

# Checkerboard Times

Pre Show Edition



**“There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.”**

—Thomas Aquinas

## A Friendly Welcome from the 2024 National Specialty Chairperson

Welcome to Purina Farms and to St. Louis, Missouri.

Home Base for the 2024 BMDCA National Specialty.

Your host consortium clubs include 21 states and 9 regional clubs stretched over 3 time zones. We took “Bringing Friends Together” seriously! Established friends worked together to make this specialty happen. And new alliances and friendships were made to assure our success. Planning a specialty can either build friendships or break them. And we all preferred to do the former. This was helped by the common goal to make this a phenomenal specialty for all who attend.

The motto for Missouri is “the Show-Me State”. And our plan is to show you an unforgettable dog show week that has all the trappings to make it a success. On behalf of the 2024 committee, thank you for coming together with us as we celebrate our dogs as well as the friendships we have made because of them.

Dottie Schulte  
2024 National Specialty Chairperson

## Weekend Happenings

**Saturday March 30, 2024**

Head on over to the Herding and Trial Field to watch our herding Berners in action!

**Sunday March 31, 2024**

Farm Dog Testing is happening at the Herding and Trial Field.

**You can access an interactive daily schedule by clicking [THIS](#) link.**

## Bringing Friends Together -- With a Goat Wagon

What started life as a John Deere Goat Wagon – and who knew that was a thing?! – has been transformed and is heading for Purina Farms to spread fun and friendship with all.



A friend offered Buffy Cramer-Hammann a goat wagon that Bill Wilczek had helped adapt into something that could be pulled by a dog. Buffy does not have a goat but she does have draft dogs and so she decided to give the goat wagon a try -- that goat wagon has indeed used in a (passing!) BMDCA draft test.

The goat wagon recently brought friends together for yet another transformation. Using the Budweiser Clydesdale wagon and the Specialty logo as inspiration, Buffy and her husband worked with John and Lynne Washburn to create the Bernweizen Wagon.

The Bernweizen Wagon, pulled by a Berner, will be leading the Veterans Parade. It will also be at the draft tests and other events throughout the Specialty. Make sure to take a friendship photo with the Bernweizen Wagon this week!



## Got crate?

If you are planning to have a crate in the Great Hall (where the rings are), you **MUST** have a mat or plastic to put under it.

## GOOD NEWS!

There is no need to pack extra chairs because Purina Farms has chairs aplenty.

If carrying your personal chair around is factored into your daily workout, however, you certainly may bring it. And extra good news for those who plan exercise with chairs — you will get a workout when you arrive and when you leave because no personal chairs may be left overnight.

The no overnight stays for personal chairs policy is for the safety of the chairs. Have you heard on Elf on a Shelf? Well, Purina Farms has its own mischief maker — a sort of Chair Pirate, which is mixing Specialty themes, we know, but is an apt description for what happens if an unfortunate chair is left alone overnight. Said chair will be seized and held for ransom.

Oh dear. That sounds bad (and like a really fun Specialty newsletter feature).

There will be three personal chairs that get to stay overnight. Jennifer Brightbill has the VIP Chair that she won at last year's auction and so she has overnight privileges, as does the winner of the soon-to-be-raffled-off Best Seats in the House. Those three chairs are the only exception to the no overnight stays for personal chairs policy.

PSA: Make sure to enter the raffle for the Best Seats in the House! If you win those seats, you will be the most popular friend at the Specialty.

And while we are talking about chairs -- it probably goes without saying chairs may not be saved overnight. Remember that the Specialty theme is rather Bringing Friends Together — not Chair Wars! And speaking of pirates, any items left on chairs overnight will also be confiscated and held for ransom.

# BERNER U

It is not too late to sign up for Berner U!

Anyone who wants to attend classes can find Linda Seaver on Sunday at Purina Farms near FOUNDERS ROOM or email her at [linda.seaver@gmail.com](mailto:linda.seaver@gmail.com)

## 2024 BERNER UNIVERSITY CLASSROOMS



MONDAY APRIL 1	9-11am	12-2pm	3-5pm	7-9pm
<b>FOUNDERS</b>	European-Style Sieger Evaluations Celia Cuellar	Clicker Training for Fun & Performance Shelley Pryor	Rally 101 Kris Morrow	Progress in Histiocytic Sarcoma Care Dr. Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan
<b>LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM</b>	Recognize & Respond to Signs of BLOAT Olivia Walker DVM	Feeding Your Berner For Life-Long Health Jean Hofve DVM	AKC BMD Standard Nancy Stewart	
<b>SERVICE CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM</b>	Rescue Round Table Dawn Letry	The BMD Genome Dr. Vilma & Dr. Jeffrey Kidd	Draft Secretary's Survival Guide Jennifer Brightbill	
<b>TUESDAY April 2</b>	Improving Breeding Success & Neonatal Outcomes Marty Greer DVM	The Spay/Neuter Controversy Marty Greer DVM		
<b>LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM</b>	BARC Pups Kaitlin Bishop DVM & BARC Families	The Care & Handling of a Broken Heart Mary-Ann Sontag		
<b>GREAT HALL Obedience Ring past the Vendors</b>		Draft 101 Jennifer Brightbill		

## Monday Evening Breeder Symposium

The Berner-Garde Foundation has arranged to have a BBQ Food Truck and a cash bar available for the symposium. Food and beverages are available for people after drafting, running agility, setting up grooming or post travel.

BBQ orders will be taken from 3:45 pm to 6:45pm and the truck will be outside the main door of Purina. Pay as you go. Menu will be posted shortly.

Cash Bar will be available in the Founders' Room from 5pm to 7pm. Relax and enjoy a meal or beverage with Friends old and new before the symposium!

We really would like a strong attendance this year and are hoping that by offering this you will stay to hear Dr. Vilma. It is worth it! There will be dining tables set up in the Founders' Room so people can relax and socialize while enjoying your meal.

ALL berner owners, not just breeders, are eligible to attend the symposium. Please, come and support the symposium!

**If you LOVE a BERNER,  
don't miss this!**

**What: \*Symposium: Progress in Treating Cancers  
Past, Present, & Future!**

(\*Open to **ALL Owners** as well as **Breeders** \*Breeder Symposium on Registration)

**When: Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7pm**

**Where: Purina Event Center, Founders' Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**Speaker: Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan, PhD, Professor of  
Microbiology, Molecular Genetics and Small Animal Clinical  
Sciences at Michigan State University; MSU Repository Director,  
Bernese Mountain Dog DNA & Tissue Repository**

**Be sure to add this event to your specialty calendar!**

- You won't want to miss what Dr Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan has to share, includes updates on Histiocytic Sarcoma (HS) detection and treatment
- Already the "**Present and Future**" holds some exciting new research to help us in our fight against HS in Bernese Mountain Dogs!
- **This important symposium is one that you do NOT want to miss!**

Relax & enjoy dinner at Purina while catching up with ♥friends♥  
before the symposium:

**\*"Hog Call BBQ"\* 4pm - 7pm / Cash Bar, Founders' Room 5pm - 7pm**

\*Food Truck features tastes that St Louis is known for: Brisket, Pulled Pork, Ribs, Jumbo Wings and so much more! (food truck will be in parking lot, place your orders early! Pay as you go)

## Berner U Recycles!

Bring a Book, Take a Book  
Bring journals, Take a book a journal  
or two.

Brought no books? Drop some dollars  
in the bowl.

All proceeds go to BMDCA Rescue.

Berner U Book Swap will be at  
the top of the main stairs into the  
Founders' Room.

## Don't forget!

**Address labels to put on all those  
raffle tickets you plan to buy!**

The Newsletter Team welcomes  
photos, announcements,  
suggestions, etc.

Send to Mary-Ann Sontag at  
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