

Dear Prospective Member

We the members of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Central Virginia (BMDCCV) welcome you and thank you for your interest in joining our Club. One goal in this club is to create opportunities to have fun with our dogs. We also want to provide opportunities to play, learn, show and compete with our Berners. A club is strengthened by the efforts of its members. We invite you to be an active participant in our Club.

This membership application packet includes the Club's Constitution and Bylaws, and Code of Conduct, the application form and the two sponsor forms. It is important that you read and understand the governing documents and Code of Conduct, because these documents guide our actions as a Club and members. By becoming a member you agree to abide by the terms within the Code of Conduct and the Constitution and Bylaws.

Once again, thank you for your interest in our Club. If you have any questions regarding this application, please contact the membership chair, Andrea Stefanac at vettech4bmd@aol.com. We look forward to meeting you and your dogs.

Regards,

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Central Virginia
Membership Chairperson

APPLICATION COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS

- Determine membership level

There are three types of membership: Regular, Household, Associate, and Junior.

Regular Member. A regular Member has the right to hold office, sponsor, nominate and second motions and is entitled to one vote. Regular Members are counted in the quorum for Club meetings. A Regular Member may transfer at any time to Associate Membership by written request to the Secretary, with any change in dues to be effective for the following year. Additional Regular Members who reside in the same household will enjoy the same rights as the first regular member, but will pay a reduced rate after the first Regular Member. *In the instance of a household membership, only Club issues requiring voting or other action will be mailed to both members in the household. Newsletters, activity notices etc. will be distributed one per household.*

Associate Member. This category of membership is recommended for individuals who do not anticipate regular attendance at meetings. An Associate Member shall be informed of all Club meetings and activities, shall receive the Newsletter, may serve on Committees and may participate in all club activities, but may not vote, hold office, sponsor, nominate or second, and is not counted in fulfilling quorum requirements. An Associate Member in good standing may transfer to Regular Membership by written request to the Secretary at the time of yearly membership renewal and dues payment.

Junior Membership. Open to persons 10 – 17 years of age. Junior members cannot vote or hold office. A junior member may apply for Regular Membership upon reaching his/her 18th birthday.

- Complete the BMDCCV application form
- Sign this application form
- Attend two club events, one of which must be a club meeting
- Obtain two sponsors. One must be submitted with the application. The second sponsor can come as you meet people at the Club events. Please note, that the sponsors cannot be related to one another nor reside in the same household, as per Club By-Laws.

The second sponsor form must be received by the membership chair, before for the application can be submitted for a vote.

- Mail the completed membership application and completed sponsor form(s) to the Membership Chairperson. All membership applications forms, including the completed sponsor forms, must be received within one year of initial submission.

Andrea Stefanac
BMDCCV Membership Chair
9323 Becton Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA
Membership Application

Name		
Name(household membership)		
Address		
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Email	
<input type="checkbox"/> Work Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Fax:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell
Check boxes for contact info to be included in the directory		

Do you currently own a Bernese Mountain Dog? **Yes** **No** How many? _____
 When did you acquire your first BMD? _____
 Why did you choose a BMD? _____

Membership Level and Current Dues Structure: Please check the box to indicate your preference

	Regular Membership (full voting membership)	\$30
	Household Membership (2 adults living in the same home 1 vote per person)	\$40
	Associate Membership (non voting)	\$15
	Junior membership (18 years old and under)	\$10

Why do you want to join this club? _____

What special talents, skills and help do you plan to offer the club? _____

Are you currently a member of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America? **Yes** **No**
 Are you a member in good standing? **Yes** **No**
 Please list any offices or positions you have held _____

Are you currently a member of any other Regional Bernese Mountain Dog Club? **Yes** **No**
 Are you a member in good standing? **Yes** **No**
 Please list any offices or positions you have held _____

Please list any other dog clubs to which you belong and any positions you have held. _____

Have you ever been suspended and/or expelled from any of these clubs? **Yes** **No**
 If yes, please fully explain circumstances _____

Have you ever bred a Bernese Mountain Dog litter? **Yes** **No**
 How many litters in the last 5 years? _____

Kennel Name(s) _____
 Have you bred other breeds? Yes No
 What breeds? _____
 Kennel Name(s): _____

Tell us about your dogs. Use the back and another sheet of paper if needed.

Registered Name			
Call Name	Age	Male	Female Altered
Titles		Bernier Garde ID #	
Best trick	Rescue	Rehomed	

Registered Name			
Call Name	Age	Male	Female Altered
Titles		Bernier Garde ID #	
Best trick	Rescue	Rehomed	

Tell us about your experience and interests.

Berner Activity	Have done	Would like to learn about	Would teach others
Grooming			
Social events, walks, parades, parties			
Conformation: matches, shows			
Obedience: training, matches, trials			
Rally: training, matches, trials			
Agility: training, matches, trials			
Draft: training, matches, tests			
Tracking, training, matches, tests			
Freestyle, training, trials			
Herding training, tests			
Health issues			
Other			

I am willing to help with: Annual Awards Breeder Referral Website Newsletter
Membership Social Ways and Means Show/Matches/Trials Board Member Education
Other _____

Email Notification Authorization:

I authorize the BMDCCV to communicate club info, events and news via my email address.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I, the undersigned agree to abide by the Constitution and By-laws and the Code of Conduct of the BMDCCV, the AKC and the BMDCA now and hereafter. The information I have provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and is provided for the use of this club.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB
Of Central Virginia
BMDCCV**

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME AND OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1

The name of the Club shall be Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Central Virginia, Incorporated. It may also be referenced as BMDCCV.

SECTION 2

The objectives of the Club shall be:

- To encourage and promote understanding and appreciation of purebred Bernese Mountain Dogs and to do all possible to bring the natural qualities of Bernese Mountain Dogs to perfection by selective purposeful breeding. To promote and facilitate the overall welfare of the Bernese Mountain Dog and to do all possible to improve the health of the breed;
- To urge members and breeders to accept and breed toward the American Kennel Club standard of the Bernese Mountain Dog which is the only standard of excellence by which Bernese Mountain Dogs shall be judged; with the goal of eliminating hereditary disease, thereby advancing the breed toward the ideal conformation and temperament;
- To advocate honesty and integrity in all matters concerning Bernese Mountain Dogs;
- To do all in its power to protect and advance the breed by providing a forum for the dissemination of information pertaining to the breed, providing education appropriate to the needs of owners, breeders, judges, potential owners and all others with an interest in the breed;
- To conduct dog-related activities, sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, performance, and companion events under the rules of The American Kennel Club, and conduct Draft events under the rules of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA);
- To promote the special qualities of the breed by sponsoring working dog activities under the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America guidelines which reflect the breed's history and heritage;
- To encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, performance, companion, and drafting events, and all club sponsored activities and functions activities involving dogs.

SECTION 3

The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit, and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

SECTION 4

The Board of Directors of the Club shall adopt and the Club members may from time to time revise such By-Laws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Eligibility

While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the Club's primary purpose is to be representative of owners, breeders and exhibitors in the greater Charlottesville and greater Richmond, Virginia area.

There shall be three types of memberships open to persons who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the objectives of the Club.

Regular Member. A regular Member has the right to hold office, sponsor, nominate and second motions and is entitled to one vote. Regular Members are counted in the quorum for Club meetings. A Regular Member may transfer at any time to Associate Membership by written request to the Secretary, with any change in dues to be effective for the following year.

Associate Member. This category of membership is recommended for individuals who do not anticipate regular attendance at meetings. An Associate Member shall be informed of all Club meetings and activities, shall receive the Newsletter, may serve on Committees and may participate in all club activities, but may not vote, hold office, sponsor, nominate or second, and is not counted in fulfilling quorum requirements. An Associate Member in good standing may transfer to Regular Membership by written request to the Secretary at the time of yearly membership renewal and dues payment.

Junior Membership. Open to persons 10 – 17 years of age. Junior members cannot vote or hold office. A junior member may apply for Regular Membership upon reaching his/her 18th birthday.

SECTION 2. Dues

Membership dues shall be established yearly by the Board of Directors and approved by majority vote of Regular Members in good standing at any regular or special meeting with a quorum present.

Dues for Associate Members shall be established at less than the dues for Regular Members.

Junior Members dues shall be established at less than Associate Members dues.

Initial yearly dues shall be payable with the approval to membership. Subsequent dues shall be payable on or before the first day of January of each year. A membership will be considered lapsed if dues are unpaid by March 1st of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. For applications with dues received after November 30 of the year approved, dues shall be considered paid for the following year. During the month of November, a dues notice with a statement of dues for the ensuing year shall be sent to each member.

SECTION 3. Election to Membership

- A. Application to the Club shall be made in the same way for Regular, Associate and Junior Memberships and shall be made in any of the following ways:
1. Application to the Club shall be made by submitting a completed application and attending two Club meetings, or one meeting and one Club activity. The applicant must attend at least one of the two required Club functions during the 12 months following the reading of the application, which may coincide with the day the application is submitted. If attendance at one Club function preceded submission of the application, it must have occurred within the 12-month period preceding the submission of the application.
 2. If the applicant is a member in good standing with any other regional Bernese Mountain Dog Club recognized by the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, the applicant may apply by submitting a completed application as described in Article 1, Section 3B and a letter of sponsorship confirming the applicant's good standing signed by any unrelated officer or director of the applicant's current regional club. After submitting these materials, the applicant must attend one Club meeting which can coincide with the day the application is submitted.
 3. If an applicant is a member of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America or an all breed club, they must be in good standing with those clubs to apply for membership.
- B. The membership application form shall be approved by the Board of Directors and shall state that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Club, the Code of Conduct of the Club and by the rules of The American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant, and it shall carry the endorsement of two unrelated Regular or Associate Members from separate households who are in good standing. The application may be submitted initially with one sponsor. The applicant must submit the second sponsor endorsement before the application can be brought to the membership for a vote. The application shall state the type of Membership applied for. The application form shall be filed with the Membership Chair.
- C. The applicant shall submit the completed, signed and dated application to the Membership Chair acting on behalf of the Secretary. The application will be read at the first meeting of the Club following receipt by the Membership Chair. If the application is received by the Membership Chair prior to the reading of applications at any regular meeting of the Club, the application may be read at that meeting.
- D. Once the requirements of Article I, Section 3, A, B and C have been satisfied, the application will be read again and shall be voted upon by secret ballot at the next regular Club meeting. Affirmative votes of at least three quarters of the Regular Members present and voting shall be required to elect the applicant to membership. The Membership Chair and one Regular Member shall count the ballots and the Secretary shall send written notice to the applicant of the result and when approved for membership, shall include the appropriate dues notice. In the event of rejection, no reason need be given to the rejected applicant.**
- E. The application expires if requirements are not satisfied within one year of the application. The applicant may reapply. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club**

may reapply not sooner than six months after such rejection and must be endorsed by two different unrelated Regular or Associate Members from separate households than on the original application.

F. The requirements of sections A through E above shall be waived for the initial Board of Directors named in the Club's Articles of Incorporation, who shall be de facto Regular Members upon the Club's incorporation.

G. The requirements of sections A through E above shall be modified for the Club's initial members, as follows:

- 1. The initial members of the Club may be elected to membership by a majority vote of the initial Board of Directors at the first Board meeting following the Club's incorporation. If the initial members are elected prior to the Board's approval of a membership application form, the initial members shall provide the required applicant information in a manner acceptable to the Board.**
- 2. The initial members shall not be required to attend two Club meetings or events prior to becoming members.**

SECTION 4. Termination of Membership.

Memberships may be terminated:

- a. By resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the Club and must be paid in full prior to resignation.
- b. By lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 60 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 60 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of date of that meeting.
- c. By expulsion. A membership may terminated by expulsion as provided in these By-laws.

ARTICLE II

MEETINGS AND VOTING

SECTION 1. Club Meetings

Meetings of the Club shall be held within the greater Charlottesville and Richmond, Virginia area, at such date, hour and place as designated by the Board of Directors. At least six (6) Club meetings will be held each year. As it is the intent of this club to serve all its members, the locations of meetings will be rotated as to provide opportunities for members to at least attend 2 of the 6 meetings.

Written notice of each such meeting shall be disseminated by the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum shall be 20% of the Regular Members in good standing. Non-voting Associate Members and Junior Members shall not be counted to determine a quorum. Clubs may send members notification of club meetings (also included would be dues notices; minutes and newsletters) and board members notification of board meetings via email, provided that: the member or board member

has signed an authorization agreeing to this method of communication. Such authorization is revocable. A member may provide a written request to voluntarily revoke this authorization. Additionally, 2 consecutive electronic notices that are undeliverable deem the member's electronic consent revoked.

SECTION 2. Special Club Meetings

Special Club meetings may be called by the President or by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five Regular Members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held within the club's service area, at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed with verified receipt by the Secretary at least 10 days and no more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other Club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the Regular Members in good standing. Non-voting Associate and Junior Members shall not be counted to determine a quorum.

SECTION 3. Board Meetings

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held six (6) times per year at such place, date and hour as designated by the Board. Meetings shall be in person. Written notice of each such meeting shall be given or e-mailed with verified receipt by an officer of the Board at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

The Board of Directors may conduct its business through the use of any means of communication by which all directors can simultaneously hear each other if the following precautions are met: (1) every Board member must be provided with the means to participate; (2) a procedure must be in place to verify the identity of all individuals participating to ensure that they are the eligible Board members; (3) a mechanism must be in place to verify that the eligible Board members are "listening"; (4) all Board members must agree to participate in this manner. The quorum for conducting business shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 4. Special Board Meetings

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held within the club's service area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such a meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed with verified receipt by the Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 5. Voting

Each Regular Member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he/she is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any meeting or election. Non-voting Associate and Junior Members shall not be counted to determine a quorum.

Voting at Board Meetings and Special Board Meetings is restricted to Officers and Directors of the Club. Robert's Newly Revised Rules of Order will be used as it pertains to voting by the President.

ARTICLE III

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Board of Directors

The Board shall be comprised of the officers, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and five Board Members, all of whom shall be Regular Members in good standing. The President, Treasurer, and two Directors shall be elected for terms of two years each in even numbered years. The Vice President, Secretary, and two Directors shall be elected for terms of two years each in odd numbered years. One Director shall be elected for a term of one year. Each Officer and Director shall serve until his/her successor is elected.

General Management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. Officers

The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally pertaining to the office of the President in addition to those particularly specified in these By-Laws.
- B. The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in the case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- C. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board, and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. He/she shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with addresses and other appropriate data, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in the By-Laws.
- D. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club. Moneys shall be deposited in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. The books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board and a report shall be given at every meeting of the condition of the club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the Annual Meeting an accounting shall be rendered of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.
- E. The Board shall select one of its members other than the President and Secretary to carry out the duties and exercise the powers of the Secretary in case of the Secretary's absence or incapacity. The Board member selected shall not automatically succeed to a vacancy in the office of the Secretary.
- F. The Board shall select one of its members other than the President and Treasurer to carry out the duties and exercise the powers of the Treasurer in case of the Treasurer's absence or incapacity. The Board member selected shall have the signatory powers over all Club accounts, but shall not automatically succeed to a vacancy in the office of the Treasurer.

SECTION 3. Vacancies

Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the officers during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all the remaining members of the Board at its first regular Board meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special Board meeting called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President, and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by the Board.

ARTICLE IV

THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. Club Year.

The Club's fiscal shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the Annual Meeting and shall continue through the election at the next Annual Meeting.

SECTION 2. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting shall be held in the month of January. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the Regular Members in good standing. Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 3 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to the successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

SECTION 3. Elections

The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each Office or Board position shall be declared elected. In the event of ties, the rules contained in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" shall be followed.

SECTION 4. Nominations

No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of August, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three Regular members and two alternates, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board. Nominating Committee members may not be related or reside within the same household. The Board shall name a Chairman for the Committee. The Chairman shall immediately notify the committee members and alternates of their selection. The Chairman shall call a Nominating Committee meeting which shall be held on or before September 10th. The names of the nominating committee members shall be published in the first newsletter following the establishment of the Nominating Committee.

- A. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.
- B. Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any other manner other than as provided in this Section.
- C. Nominations may be made at the general membership meeting prior to the annual meeting by any member of good standing in attendance. The person nominated must accept the nomination in

- order to be a candidate. If the nominee is not present, the person nominating must provide the secretary a signed statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate.
- D. The Committee shall nominate from the eligible members of the Club, one candidate for each Office becoming vacant at the next Annual Meeting, and candidates for the Director positions on the Board becoming vacant. The Committee shall not nominate two members of the same family, or a member if a person in his/her immediate family is already an Officer or Director whose term is not expiring.
 - E. After securing the written consent of each person to accept the nomination and, if elected, to attend Board Meetings and the Annual Meetings during his/her term of office, the Committee shall submit its slate to the Secretary in writing at least 16 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
 - F. The Secretary shall provide written notification of the Committee's slate of candidates to each member at least 12 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. This notification shall also advise members of the procedure for making additional nominations.
 - G. Additional nominations of eligible members in good standing may be made by another member in good standing. A written petition must be submitted to the Secretary at least 8 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Each petition must be accompanied by the written acceptance of the nominee signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate and, if elected, to attend Board Meetings and Annual Meetings during the term.

ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. Appointment

The Board may, each year, appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as shows, performance and companion events, draft activities, trophies, annual prizes, membership, rescue and other areas which may well be served by committees. The Board shall appoint a representative(s) to the Regional Club Council each year. Such committees and appointments shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.

SECTION 2. Termination

Any committee or representative appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board followed by written notice to the appointee; the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

ARTICLE VI

DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1. American Kennel Club Suspension and Parent Club Suspension

Any member who is suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club shall be automatically suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period. During such suspension, the Member is not "a member in good standing." During the AKC suspension, membership dues for the Club must be maintained. If not, upon AKC reinstatement, the individual must apply to the Club for membership in accordance with Article I. Section 3. Suspension by the AKC supersedes parent and regional club suspensions.

Any member who is suspended from the privileges of The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) shall be automatically suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period. During such suspension, the Member is not “a member in good standing.” During the BMDCA suspension, membership dues for the Club must be maintained. If not, upon BMDCA reinstatement, the individual must apply to the Club for membership in accordance with Article I. Section 3.

SECTION 2. Charges

Any member may refer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the breed or the Club, or for failure to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws, or Code of Ethics of this Club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$50 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing.

The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board Meeting, and the Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the breed or Club, or failure to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws, or Code of Ethics of this Club.

If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the breed or Club, or failure to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws, or Code of Ethics of this Club, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction, in which case the deposit will be returned.

If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall first attempt to resolve the grievance prior to a formal hearing by appointing a mediator who will seek to resolve the grievance to the mutual satisfaction of the parties involved. If that fails within thirty (30) days from the date that the Board entertained jurisdiction of the charges, the Board shall fix a date of hearing by the Board or a Committee of not less than three (3) members of the Board, not less than 3 weeks or more than 6 weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by certified mail, return receipt, together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in their own defense and bring witnesses if the defendant wishes.

SECTION 3. Board Hearing

The Board or Board Appointed Discipline Committee shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. After hearing the testimony and examining the evidence presented by the complainant and by the defendant, the Board or Board Committee may sustain the charges in whole or in part by a majority vote of the Board or Board Committee members present. Should the charges be sustained, the Board may reprimand (A written reprimand directed exclusively to the member may be somewhat detailed but an official (published) reprimand should only indicate that subsequent to a Board or Board Committee hearing “...member (X) was officially reprimanded as a result of charges filed by member (Y).”) or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his/her fellow-members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the recommendation of the Board or Board Committee. Immediately after the Board or Board Committee has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the Board's or Board Committee's decision and penalty, if any.

SECTION 4. Expulsion

Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the Club following a Board or Board Committee hearing and upon the Board's or Board Committee's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the Board's or Board Committee's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his/her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his/her own behalf if he/she wishes. The voting membership shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board's or Board Committee's suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Proposal of Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty percent of the Regular Members in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be considered promptly by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the Regular Members by the Secretary for a vote, along with recommendations of the Board, within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

SECTION 2. Amendment

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the Regular Members in good standing present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided that proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed or e-mailed with verified receipt to each Regular Member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1. Dissolution

Upon a proposal by the Board, the Club may be dissolved by a vote of more than 2/3 of all votes cast by members eligible to vote at a meeting at which a quorum exists. In the event of the dissolution of the Club other than for purposes of reorganization, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the Club property, nor any proceeds thereof, nor any assets of the Club shall be distributed to any members of the Club. After payment of the debts of the Club, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs, as selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX

ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECTION 1. At Meetings of the Club

At meetings of the Club, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- Roll call
- Minutes of last meeting
- Report of President
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of Committees
- Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
- Election of new members
- Unfinished business
- New Business
- Adjournment

SECTION 2. At Meetings of the Board

At meetings of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Reading of minutes of last meeting
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of Committees
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

ARTICLE X

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. Order of Business

The rules contained in the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised,” shall govern the club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any other special rules of order the club may adopt.

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA CODE OF CONDUCT

The membership of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Central Virginia is dedicated to:

- Promoting the standard of the breed
- Supporting the integrity and purpose of the club
- Protecting the interests of the breed and individual dogs
- Promoting quality and integrity in breeding programs

The members of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Central Virginia agree to abide by:

- The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Central Virginia Code of Conduct
- The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America Rules and Code of Ethics
- The AKC Rules and Good Sportsmanship

- BMDCCV members recognize that as individuals our practices of sportsmanship, husbandry, and ethics directly affect the welfare of the breed. We realize that no code we sign can cover all instances of members' required conscientiousness in protecting our breed. Therefore, we acknowledge that our actions are the truest reflection of our personal integrity and ethics, commitment to the enhancement of our breed community, and true concern for the welfare of the breed.
 - 1. Promoting the standard of the breed BMDCCV members agree to:
 - A) use the American Kennel Club (AKC) Standard for the Bernese Mountain Dog (BMD) to assess the suitability of dogs' temperament and type for exhibition in AKC and club conformation events and for breeding.
 - B) participate in dog events where feasible.
 - 2. Supporting the integrity and purpose of the club BMDCCV members agree to:
 - A) adhere to all AKC rules, regulations, and requirements pertaining to the sport of dogs, the Constitution, Bylaws, and regulations of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Greater Seattle (BMDCCV), and this Code of Conduct (COC).
 - B) share knowledge and be truthful and constructive when conveying information about BMDs, their lineage, and their health, and refer to other members and kennels with respect.
 - C) display good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in a manner that gives credit to the club and the breed.
 - D) encourage and promote public awareness of responsible pet ownership.
 - E) put the breed's and the individual dog's welfare before any consideration of profit or personal advantage, and aid fellow members in doing the same.
 - F) participate to the best of their ability in BMDCCV-sanctioned activities and programs. These activities and programs include but are not limited to sporting and social events, surveys, databases, health-related studies, and educational programs conducted or sanctioned by the BMDCCV and/or BMDCA.
 - 3. Protecting the interests of the breed and individual dogs BMDCCV members are encouraged to:
 - A) inform the breeders of their dogs and individuals with whom their dogs are placed of any health issues in their dogs or their dogs' families that may be helpful to the owners in caring for their dogs, and to the breeders in assessing their breeding programs.
 - B) fulfill the requirements of any dog-related contract they sign. [or any signed contract regarding the dog]

- C) notify individuals from whom they obtained a dog of any change in the dog's ownership or residence.
 - D) utilize such nationally or internationally recognized organizations as OFA, PennHIP, CERF, and VetGen accepted for evaluation of individual traits in all of their Bernese Mountain Dogs. Submit all evaluations (affected, carrier, and unaffected) to the Berner-Garde database, whose purpose is to acquire and disseminate information on inherited traits in BMDs in an effort to eliminate heritable diseases in the breed.
 - E) obtain an AKC DNA profile for all dogs they own. BMDCCV members agree to:
 - F) assure that any dog they place that is not suitable for breeding will be spayed/castrated and placed with an AKC limited registration or spay/castration contract.
 - G) keep only the number of dogs for which they can provide a high standard of health care, shelter, nutrition, attention, affection, socialization, and overall care.
 - H) provide appropriate training and supervision so that their dogs are well mannered, kept in safe conditions, and not abused or neglected.
 - I) never allow their dogs to roam at large unsupervised, nor to become a public nuisance or a public burden.
 - J) ensure that all dogs they place are not brokered, wholesaled, or consigned through a pet shop, auction, or other commercial establishment, and are not offered as prizes in contests, raffles, or fundraising events.
 - K) ensure that all animals released to the care of others received the veterinary care appropriate for their age and needs, including but not limited to that required by the laws of the state from which the dog originates.
 - L) prior to placing any BMD, discuss with the prospective owner the health care and behavior management needs of the dog, and provide a health history and recommendations for general care.
 - M) guarantee the health of the dog subject to a veterinarian's examination, at a minimum, within 72 hours of the placement.
 - N) ensure that no stud dog or brood bitch they own is bred to any dog or bitch whose owner is directly or indirectly involved with any puppy broker, puppy mill, pet shop, auction, litter lot sales, or any other commercial enterprise whose business is involved in these activities.
- 4. Promoting quality and integrity in breeding programs Members who intend to breed Bernese Mountain Dogs should do so with full understanding of the responsibility they bear for the future of the breed. Breeders should understand the breed standard, evaluate individual mature dogs' traits, evaluate traits present in a breeding dog's extended pedigree, and apply the principles of genetics. Breeders should have a practical knowledge of mating, care of a bitch in whelp, and raising a litter, as well as the time, effort, and resources required to engage in this activity. Experienced member breeders should make themselves available as a resource to novice breeders when requested. Conversely, novice breeders should actively recruit the assistance of experienced breeders when engaging in this activity.

The BMDCCV advocates that members who breed:

- A) assess whether prospective breeding stock and their immediate relatives are affected with or carriers of any hereditary disease for which diagnostic testing exists. Such hereditary diseases include but are not limited to hip and elbow dysplasia, eye diseases, heart diseases, thyroid disease, and von Willebrand's disease.

- B) ideally use animals for breeding that are at least 2 years old; have sound temperament, structure, conformation, and type; and are not affected with any known hereditary diseases or disabling defects.
- C) refrain from pairing in a breeding two dogs that are known to have the same physical or temperament defect or disease.
- D) refrain from breeding dogs that, although unaffected with a specific physical or temperament defect or disease, consistently produce afflicted offspring with different mates.
- E) assure to the best of their ability that any puppies that any of their dogs produce will be raised and sold in a manner consistent with this COC.

BMDCCV members who breed agree:

- F) to obtain an AKC DNA profile for all dogs who produce offspring.
- G) to provide and use a written contract detailing all guarantees, obligations, and expectations of sellers, buyers, receivers, and providers of services.
- H) to adhere to AKC rules applying to litter registrations and individual registrations, assuring that any litter they produce is eligible for AKC registration.
- I) to use for breeding males and females that are mature enough to not compromise their development; old enough to be fairly evaluated for type, temperament, and health quality; and physically and temperamentally sound, eliminating shy or aggressive dogs from breeding.
- J) have sound temperament, structure, conformation and type: and are not affected with any known hereditary diseases or disabling defects.
- K) that a female will not bear puppies more than two out of three seasons, depending on the size of the litter whelped and her condition. A one-year lapse between litters is desirable.
- L) that males and females will be bred only following completion of an evaluation for hip and elbow disease by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or other recognized orthopedic registry. This evaluation must occur not earlier than 12 months of age.
- M) that regardless of any preliminary evaluations, hips and elbows of all breeding stock will be radiographed and evaluated by the OFA or other recognized orthopedic registry after 24 months of age.
- N) to provide new owners with the following documentation: this COC, an AKC registration application or registration certificate for the individual dog, a health and veterinary care history, evidence of the individual's and/or sire's and dam's health evaluations, a four-generation pedigree, and recommendations for general care and training.
- O) to transfer puppies to new owners in accordance with the laws of their state and the minimum federal standard for transporting puppies (8 weeks old).
- P) to remain available for advice, when sought, for the lifetime of their dogs' offspring.
- Q) to provide assistance to dogs of their breeding in need of rehoming, whether through a shelter, a rescue organization, or a private placement. Stud dog owners are obligated to assist with rehoming when necessary.