. Complete

online testing. Prepare for interviews and observations with AKC field representatives. As Dawn has recently completed the journey from first applying to judge Bernese Mountain Dogs and Junior Showmanship to now nearly the entire working group she can attest that a judging mentor will be an crucial resource. She could not, would not have done it alone.

Dawn has bred, trained and handled her own dogs, mostly Berners, for over 50 years. She has handled dozens of her own dogs to AKC Championships/Grand Championships. Her Bernese Mountain Dogs and breeding program has produced over 80 champions, over 100 working titles, multiple group placers, group winners, and winners of Best in Show, Best in Show Regional Specialty, and Canadian Best in Show National Specialty. She considers conformation showing a hobby and is happy to share her experiences, skill, and knowledge during this class.

BMDCA BREEDER SYMPOSIUM

OPEN TO ALL

PRACTICAL APPROACHS TO CANINE REPRODUCTION VALERIA RICKARD DVM

Our Breeder Symposium this year will cover a wide range of common breeding problems and suggest practical and scientific solutions from Valeria Rickard, an experienced reproductive veterinarian. Among the issues Dr. Rickard will address are the following: Understanding best times to breed, current problems with progesterone equipment, types of semen used, how to read and understand semen evaluation reports, and methods of insemination. Once pregnant, informed breeders need to be cognizant of how to care for their bitch before, during and after pregnancy. Should you be unlucky enough to have a high-risk pregnancy, here's how to manage it to bring it to a successful end. And of course, on the most anxiety producing day of all, how to prepare for common whelping problems and offer the very best neonatal care to your beautiful puppies. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Rickard who will help us focus on essential solutions to the challenges of breeding Bernese.

Dr Rickard enjoys all aspects of veterinary medicine, from routine wellness visits and dentistry to complicated medical cases. She loves performing surgeries and has developed a special interest in minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery. In addition to her excellent skills in feline and canine medicine and surgery, Dr. Rickard is well known for her special interest and expertise in canine reproduction and pediatrics. Her vast clientele is drawn from across the entire United States and Alaska and includes numerous international clients from as far as Europe and South America. The local airport has more than once been the recipient of private planes bringing their beloved pets to visit with Dr. Rickard and reap the benefits of her extensive knowledge, expertise, and attention to detail.

Dr. Rickard is very passionate about educating others who share her devotion to dogs. She offers seminars and symposiums in the latest advances in canine reproduction and pediatrics to local, national, and international organizations, schools, and kennel clubs. She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American and European Reproduction Societies, and local and national kennel clubs.

Dr. Rickard was born in Moscow, Russia and attributes her deep love of animals to her first Airedale Toybritt with whom she did agility, conformation, and Shutzhund training. She has been an avid breeder and exhibitor of champion Airedale Terriers for over twenty years. She likes showing her dogs in conformation events and has shown numerous dogs to their championship titles. Her most notable wins include Westminster Kennel Club and National Specialties in the United States, as well as Crufts and the World Dog Show internationally.

DOGS ARE WELCOME IN ALL CLASSES *except* the BREEDER SYMPOSIUM.

Information on this site is intended to aid Berner University students in selecting their classes. Please contact faculty directly for any other use.