

SOUTHERN BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB



GENERAL CODE of ETHICS

*All members of The Southern Bernese Mountain Dog Club
undertake to abide by its General Code of Ethics*

Club Members:

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon who performs an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such operations to The Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
12. Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as stand-alone items (not accompanying a dog).
14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.
15. Will agree to co-operate with the Southern Bernese Mountain Dog Club and other show giving clubs, to share aid and information with those interested in the breed and to encourage and exhibit sportsmanlike conduct in all competition.
16. Will agree to read and familiarise themselves with The Kennel Club standard for the Bernese Mountain Dog.

17. Breeding

- a) Will only breed from dogs or bitches who have been scored under the KC BVA HD and Elbow Dysplasia schemes and are believed to be clear from other known hereditary defects. Will not breed from animals which have any serious defect or any surgical operation to correct these, or with any animal with a nervous or aggressive temperament.
- b) Will keep accurate records of breeding, sales and registrations. Will at all times be extremely cautious when advertising or selling, as to true and realistic description of stock – especially as to potential prospects of young stock – in case it should inadvertently be implied guarantee show success.
- c) Will breed only from healthy stock. Will not breed from a bitch until the age of 24 months and that bitch shall not be bred from twice in a twelve month period. In all other aspects to abide by the Breeding and Sale of Dogs Act 2000. A stud dog owner must satisfy him/herself as to the suitability of the bitches breeding and the conditions under which the litter would be raised.
- d) Will, when breeding dogs, adopt as a minimum standard the principles, requirements and recommendations as embodied in the Kennel Club's Assured Breeder Scheme. It is strongly recommended that members who breed should apply to join the Scheme. Since its inception, the Southern Bernese Mountain Dog Club has enforced a mandatory Code of Ethics that our members and breeders have agreed to abide by.
- e) Will remember that my prime concern as a breeder is to produce healthy, sound dogs that will be a credit to the breed. To be honest in dealings with buyers and fellow breeders and to endeavour to co-operate towards a programme of improvement for the breed. To, at all times, maintain high standards of health and care for the Bernese Mountain Dog and not to deliberately libel or slander another person or make vicious comments on another's stock.

18. Sale of Dogs

- a) Will attempt to help buyers and be available to answer question and provide assistance.
- b) Will only sell puppies that are, to the best of your knowledge, in good health, exhibit sound temperament and are at least seven weeks old and to provide a pedigree at the time of sale, a satisfactory diet sheet, complete health records and details of worming.
- c) Shall not knowingly sell dogs to commercial wholesale dealers, retailers or laboratories, nor allow their stock to become raffle or competition prizes and shall exercise every possible care as to the suitability of their Dog's future homes.
- d) Will obtain Kennel Club registration of Application for each dog or puppy sold and provide at least a three generation pedigree. If registration is to be withheld it must be as a written condition sale.

NB

General Codes of Ethics Numbers 1–14 are the mandatory codes issued to all breed clubs in October 2008. Numbers 15–17 are our clubs original Codes of Ethics for which we have had permission from The Kennel Club to include and were agreed at the Club's AGM in April 2012.