BMDCA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee (IRC) was established to assist the BMDCA in communicating with all international clubs for Bernese Mountain Dogs. Our committee's goals are to improve information sharing between these clubs and the members of the BMDCA and to identify common breed related interests. Some of these topics are: health issues; breed management; legal issues that may affect the importation or exportation of dogs; breed stewardship; and major club events in different countries. An important goal of the committee is to create an environment for cooperation and timely exchange of information between our various alliance members.

Our first international gathering was held in May 2005, at our National Specialty in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. A meeting was held between members of the International Relations Committee, BMDCA Board members and representatives of several foreign clubs who were attending our Specialty. Some topics of common interest were health screenings and differences in breeding practices from country to country. This event was a small step towards increasing communication and the information exchange between the international Berner clubs. Participants in the 2005 Specialty meeting included representatives from eight different countries. From this meeting came many requests for BMDCA members to attend upcoming club functions in other countries.

Each year thereafter, the BMDCA has sponsored an International Relations Committee meeting coinciding with our National Specialty. The next meeting in 2009 will be held in Portland, Oregon, USA. If you are interested in attending or would like to participate in the International Relations Committee meeting please contact Katherine Skerl, the BMDCA International Relations Committee Chair via e-mail at kskerl@focus-corp.com.

To obtain our goals and facilitate worldwide communications, the IRC would like to encourage our international Berner community members to identify other Bernese Mountain Dog Clubs; providing background and membership information, website address and contact information to the IRC Chairperson. Please include any upcoming events or shows that might be of interest to our international Berner community and we will post to the BMDCA IRC webpage. In addition, if you wish to participate in the planning of an upcoming web meeting on global issues related to Bernese Mountain Dogs please contact the BMDCA IRC Chairperson Katherine Skerl at kskerl@focus-corp.com.