

2024 PLANNING BOOKLET

# The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

49<sup>th</sup> Annual National Specialty Show

## 2024 National Specialty Show

Agility, Regular & Non-Regular Conformation w/NOHS & 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy, Draft, Farm Dog, Futurity, Herding, Junior Showmanship, Obedience, Pee Wee, Rally, Scent Work, Sweepstakes, Top 20 Gala, Versatility Showcase, and Veteran Sweepstakes (Unbenched)

HOSTED BY

*The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.,  
and the Bernese Mountain Dog Clubs of Buckeye, Grand Canyon State,  
Greater Twin Cities, Heart of Michigan, Heartland, Lonestar, North Coast of Ohio,  
Northeastern Illinois, Rockies, and Southeastern Wisconsin*



**Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

HOST HOTEL

**Holiday Inn St Louis West**

4901 Six Flags Rd

Eureka MO 63025

(636) 938-6661

EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE INDOORS & OUTDOORS AT

**Purina Farms**

500 William Danforth Way

Gray Summit MO 63039

(314) 982-3232

unless otherwise noted

[www.bmdca.org/2024-specialty](http://www.bmdca.org/2024-specialty)

# WELCOME

Meet me in St. Loo-ee!

On behalf of the 2024 National Specialty Planning Committee, I invite you all to meet us in the city with a grand history of celebrating our theme of **Bringing Friends Together**. In 1904, St. Louis hosted the first World's Fair, which brought 50 foreign nations plus 43 of the 45 then states in the US together for this festive event. The focus of the World's Fair was to spotlight new technology with the debut of "wireless telephony", the mother of the modern telephone, and the "telautograph", the ancestor of the fax machine. One of the most popular attractions of this World's Fair was contained in the Palace of Transportation—private automobiles and motor cars. The automobile display contained 140 models, including ones powered by gasoline, steam, and electricity. Phones, faxes, and automobiles. . . friends could not come together without these.

In addition, St. Louis is known for the Gateway Arch, which was completed in 1965. The Arch was built as a monument to the westward expansion of the United States and officially dedicated to "the American people". The Arch is considered the "Gateway to the West" and symbolizes bringing people together from east to west and north to south. Purina Farms, our show venue 38 miles southwest of St. Louis proper, is known as the premier dog show site in the United States. Dog show friends and their pets convene here every year for more than a dozen national specialties, multiple regional specialties and all-breed shows, and numerous agility and herding trials, along with FastCAT, Go-To-Ground, and Dock Diving events. There's no better place to bring humans and their canines together.

We look forward to you joining us to celebrate our dogs and the friends we have made because of them.

*Dottie Schulte*

BMDCA 2024 National Specialty Chair

## DISTINGUISHED PANEL OF JUDGES

### **Conformation**

Best of Breed (Intersex): Ms. Satu Yla-Mononen  
Regular & Non-Regular Dog Classes, Stud Dog, and Brace: Mr. Jan Herngren  
Regular & Non-Regular Bitch Classes and Brood Bitch: Mrs. Christine Mann  
Beginner Puppy: Mr. William Matlock  
Junior Showmanship & Versatility Showcase: Mr. William Matlock  
Pee Wee & Itty Bitty Plush Puppy: Ms. Marjorie Geiger  
Futurity: Mr. Dalmiro Sirabo  
Sweepstakes & Veteran Sweepstakes: Mrs. Susan Henderson

### **Performance**

Agility: Mr. Craig Josling  
Draft #1: Ms. Beth Dennehy & Ms. Patti Davieau  
Draft #2: Ms. Valerie Horney & Mr. Jasen Duncan  
Draft #3: Mr. Steve Likevich & Mr. Bob Schmidt  
Draft #4: Mr. Bob Schmidt & Mr. Barry Solomon  
Farm Dog: Mrs. Caroline Sparks & Ms. Renee Meriaux  
Herding: Mrs. Caroline Sparks & Ms. Debbie George  
Obedience Trial & Rally Trial: Mr. Fred Buroff & Mr. James Comunale  
Scent Work: Ms. Natalie McManus

# **ACCOMMODATIONS**

## **HOST HOTELS**

This year we are offering two great host hotels to accommodate our attendees.

**Holiday Inn St Louis West at Six Flags**, 4901 Six Flags Rd, Eureka MO 63025, Phone (636) 938-6661

The Holiday Inn will be the site for the Health Auction and the Judges Banquet. It is a 10–15-minute drive the show site at Purina Farms. There are expansive grounds for dog walking and even a dog bathing station. Breakfast is not included in the room rate. There is a full service restaurant on site.

The Holiday Inn Group Fee, a one-time, non-refundable fee of \$35, will be charged to EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE DOGS OR NOT. There is a limit of 4 dogs per room; plastic will be provided to put under crates. All dogs are required to be crated while unattended in room.

Guests may call (800) 782-8108 or (636) 938-6661 to make a reservation until the block is full. Let the agent know that you are with the Bernese Mountain Dog Club. The last date to make a reservation at the Bernese Mountain Dog Club rate is February 27, 2024.

**The Wildwood Hotel**, 2801 Fountain Place, Wildwood MO 63040, Phone (636) 733-9100

The Wildwood Hotel is a more upscale hotel. It also has a large grassy area for walking dogs. No evening events are being held at the Wildwood. It is located closer to St Louis, but is still only a 20-minute drive to Purina Farms. A self-serve breakfast is included in the room rate. There is a one-time, non-refundable fee of \$50 for 1-2 dogs, or \$75 for 3-4 dogs; plastic will be provided to put under crates. All dogs are required to be crated while unattended in room.

Guests may make online reservations at <https://reservations.travelclick.com/75796?groupID=4060463>.

Guests may also call the hotel directly at (636) 733-9100. Let the agent know that you are with the BMDCA. The last date to make a reservation at the BMDCA rate is February 28, 2024.

## **General information for both hotels:**

Visit [www.bmdca.org/2024-specialty](http://www.bmdca.org/2024-specialty) for full details on room types, rates, and fees for both hotels. A \$100 deposit will be charged one month prior to the beginning of the specialty. Cancellations after March 16, 2024 will forfeit the deposit.

Early departures, late arrivals, and/or no shows will be charged the contracted nightly rate for each night the reserved room is not occupied by the individual, up to and including the entire length of stay. No shows will be charged the contracted nightly rate for each night the reserved room is not occupied by the individual, up to and including the entire length of stay. There shall be no penalty for early departures if the 4-night minimum is met.

Guests will be required to sign a Pet Policy\* Agreement at check in (\*available for review on the above BMDCA website link).

For more information, contact Hotel Liaison Alice Clark at [aliceann8@hotmail.com](mailto:aliceann8@hotmail.com).

## **PARKING**

Exhibitor and visitor parking will be located on blacktop parking lots in front of the Purina Event Center. Vehicles are limited to one parking space. No exercise pens or crates are allowed on the blacktop surface, but they are allowed on grass areas. No cones are allowed in parking areas. No parking is allowed in roadways or next to building.

## **RV PARKING**

RV parking spots are available through the Purina Farms RV Park, which is conveniently located adjacent to the show building and show site featuring two areas: 1) the main lot has full hookup, with 30-amp/50-amp electrical service and sewer at each site; or 2) the show field lot, with electric only. Due to the possibility of freezing, water will not be available at each site, but is available to fill your RV when you arrive, and water refill service is available mid-week through the BMDCA store. If you wish to rent an RV, there are several companies familiar with working with Purina Farms.

Additional information can be found at [www.bmdca.org/2024-specialty](http://www.bmdca.org/2024-specialty) under RV Information. All sites are back-in and include 24-hour security, restrooms, showers, and fenced dog exercise areas, as well as expansive grounds for exercising. For reservations, complete the form under RV Information at the website above and email it to [rvparking@purina.nestle.com](mailto:rvparking@purina.nestle.com) or call (866) 979-2488 for questions. You may also contact Chan & Tracey Keith, RV Parking Chairs, at [wyndriftbmd@earthlink.net](mailto:wyndriftbmd@earthlink.net).

## **TRAVEL INFORMATION**

**Directions to Purina Farms from Holiday Inn St Louis West:** Purina Farms is located just 10 minutes west of the Holiday Inn. Take Highway 44 to the Gray Summit Exit #253 and head north on Highway 100 for 0.5 miles. Take a left and head west on MO-MM for approximately one mile until you reach the Purina Farms entrance on the left.

**Directions to Purina Farms from The Wildwood Hotel:** Purina Farms is located approximately 15 minutes from The Wildwood Hotel. Turn left onto MO-100 W/Old Rte 66 W. After 10 miles, turn right onto MO-MM and travel about one mile until you reach the Purina Farms entrance on the left.

If you plan to travel by plane, the most accessible airport to Gray Summit is St Louis Lambert International Airport. **Directions to Purina Farms from St Louis Lambert International Airport:** Go west on Departing Flights toward Natural Bridge Rd. Turn left onto Natural Bridge Rd. Merge onto I-70 West. Merge onto I-270 South via Exit 232 toward Memphis. Merge onto I-44 West/US 50 via Exit 5B toward Tulsa. Go approximately 23 miles. Take the MO-100 Exit toward Gray Summit. Turn right onto MO-100. Go approximately 0.4 miles to MO-MM. Turn left. Go 1.1 miles to the Purina Farms entrance on the left. Estimated travel time from the airport is 40-45 minutes.

## **PRE-SPECIALTY SUPPORTED ENTRIES**

Warm up for our National Specialty by attending the all-breed Columbia Kennel Club shows on March 30-31 at Purina Farms offering regular conformation, NOHS, one Obedience trial each day, and two Rally trials on Saturday, followed by one on Sunday.

BMDs will have Supported Entries both days—Saturday by the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities and Sunday by the Heart of Michigan Bernese Mountain Dog Club. Winners of BOB, BOS, BOW, Selects, WD, WB, RWD, RWB, and High Scoring BMD in the Regular Obedience classes will be awarded trophies and rosettes each day.

Conformation judges will include Ms. Linda Robey on Saturday and Mr. William (Bill) Shelton on Sunday. Obedience judges on both Saturday and Sunday will be James Comunale and Charlotte Mielziner. Rally will be judged by Christine Ward.

Entries close on March 13, see details at <https://www.foytrentdogshows.com>.

# 2024 SHOW COMMITTEE

Show Chair	Dottie Schulte	(970) 302-2970	<a href="mailto:dotties911@aol.com">dotties911@aol.com</a>
Show Co-Chair	Georgeann Reeve	(571) 528-5095	<a href="mailto:georgeannbmdca@gmail.com">georgeannbmdca@gmail.com</a>
Asst Show Chair—Conformation	Kim Giannone	(970) 263-7428	<a href="mailto:winridgebmd@gmail.com">winridgebmd@gmail.com</a>
Asst Show Chair—Performance	Steph Biksacky	(801) 631-4648	<a href="mailto:dogwoman1976@gmail.com">dogwoman1976@gmail.com</a>
BMDCA Specialty Coordinator	Dottie Schulte	(970) 302-2970	<a href="mailto:dotties911@aol.com">dotties911@aol.com</a>
Agility	Renee Meriaux		<a href="mailto:meriaux1@earthlink.net">meriaux1@earthlink.net</a>
Announcer	Bob Torstenson		<a href="mailto:bobt@bernernews.net">bobt@bernernews.net</a>
Banquets	Karen Loren		<a href="mailto:kloren2@icloud.com">kloren2@icloud.com</a>
Berner University	Linda Seaver & Mona Williams		<a href="mailto:linda.seaver@gmail.com">linda.seaver@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:midnightbmd@gmail.com">midnightbmd@gmail.com</a>
BMDCA Breeder Education	Heather Austin		<a href="mailto:heather@heatheraustin.com">heather@heatheraustin.com</a>
Catalog Ads Production	Beth Dennehy		<a href="mailto:BMDCACatalogAds@gmail.com">BMDCACatalogAds@gmail.com</a>
Catalog Sales—Onsite	Renee Jacquier		<a href="mailto:rjacq16804@aol.com">rjacq16804@aol.com</a>
Draft	Dawn Gibbs		<a href="mailto:dawng1019@aol.com">dawng1019@aol.com</a>
	Annette McLaughlin		<a href="mailto:harmonyberners@yahoo.com">harmonyberners@yahoo.com</a>
Emergency Response Coordinator	Jenny Zablotney		<a href="mailto:newfdock@gmail.com">newfdock@gmail.com</a>
Farm Dog	Tammi Winner		<a href="mailto:bernese@mac.com">bernese@mac.com</a>
BMDCA Futurity	Julia Smith		<a href="mailto:orchidj5@yahoo.com">orchidj5@yahoo.com</a>
Grooming	Sandy Dunaway		<a href="mailto:BMDCAFuturity@gmail.com">BMDCAFuturity@gmail.com</a>
Grounds	Layal Bouaoun		<a href="mailto:lavishbmd@gmail.com">lavishbmd@gmail.com</a>
Health Auction	Chan Keith & Tracey Keith		<a href="mailto:wyndriftbmd@earthlink.net">wyndriftbmd@earthlink.net</a>
BMDCA Health Auction Coordinator	Erica Hartt		<a href="mailto:thetricolordown@gmail.com">thetricolordown@gmail.com</a>
Health Clinics	Kim McIntyre		<a href="mailto:kim@jurabmd.com">kim@jurabmd.com</a>
Herding	Tori Pinkas		<a href="mailto:valorbmd@gmail.com">valorbmd@gmail.com</a>
BMDCA Specialty Hotel Coordinator	Sara Karl		<a href="mailto:karl3106@comcast.net">karl3106@comcast.net</a>
Hotel Liaison	Alice Clark		<a href="mailto:aliceann8@hotmail.com">aliceann8@hotmail.com</a>
BMDCA International Relations	Alice Clark		<a href="mailto:aliceann8@hotmail.com">aliceann8@hotmail.com</a>
BMDCA Judges Education	Tracey Keith		<a href="mailto:wyndriftbmd@earthlink.net">wyndriftbmd@earthlink.net</a>
Judges' Hospitality	Nancy Stewart		<a href="mailto:nancybmdca@gmail.com">nancybmdca@gmail.com</a>
BMDCA Judges Selection	Jane Haefner		<a href="mailto:haefnerjane@gmail.com">haefnerjane@gmail.com</a>
Juniors' Activities	Kim Giannone		<a href="mailto:winridgebmd@gmail.com">winridgebmd@gmail.com</a>
BMDCA Specialty Logistics	Lynne Washburn		<a href="mailto:highlandsbmd@gmail.com">highlandsbmd@gmail.com</a>
Logo & Theme	Sandy Dunaway		<a href="mailto:summitbmd@msn.com">summitbmd@msn.com</a>
BMDCA Merchandising Consultant	Dee McDuffee & Brycie Marine		<a href="mailto:haufulbmds@comcast.net">haufulbmds@comcast.net</a> , <a href="mailto:bryciemarine@gmail.com">bryciemarine@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editors	Nancy Stewart		<a href="mailto:arizonabmd@cox.net">arizonabmd@cox.net</a>
	Mary-Ann Sontag		<a href="mailto:sontag.ma@gmail.com">sontag.ma@gmail.com</a>
	& Jay Lusk		<a href="mailto:jaylusk.suziedahl@gmail.com">jaylusk.suziedahl@gmail.com</a>
Obedience	Vicky Hall		<a href="mailto:ravhall@aol.com">ravhall@aol.com</a>
Pee Wee & Itty Bitty Special Attraction	Hunter Calvelage		<a href="mailto:carmaque@yahoo.com">carmaque@yahoo.com</a>
Photo Contest	Buffy Cramer-Hammann		<a href="mailto:buffycramerhammann@comcast.net">buffycramerhammann@comcast.net</a>
Publicity—Social Media	Nicole Stonitsch & Alice Clarke		<a href="mailto:tapestrybmd@yahoo.com">tapestrybmd@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:aliceann8@hotmail.com">aliceann8@hotmail.com</a>
Raffle	Nicole Stonitsch & Patti Gartmann		<a href="mailto:tapestrybmd@yahoo.com">tapestrybmd@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:pg4bmds@roadrunner.com">pg4bmds@roadrunner.com</a>
Rally	Denise McClure		<a href="mailto:denisemcclure54@icloud.com">denisemcclure54@icloud.com</a>
BMDCA Specialty Registration Onsite	Renee Jacquier		<a href="mailto:rjacq16804@aol.com">rjacq16804@aol.com</a>
BMDCA Specialty Registration Online	Mona Williams		<a href="mailto:bmdca.reg@gmail.com">bmdca.reg@gmail.com</a>
Rescue Gallery	Patti Finley & Carolyn Paige		<a href="mailto:bmdmemories@att.net">bmdmemories@att.net</a> , <a href="mailto:cjpaige@icloud.com">cjpaige@icloud.com</a>
RV Parking	Chan Keith & Tracey Keith		<a href="mailto:wyndriftbmd@earthlink.net">wyndriftbmd@earthlink.net</a>
Scent Work	Denise McClure		<a href="mailto:edmundmclure@comcast.net">edmundmclure@comcast.net</a>
BMDCA Online Store	Susan Henderson		<a href="mailto:suzbmd@gmail.com">suzbmd@gmail.com</a>
Titleholders Gallery	Sharon Blaszak		<a href="mailto:keraqold@sbccglobal.net">keraqold@sbccglobal.net</a>
Top Twenty	Sara Karl		<a href="mailto:karl3106@comcast.net">karl3106@comcast.net</a>
BMDCA Specialty Social Media Consultant	Lisa Kaufmann		<a href="mailto:lkkaufman@outlook.com">lkkaufman@outlook.com</a>
Transportation	Suzanne Lintzenich		<a href="mailto:ownbmdz@gmail.com">ownbmdz@gmail.com</a>
BMDCA Specialty Treasurer	Kathy DeHart		<a href="mailto:bmdspecialtytreasurer@outlook.com">bmdspecialtytreasurer@outlook.com</a>
Triathlete	Ruth Nielsen		<a href="mailto:rnielsen@nielsenlaw.com">rnielsen@nielsenlaw.com</a>
Trophies	Brenda Calvelage		<a href="mailto:bjcalvelage@gmail.com">bjcalvelage@gmail.com</a>
BMDCA Specialty Trophy Solicitation	Michele Dominy		<a href="mailto:mdom91@gmail.com">mdom91@gmail.com</a>
Vendor Operations	Debbie Thornton		<a href="mailto:bernerz@aol.com">bernerz@aol.com</a>
Veterans Parade	Sharon Blaszak		<a href="mailto:keraqold@sbccglobal.net">keraqold@sbccglobal.net</a>
Volunteer Coordinator	Julie Latterell		<a href="mailto:latterell2@gmail.com">latterell2@gmail.com</a>
Ways & Means	Keith Waltersdorf		<a href="mailto:kwaltersdorf68@gmail.com">kwaltersdorf68@gmail.com</a>
Welcome Bags	Lori Kennedy		<a href="mailto:lckc@comcast.net">lckc@comcast.net</a>

# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Events will be held at Purina Farms Events Center unless specifically noted; all conformation, agility, obedience, and rally will be in the Great Hall*

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 30**

Herding at Herding & Trial Field

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

BMDCA Board Meeting at Great Hall Conference Rm

Farm Dog at Herding & Trial Field

## **MONDAY, APRIL 1**

Registration at Great Hall Lobby

Berner U at Service Center

Set Up for Great Hall

Vendor Move-In at Great Hall 10:00am

Grooming Area Opens at Gateway Hall 3:00pm

Agility

Draft #1 at Working Dog Field

Breeders Symposium at Founders Room

## **TUESDAY, APRIL 2**

Registration & Catalog Sales at Ringside

Berner U at Founders Room & Conference Room

Draft #2 at Working Dog Field

Scent Work at Service Center

Sweepstakes

Welcome Reception w Studs & Suds at Great Hall

## **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**

Registration & Catalog Sales at Ringside

Health Clinics at Service Center

International Guest Breakfast at Founders Room

Futurity

Obedience

Team Obedience

Versatility Showcase

Veterans Sweepstakes

Health Auction at Holiday Inn St Louis West

## **THURSDAY, APRIL 4**

Registration & Catalog Sales at Ringside

Health Clinics at Service Center

Rally

4-6 Month Puppy

Draft #3 at Working Dog Field

Regular Conformation Dog Classes

Veteran Dog Classes

Non-Regular Classes (Stud Dog & Brace)

Top Twenty Prejudging

Veterans Parade during lunch break

Top 20 Gala

Junior Showmanship during Top 20 Intermission

## **FRIDAY, APRIL 5**

Registration & Catalog Sales at Ringside

Judges' Education—seminar, ringside mentoring, and hands-on workshop

Regular Conformation Bitch Classes

Veteran Bitch Classes

Non-Regular Classes (Brood Bitch)

Pee Wee & Itty Bitty Special Attraction at Lunch Break

Draft #4 at Working Dog Field

BMDCA Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet at Founders Room

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 6**

Registration & Catalog Sales at Ringside

Judges' Education—ringside mentoring

Best of Breed followed by NOHS Best of Breed, Best Puppy, Best Veteran, Best Bred-by-Exhibitor

Judges' Dinner at Holiday Inn St Louis West

## **ACTIVITIES HELD THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

Berner-Garde at Events Center

Raffle at Events Center (tickets pulled Friday 1:00pm)

Photo Contest Winners' Gallery at Events Center

Rescue Gallery at Events Center

Titleholders Gallery (online)

Longshots at Events Center (Weds-Fri)

*Bringing Friends Together*



**BMDCA National Specialty 2024**

## CHECKLIST FOR IMPORTANT CLOSING DATES

<b>February 10</b>	Catalog Ad Submissions
<b>February 18</b>	Master Registration <b>(Online Only)</b> <a href="https://bmdca.regfox.com/bmdca-2024-national-specialty-live">https://bmdca.regfox.com/bmdca-2024-national-specialty-live</a> (Name Tag & Welcome Bag, BFF Club, Pre-Ordered Catalogs, Reserved Grooming, Receptions and Banquets, Titleholders Gallery, Veterans Parade, Berner University, Juniors Activities, etc.) Photo Contest Entries (accessible through online store) Rescue Gallery (accessible through online store) Trophy Donations for Listing in Catalog
<b>February 25</b>	Final Deadline for Refund Requests for Master Registration Items
<b>March 6</b>	Entries Close ~ Agility, Conformation, Draft, Farm Dog, Herding, Junior Showmanship, Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, Versatility
<b>March 20</b>	TriAthlete Challenge BMDCA Judges Education Seminar Registrations
<b>March 21</b>	Histiocytic Sarcoma Risk Test & Cardiac Clinic (accessible through online store)

### **Master Registration ONLINE ONLY**

Mailed in registrations will NOT be accepted. If you are not able to complete your Master Registration online, please contact Mona Williams, BMDCA Specialty Registration, at [bmdca.reg@gmail.com](mailto:bmdca.reg@gmail.com) or by phone at (810) 240-6709.

### **IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION**

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America has planned these trials and shows in accordance with public health requirements in place as of the publication of the planning booklet. The health and welfare of our exhibitors, judges, club members, and all those who work to make the shows a success is paramount.

At the time of publication of the planning booklet, no public health requirements are in effect for the show site and the size of our events. Any changes to requirements will be included with the judging program and posted on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/2386490074859751](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2386490074859751). Any changes will be based on local and state requirements, as well as the AKC Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants (available at AKC.org).

**EVENT ATTENDEES VOLUNTARILY ASSUME ALL RISKS RELATED TO EXPOSURE TO COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are the heartbeat of each and every BMDCA National Specialty, from performing the smallest task to coordinating the most complex events. If you have a couple of hours or a whole day to share your talents and time, we would love to have your help. Please reach out to Volunteer Coordinator, Julie Latterell [jlatterell2@gmail.com](mailto:jlatterell2@gmail.com) if you can assist. She will help plug you into a volunteer role that fits your schedule and fills a volunteer need.

## RAFFLE

**Wednesday, April 3—Friday, April 5, Events Center**

**Prizes will be drawn at 1:00pm on Friday and MUST be picked up no later than 12:00pm on Saturday**

\*Unclaimed items will be gifted to the 2025 Raffle Committee

The 2024 National Specialty is all about BRINGING FRIENDS TOGETHER! And what better way to do that than bringing some fabulous raffle baskets for your friends to bid on! Donate new and/or gently used Berner or dog-related items to the 2024 Specialty raffle! And don't forget items for the Hoomans too!

The funds generated contribute to the success of our specialty and will help to keep the costs down for all attendees. Donations are being accepted now! No item is too small, no donation too big! Anything Berner or Swiss, useful dog-themed accessories and/or toys, apparel, pictures, gifts, etc., all make for a lively and interesting raffle. Gift cards work too and can be used online wherever the winner lives. We look forward to receiving your treasures!

Please let us know in advance so your generosity can be acknowledged in the show catalog. **If possible, please bring your donated items to the Specialty. If you need to mail/ship items, please send to arrive by Monday, March 25, to Patty Gartmann, 5063 Dearth Rd, Springboro OH 45066.**

### **CLUB BASKET CONTEST**

Calling all regional clubs! Show your regional club's spirit by donating a club basket – often the most coveted of all raffle prizes! Not only will you have bragging rights, but there will also be a trophy. The winner will be selected by people's choice, so remember to vote when you purchase your raffle tickets!

### **BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE**

The winner of this early\* \$10/chance raffle will enjoy ringside “best seats in the house”. Not only will you get the best location to view all of the action in the ring, you will also receive two high-quality sports chairs with side tables and a soft-sided cooler bag with accoutrements. Purchase your tickets early so that you don't miss out—swag value \$300+, memories captured . . . priceless!

**\*Tickets for Best Seats In The House will be available at Registration and will be drawn prior to the commencement of conformation classes.**

Contact co-chairs Nicole Stonitsch at [tapestrybmd@yahoo.com](mailto:tapestrybmd@yahoo.com), phone (513) 703-0450, or Patty Gartmann at [pg4bmds@roadrunner.com](http://pg4bmds@roadrunner.com), phone (513) 324-8345, to confirm your raffle basket participation or if you have questions.

## BERNER FRIENDS FOREVER—BFF CLUB

It's almost time for all of us to come together at Purina Farms. We know that everyone is anxious to see old friends and to make new ones, but before you head out to meet up, please consider joining the BFF Club!

**Each BFF Club member will receive:**

- A custom name badge sticker identifying you as a BFF
- A limited edition, BFF Dry Bag, which is perfect for transporting dog food on your travels or to various dog sports
- Early access to banquet dinners

**Join The BFF Club!**

Contribute \$200+ in qualifying donations to any combination of the following:

- Trophy Sponsorship
- Catalog Ad (\$85 credit applied per ad)
- General Trophy Fund
- General Specialty Fund
- Raffle Fund

BFFs will be acknowledged in the show catalog and specialty newsletter. Contact Dottie Schulte at [dotties911@aol.com](mailto:dotties911@aol.com) if you have questions.



# **CATALOG ADVERTISING**

## **Deadline for Ad Submission is February 10**

Celebrate your Bernese Mountain Dog by placing an advertisement in the 2024 BMDCA National Specialty Catalog. Do you have a fit & fabulous Veteran, a rising new star, Rescue extraordinaire? Regional Club event schedules are always important information. Advertising in the National Specialty Catalog is a fine way to reach other Berner enthusiasts in the U.S. and abroad. Feature your breeding program, stud dog, brag about your performance achievements, or inform us of your BMD products or services. And who doesn't love a page wishing all your friends fun times at the Specialty!

Also, as an added value to our advertisers, all ads will be posted on the BMDCA 2024 National Specialty Facebook page during the week of the National!

## **Ad Sizes & Rates** *(all include photos)*

Half-Page \$60

Full-Page \$85

Two Full-Page Spread \$130

## **Ad Specifications**

- Berner-Garde numbers and names are required for all dogs featured in ads.
- Full page ad size is 4½" wide x 7½" tall (this also applies for each page of a two full-page spread).
- Half page ad size is 4½" wide x 3 5/8" tall.
- All ads will be printed in black and white/grayscale format and must be submitted as "Camera Ready"; submit same ad in full color for the Facebook page.
- Acceptable submission formats: pdf or jpg (minimum 300 dpi). If you submit in pdf format and the fonts that you use in your ad in are not available to the Superintendent, the fonts will be changed to the closest match available.

Please plan your design needs in advance so that you will be able to meet the ad submission **February 10, 2024** deadline. If you need assistance, a graphic designer is available for basic ad production at an established fee of \$60, payable to the designer.

**Ads must be paid in full on or before the February 10 deadline.** Ads not paid in full by the deadline will not appear in the catalog. There will be NO REFUNDS.

## **How to Submit Online**

Pay by credit card at the BMDCA online store at [https://www.bmdca-store.com/Catalog-Advertising\\_c\\_87.html](https://www.bmdca-store.com/Catalog-Advertising_c_87.html), and email your camera ready ad to Catalog Advertising Chair Beth Dennehy at [BMDCAcatalogads@gmail.com](mailto:BMDCAcatalogads@gmail.com) with "2024 Catalog Ad" in the subject line.

For questions or layout requirements, please contact Beth Dennehy, Catalog Advertising Chair, at [BMDCAcatalogads@gmail.com](mailto:BMDCAcatalogads@gmail.com).

# **CATALOG SALES**

Catalogs can be pre-ordered through Master Registration for **\$25** or purchased onsite for **\$30**.

Marked catalogs will not be offered; results will be posted on the show superintendent's website.

## **BMDCA BUSINESS MEETINGS**

**Sunday, March 31, 2024, 8:30am ~ The In Person Meeting of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc. (BMDCA) Board of Directors** will be held in the Conference Room of the Event Center at Purina Farms, 500 Danforth Way, Gray Summit MO 63039. BMDCA members are invited to attend.

**Friday, April 5, 2024, 8:00pm ~ The Annual Meeting of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc. (BMDCA)** will be held in the Founders Room of the Event Center at Purina Farms. Seats will be provided for those not attending the banquet beforehand.

**Items for inclusion on the agenda for either the In-Person Board Meeting or the Annual Meeting must be received in writing by March 13, 2024.** Please send your written request and all materials to the Recording Secretary, Kelley Van Arsdale, via e-mail at [bmdcarecsec@yahoo.com](mailto:bmdcarecsec@yahoo.com). Please CC Marjorie Geiger on all email requests at [margbmdca@yahoo.com](mailto:margbmdca@yahoo.com).

## **VENDORS**

We offer premium booth spaces to commercial vendors in the Great Hall at Purina Farms. Commercial booth spaces are 10' x 10' and will include one table and two chairs. Additional tables can be rented for a nominal fee. Tables may not be shared, and space between booths cannot be occupied. No refunds will be made for "no shows". Set-up will begin on Monday, April 1, at 10:00am. All vendor spaces must be vacated by 5:00pm on Saturday, April 6. Contact Debbie Thornton at [bernerz@aol.com](mailto:bernerz@aol.com) or (708) 610-6881 for questions. A vendor space request form is available upon request. Agreements should be returned by January 24.

## **TROPHIES, RING FAVORS, AND ROSETTES**

Calling all friends old and new to Bringing Friends Together in 2024. Let's proudly support each other in all our bernerly events this national by stepping out of our norm and sponsoring a trophy in a friend's favorite event. You can sponsor in your name, your kennel name, in memory of a beloved pet or in honor of a great friend past or present. Visit the Welcome Waggin at [www.bmdca-store.com/2024-Trophies\\_c\\_60.html](http://www.bmdca-store.com/2024-Trophies_c_60.html) to sponsor a trophy! General trophy fund donations can be made through the store or Master Registration. All donations must be paid by February 18 to be recognized in the show catalog. Contact Brenda Calvelage at [bjcalvelage@gmail.com](mailto:bjcalvelage@gmail.com) or (419) 233-3738 with any questions.



**BMDCA 2024**

## RECEPTIONS, SHOWCASE, BANQUETS, AND CONCESSIONS

**Hot food and beverages will be available for purchase at the Checkerboard Café. Purina Farms regulations prohibit bringing in outside food without prior written permission.**

### **Welcome Reception and Studs & Suds Showcase—Tuesday, April 2, 5:00-8:00pm, Checkerboard Café & Great Hall, Purina Farms**

Bringing old and new friends together for a lively evening of food, tasty brews, fabulous stud dogs, fun music, and special raffles, the Welcome Party will be held in conjunction with the first ever Studs & Suds showcase event! Enjoy wonderful, tasty fare in the Checkerboard Café to get your tastebuds ready for tasting some of the best Midwest adult craft brews offered in the Great Hall.

The **Welcome Reception** will feature artisan mini sandwiches (ham & Swiss, smoked turkey & Havarti, top round of beef & cheddar), imported and domestic cheeses with local charcuterie, vegetable spring rolls with Thai chili sauce, BBQ meatballs, and toasted ravioli with marinara. Beverages will include iced tea and lemonade. Cash bar also available. Wristband required for the food options. **\$35**



**Studs & Suds** will be your chance for a hands-on meet-and-greet with the most eligible BMD bachelors, both seasoned studs and future hunks! Suds registrants will enjoy a chance to sample sudsy ciders, delicious meads, and craft beers. Your tasting will include a Studs & Suds keepsake glass with a themed matching crate tag made by our skilled friend Vance Knuth, a delicious home-baked Studs & Suds shaped cookie baked by our talented friend Anita Zelenka, and five tastings from our specially selected sudsy assortment. Wristband required for tasting and keepsakes. **\$15**

The **Welcome Reception** and **Studs & Suds** showcase are open to all, so please let us know if you plan to attend in Master Registration, as well as your food and beverage options above. **GenSol Diagnostics** is generously sponsoring the **Studs & Suds** showcase.



**Breeders/Owners of Studs**, don't miss this showcase opportunity to share your beautiful boys up close and personal with attendees, along with providing pedigree and health clearance information. (See page 12 for details!)

**International Guest Reception—Wednesday, April 3, Founders Room, Purina Farms, 7:30am** (see pg 13) Attendees will socialize, share information, and enjoy breakfast. Sign up for this event through Master Registration. **No fee for International guest attendees; \$15 fee for USA BMDCA members**

**Pre-Health Auction Friendship Fare – Wednesday, April 3, Ballroom, Holiday Inn St Louis West 5:30-7:00pm** (see pg 13 for Health Auction info)

Need some downtime with your best buds and ready to make new friends? Come enjoy some great grub. We will be serving Italian salad, toasted ravioli, mozzarella triangles, Italian meatballs, and cookies. Wristband required for food selections. **\$32**

Cash bar also available. There is no fee or reservation needed to participate in the Health Auction.

**Top Twenty Gala—Thursday, April 4, Great Hall, Purina Farms**

Food will be available for purchase onsite at the Checkerboard Café. Cash bar available.

**Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet—Friday, April 8, Founders Room, Purina Farms Cocktails/Doors Open 6:00pm; Dinner 7:00pm**

The buffet dinner will include a Harvest Garden Salad with mixed greens, grape tomatoes, cucumber, garlic croutons, shaved parmesan, and red wine vinaigrette. Entrees include pan seared chicken with Mornay sauce and grated parmesan; garden pasta Primavera with fresh garden vegetables in garlic infused olive oil with parmesan cheese; roasted cauliflower with pistachio butter and scallions seasoned with sea salt. Dinner includes artisan rolls and butter. Dessert will be Tiramisu with creamy mascarpone. Beverages will include freshly brewed coffee and hot tea. Cash bar.

The BMDCA Annual Meeting will begin at 8:00pm, and includes presentation of awards. Additional seating will be available for BMDCA members and others wishing to attend only the Annual Meeting and/or Awards Presentation following the dinner. Wristband required for admittance to dinner. **\$40**

## **Judges' Dinner - Saturday, April 6, Ballroom, Holiday Inn St Louis West Cocktails/Doors Open 5:00pm; Dinner 5:30pm**

Our final evening together will honor our distinguished judges and guests and give us a chance to celebrate with the winners and all of our friends. The buffet dinner will include selections of mixed green salad, shrimp salad, pasta salad, marinated mushrooms, and fresh seasonal fruit. Entrees include Sirloin of beef and Supreme chicken breast with parsley new potatoes, rice pilaf, and fresh seasonal vegetables. Dinner includes artisan rolls and butter. Rich chocolate cake will be served at the table for dessert. Beverages will include freshly brewed coffee and hot tea. Cash bar.

Judges' comments begin at 6:30pm, followed by closing moments. No charge to join the event for judges' comments portion of the evening. Wristband required for admittance to dinner. **\$47**

### **Limited Reserved Dinner Tables**

A limited number of reserved tables (seating 8 at Purina Farms or 10 at Holiday Inn St Louis West) will be available at the Awards Banquet and Judges' Dinner for **\$100** on a first-come, first-served basis for each of the dinners through online Master Registration.

For questions or dietary needs please contact Karen Loren at [kloren2@icloud.com](mailto:kloren2@icloud.com). All menu items are subject to availability.

## **STUDS & SUDS SHOWCASE**

### **Tuesday, April 2, 5:00-8:00pm, Checkerboard Café & Great Hall, Purina Farms**

Attention handsome bachelors, the Berner kind, of course! This special first-ever showcase event will give you a chance to step into the spotlight and impress attendees with your best qualities. (*Attendees see page 11 for Welcome Reception & Studs & Suds details.*)

Attention breeders/owners who would like to register their bachelor (stud dog) in the Studs & Suds Showcase, please check out the criteria/eligibility list below:

- Stud dog must be current on Rabies Vaccination or Titer, proof required.
- Stud dog must be at least 18 months of age as of the date of the event.
- Registration fee must be paid in advance by the established deadline. Multiple stud dogs may be registered for participation by breeders/owners.
- All owners of participating stud dogs must be BMDCA members, or a member of a regional or international BMD club.
- Stud dog must be entered in the Berner-Garde database (minimum of 3-generation pedigree must be available in Berner-Garde).
- Stud dog must also be entered in another 2024 BMDCA National Specialty event, class, or parade.
- Register at [www.bmdca-store.com/2024-Natl-Specialty\\_c\\_182.html](http://www.bmdca-store.com/2024-Natl-Specialty_c_182.html). **\$15/Stud**



## INTERNATIONAL GUEST RECEPTION

### **Wednesday, April 3, 7:30am, Founders Room, Purina Farms**

Welcome all international guests! The BMDCA will host an informal breakfast with international attendees. We will enjoy breakfast while we socialize and share information about a variety of topics of interest concerning Bernese. If you desire a ringside mentor to be available to you during Wednesday's judging to provide explanations of show procedures, please let us know and we will arrange one for you. Sign up for this event through Master Registration. We will have a few extra questions in registration for international attendees in order to help determine transportation needs and topics for discussion. **There is no fee for international guests. USA BMDCA members** who wish to attend are most welcome, but there is a nominal fee of \$15. Contact Tracey Keith at [wynndriftbmd@earthlink.net](mailto:wynndriftbmd@earthlink.net) or Lilian Ostermiller at [lostern@optonline.net](mailto:lostern@optonline.net) if you have any questions.

## HEALTH AUCTION

### **Wednesday, April 3, Great Hall, Holiday Inn St Louis West**

The Health Auction is your chance to support the future health of our breed! It promises to be a fun and exciting evening for all, whether you are a big bidder, small supporter, or simply wish to share in the excitement. **All are welcome, and every contribution makes a difference to the future health of our breed!**

The evening starts at 6:00pm with the silent auction in the Great Hall of the Holiday Inn St Louis West. Then at 7:30pm, attention turns to bidding on the exciting live auction portion of the evening. Get ready to experience the thrill of bidding and taking home a truly special treasure from the 2024 Specialty Health Auction.

Pre-Health Auction food options are available through Master Registration (*see pg 11 for details*). Cash bar. You do not need to purchase dinner to participate in the auction.

As always, the auction items donated by BMDCA members and supporters will be spectacular! Early donations include incredible artwork and unique items that any Berner lover would be thrilled to have. You will not want to miss this exciting event bringing friends together to laugh and have fun raising funds for the health of our loved breed!

Proceeds of the auction will have a far-reaching effect, as they support the Restricted BMDCA Health Fund at Berner-Garde through the Fiscal Sponsorship agreement between the BMDCA and the Berner-Garde Foundation. The Berner-Garde Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and, as such, your contributions are tax deductible in accordance with current tax codes.

If you wish to donate items, please use the **donation form** on the specialty website at [www.bmdca.org/2024-health-auction](http://www.bmdca.org/2024-health-auction). Once the form has been received, you will be contacted to let you know it was received and to collect any further details needed. One form per item please. (*Please note that your donation needs to be shipped to arrive by Monday, March 18. Special arrangements can be made to deliver the item directly to the event. Complete details are on the donation form.*)

Watch for a **preview** of Health Auction items with photos and descriptions at [www.bmdca.org/2024-health-auction-gallery](http://www.bmdca.org/2024-health-auction-gallery).

If you have questions, contact Health Auction chair Erica Hartt at [tenacitybmd@gmail.com](mailto:tenacitybmd@gmail.com).

# PHOTO CONTEST

The 2024 National Specialty Photo Contest will be using the same format as last year.

- All entrants will upload their entry(ies) to an online photo contest gallery.
- Category placements and Best Photo In Show will be determined by a panel of judges.
- Berner fanciers and friends around the world will be able to view contest entries and cast votes for their favorite photos! (Votes will be limited to one vote per person per category.)

## Categories

- Berners Bringing Friends Together**—specialty themed
- Pupweizen Puppies**—show off those adorable BMD puppy photos
- Bernweizen BMDs at Work & Play**—our Berners at work and play
- Just Look At Me and My Family!**—Berners with human and animal family members
- For The Love of a Gray Muzzle**—our beloved veterans
- The BMD Portrait**—classic headshots of our majestic Berners
- BMDs in 50 Shades of Gray**—BMDs in B & W format



## Judging

This year's judges, both BMD owners, include a professional photographer and a talented photographer who has earned a number of BPIS awards. Placements will be awarded to first through fourth in each category; winners of each of the seven categories will compete for **Best Photo in Show**. The **People's Choice Award** will be decided online by popular vote prior to the Specialty.

## Prizes

Rosettes will be awarded to all placements in each category. Each photo receiving a category placement will be prominently displayed in the Photo Contest Winners Gallery at Purina Farms. The winners of Best Photo in Show and the People's Choice Award will receive a special rosette and consideration for placement in the BMDCA 2025 calendar. (Photo rights to BMDCA must be granted. See contest rules for more details.)

## Entries

Entry fees are **\$10** for the first photo and **\$6** for each additional entry. There is no entry limit. Entries must be taken by the individual submitting the photo(s).

**\*Complete contest rules and entry forms can be found in the 2024 online store, aka the Welcome Waggin, at <https://www.bmdca-store.com/Photo-Contest- c 178.html>.**

- **Entry Period**—payment for entries accepted between **January 2** and **February 12** via the Welcome Waggin
- **Photo Uploads**—upon receipt of payment, each entrant will be emailed a link to upload entries; **upload deadline February 18 NO EXCEPTIONS OR REFUNDS**
- **Panel Judging**—**February 19** through **March 1**
- **People's Choice Voting**—**March 2** through **March 22**

For additional information or questions, contact Buffy Cramer-Hammann, Photo Contest Chair, at [veritasbmds@gmail.com](mailto:veritasbmds@gmail.com).

## **JUNIOR ACTIVITIES & PEE WEE/ITTY BITTY PLUSH PUPPY SPECIAL ATTRACTION**

We have a friendly program planned for junior attendees (age 9-18). During the week we will have a pizza and ice cream social, as well as mentoring opportunities. Junior showmanship competition will be held on Thursday during intermission of the Top Twenty Gala (entry required, see premium). If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Washburn at [highlandsbmd@gmail.com](mailto:highlandsbmd@gmail.com).

### **Junior Registration**

Junior attendees should complete online Master Registration to receive a welcome bag and register for junior activities, as well as other events. Fees indicated apply unless otherwise specified. The juniors' activities chair will follow up with registered attendees on details of the program activities. Be sure to pick up your welcome bag and registration packet upon arrival. **Fee for Junior Activities \$10**

### **Berner University**

Registration fees are waived for Juniors (age 9-18). Please submit a Berner University registration for the attendee.

### **Pee Wee & Itty Bitty Plush Puppy Special Attraction**

Bring the youngsters together at the 2024 BMDCA National Specialty for the Pee Wee & Itty Bitty Plush Puppy Special Attraction! Children aged five to under nine are invited to participate in Pee Wee, and children under the age of five are invited to participate in Itty Bitty Plush Puppy. These events will be held together during the lunch break on **Friday, April 5**, with judge Marjorie Geiger

Sign-ups will be held on Friday from 9:00-11:30am at the Superintendent's table. There is no entry limit and no entry fee. **Please note that both an entry form and a Release of Liability form, signed by a parent/guardian will be required for each child to participate.**

The Pee Wee & Itty Bitty Plush Puppy classes are not competitive, but rather a chance for younger kids to have fun with their Berner friends or plush friends (stuffed animals will be provided, but children are welcome to bring their own). Safety is a primary concern—only one unit will be in the ring at a time—Pee Wee adult/child/dog or adult/child/plush; and Itty Bitty adult/child/plush only. Outside the ring, the dog must be controlled by the adult accompanying the child. The dog must be at least four months of age and have the proper lead and collar. Bitches in season will not be allowed to participate.

All participants will have fun, receive a gift, and be invited to have ice cream with their accompanying family members following the event.

For questions contact Hunter Calvelage, Pee Wee/Itty Bitty Chair, at [carmaque@yahoo.com](mailto:carmaque@yahoo.com). Detailed information on the AKC's Pee Wee Special Attraction is available on the AKC website at <https://www.akc.org/sports/conformation/junior-showmanship/pee-wee-special-attraction-guidelines/>

## **VETERANS PARADE**

### **Veterans Parade, Thursday, April 4, During Lunch Break**

If you have Berners celebrating a seventh (or older) birthday on or before Monday, April 1, 2024—be sure to enter your dog in the lovefest known as our Veterans Parade planned for the lunch break! You and your amazing veteran will be cheered on by an adoring crowd. Participants (bi-peds and four-leggeds alike) are encouraged to wear their finest cowboy themed outfits to this memorable event, which promises to be one of the highlights of the 2024 National Specialty. **This event is for any Berner that qualifies by age** (they do not have to be entered in any other event). Each entrant will receive a special gift and keepsake parade program. Gifts will only be available for pick up during the National Specialty; none will be mailed. **Fee per dog is \$30.**



## HOW TO REGISTER

Register for the parade online through Master Registration. Be prepared with your Veteran's registered name and titles, call name, birthdate, sex, owner(s), and a brief bio (limit 300 characters).

Contact Sharon Blaszak, Veterans Parade chair, at [keragold@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keragold@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the keepsake parade program, wish to purchase a commemorative page in the program to honor one or more special veterans, or have questions.

## TITLEHOLDERS GALLERY

We are totally stoked to report that all entrants in the 2024 Titleholders Gallery will be displayed in an online gallery that everyone in the fancy will be able to view! What a totally awesome way to celebrate and acknowledge all that you and your Berner have achieved.

If your Berner has earned an AKC, CKC, BMDCA, BMDCC, or AHBA title in agility, conformation, dock diving, draft, farm dog, herding, obedience, rally, scent work, and/or tracking, consider entering the Titleholders Gallery! Participating dogs will be immortalized in the online gallery beginning a few weeks prior to the start of the National Specialty, as well as being featured in the slideshow at the Awards Banquet. Each entrant will also receive a personalized neck rosette listing their titles. **Fee per dog is \$30.**

### HOW TO REGISTER

Register and pay online through Master Registration. Be prepared with your dog's registered name and a maximum of 15 titles, call name, Berner-Garde ID#, owner(s), a brief bio (limit 350 characters), and a digital photo/image (minimum 7.5 x 7.5 inches, 200 dpi).

Personalized rosettes will be available for pickup at the National Specialty; none will be mailed. Contact Sharon Blaszak, Titleholders Gallery chair, at [keragold@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keragold@sbcglobal.net) if you have questions.

## RESCUE GALLERY

The perfect way to celebrate our rescued Berners is to tell their story in the Rescue Gallery! Regardless of whether your Berner was rescued by a regional club, private group, or individual, or if they came from a puppy mill, broker, online site, or other bad situation, theirs is a story worth sharing. The Rescue Gallery replaced the annual Rescue Parade in 2006 and was chaired by Nell Ward through 2014, followed by Ron & Kristi Davis from 2015 through 2017. Patti Finley and Carolyn Paige took the reins in 2018.

Even those dogs who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge will be honored. The Rescue Gallery will be prominently displayed at Cal Expo. A story book will also be printed that contains the same pictures and stories on display for those entered, those entered but not attending, and for individual purchase.

The Rescue Gallery is now easily accessible through the BMDCA online store at [https://www.bmdca-store.com/Rescue-Gallery\\_c\\_179.html](https://www.bmdca-store.com/Rescue-Gallery_c_179.html), where you can customize your participation with choices from a personalized pin and story book to a display-only package. Have more than one rescue? You'll be able to customize your packages to honor each of those special dogs. Just a reminder to carefully follow the instructions provided in the online store for your write-up and photo. And whether you have a rescue dog in your home, in your heart, or just want to help support those most in need, don't forget to make a donation to Rescue.

**Deadline: February 15, 2024**

**If you have questions about the Rescue Gallery**, including how to obtain a Berner-Garde identification number for your rescue dog, contact Patti Finley at [bmdmemories@att.net](mailto:bmdmemories@att.net), (502) 592-5856, or Carolyn Paige at [cjpaige@icloud.com](mailto:cjpaige@icloud.com), (919) 451-5681.





# BERNER UNIVERSITY

**Monday, April 1 and Tuesday, April 2, Founders Room, Conference Room, and Great Hall, Purina Farms**

**Welcome to Berner U!** Join us and **“Come back to school and major in Berners”**. Our conference this year represents a unique opportunity of unparalleled value, so invite your friends and puppy owners. We are pleased to present a faculty of distinguished professionals and experienced BMDCA members.

Contact Mona Williams at [midnightbmd@gmail.com](mailto:midnightbmd@gmail.com) for questions.

- **Registration:** The **registration fee of \$50 per person** permits you to attend a day and a half of seminars and workshops, as well as receive access to the 2024 Dropbox full of educational materials suggested by our faculty.
- **Juniors**, ages 9-18 years old, receive **FREE REGISTRATION** for all classes and **FREE DROPBOX** access.
- **Complete class descriptions and faculty biographies** are online at the Berner University website: [www.BernerU.org](http://www.BernerU.org).
- **The European-Style Sieger Evaluation has an additional fee of \$40 per dog.** Dogs must be at least 12 months old to participate. **OPEN TO SPECTATORS**—There is no fee to observe the evaluations.
- **Register via Master Registration.** Select the classes you prefer for each time period. Register early, as space is limited for some workshops, as indicated.
- Classes **OPEN TO ALL**, without charge, will include the **Breeder Symposium** and **Rescue Round Table**.
- If you plan to attend the Breeder Symposium or the Rescue Round Table, please indicate on your Master Registration so that we can provide sufficient seating.
- **Well behaved dogs are welcome in all classes except the Breeder Symposium.**



MONDAY			
9 – 11 AM	Noon – 2 PM	3 – 5 PM	7 – 9 PM
European-Style Sieger Evaluations Celia Cuellar <b>OPEN TO SPECTATORS</b> (Limit 10 evaluations)	Clicker Training for Fun & Performance Shelley Pryor	Rally 101 Dorene McCune	<b>BMDCA BREEDER SYMPOSIUM</b> Progress in Histiocytic Sarcoma Care Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan PhD <b>OPEN TO EVERYONE</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	
	The BMD Genome Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan PhD & Jeff Kidd PhD	Draft Secretary Survival Guide Jennifer Brightbill	
TUESDAY			
9 – 11 AM	Noon – 1:30 PM		
Improving Breeding Success & Neonatal Outcomes Marty Greer DVM	The Spay Neuter Controversy Marty Greer DVM		
BARC Pups Kaitlin Bishop DVM & BARC Families	The Care & Handling of a Broken Heart Mary-Ann Sontag PhD LCSW		
Rescue Round Table Dawn Letry <b>OPEN TO EVERYONE</b>	Draft 101 Jack Crifasi (Limit 12 working; 20 auditing)		

## **HEALTH CLINICS & DNA TESTS**

**Subsidized Antagene Histiocytic Sarcoma Risk Test, Wednesday, April 3, 9:00am-1:00pm, Service Center**

**Fee: \$50 per dog for BMDCA members and \$60 per dog for non-members**

**Register and prepay via BMDCA Online Store** (Deadline March 21, 2024)

[https://www.bmdca-store.com/Histiocytic-Sarcoma-Risk-Test\\_p\\_370.html](https://www.bmdca-store.com/Histiocytic-Sarcoma-Risk-Test_p_370.html)

\*Significantly subsidized by BMDCA; the normal fee per dog is 115 Euros = ~\$120 USD + shipping to France (included for samples received during clinic window)

Offered for purebred BMDs. Blood samples will be drawn at the clinic. You can also hand deliver your blood samples from dogs at home, direct to the clinic. Mailed samples can not be accepted. Samples delivered to the clinic should be kept cool (not frozen) in transit to the Specialty. Samples from this clinic will be shipped to Antagene at BMDCA expense.

The Antagene test for Histiocytic Sarcoma gives results expressed as a genetic index, which is based on the statistical analysis of nine genetic markers identified from the scientific research on the Bernese Mountain Dog. It is a **selection tool and does not constitute a predictive test for the development of this cancer**. It is a genetic tool to assist breeders in the management of their kennels and decisions on matings, using the Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mate Selection tool (HSIMS), to enable them to reduce the incidence of Histiocytic Sarcoma in the population of Bernese Mountain Dogs. The **test is not an endpoint but a continuation of the research on Histiocytic Sarcoma. The test will be optimized and refined with advanced research. For this, your participation is essential.**

**Dogs participating in this clinic will be marked as "tested" in the Berner-Garde database, but the index score will not be included.**

NOTE: By participating in this clinic, you acknowledge that DNA extracted from your dog's sample may be used for genetic research.

Contact Julie Jackson at [rbernese@gmail.com](mailto:rbernese@gmail.com) if you have questions about the HS Risk Test clinic, cell (206) 930-3290.

**OFA DNA Clinic, Wednesday, April 3, 9:00am-1:00pm, Service Center**

**Fee: All fees have been generously donated via the Bernese Mountain Dog Charitable Foundation, so there is no cost for the submission**

Blood samples drawn in this clinic will be stored in the OFA DNA Repository and will be accessible as more tests become available, in addition to being available for OFA research. Forms will be completed onsite at the clinic. If you are unable to participate at the specialty and are interested in submitting mailed samples, please contact Tori Pinkas, Health Clinics chair, at [valorbmd@gmail.com](mailto:valorbmd@gmail.com) or (618) 444-9292.

**Cardiac Clinic, Wednesday, April 3, and Thursday, April 4, 9:00am-TBD, Service Center**

**Fees: \$50 Auscultation only; \$250 Echocardiogram w/Auscultation**

**Register and prepay via BMDCA Online Store** (Deadline March 21, 2024)

[www.bmdca-store.com/2024-Natl-Specialty\\_c\\_59.html](http://www.bmdca-store.com/2024-Natl-Specialty_c_59.html)

Dr. Heidi Kellihan, DVM, DACVIM-Cardiology will be available to perform cardiac evaluations using auscultation (a non-invasive procedure) or echocardiogram. OFA requires that dogs be at least one year of age when examined to receive cardiac clearance and our clinician recommends that echocardiograms be conducted. Registrants will be contacted for scheduling.

### **Reminders**

- Please be on time for your appointment(s) and remember to bring your dog's AKC registration number, date of birth, and tattoo/microchip/DNA information. A microchip scanner will be on hand as well.
- Fees cover evaluations and forms only; submission of results to OFA requires additional fees payable directly to OFA. Submission of findings to Berner-Garde is encouraged.

Breeders and owners are encouraged to complete health and genetic testing available through many sources, and to record that information in the Berner-Garde database at <https://www.bernergarde.org/DB/Default>. Berner-Garde will be available ringside to enter data with proper documentation.

Additional information and resources are available at <https://bmdca.org/health/index.php>.

**GenSol** will be onsite all week to offer generously discounted DNA swab tests for vWd, DM SOD1(A), and DM SOD1(B). Swabs will be sent overnight to their lab to facilitate the expedited return of test results. Home test kits will also be available at their vendor booth in the Great Hall. GenSol representatives will also be present on Wednesday and Thursday at the clinics.

**Type 1 Von Willebrand's Disease DNA Test (GenSol):** Cheek swab test kit.

Type I von Willebrand's disease in Bernese Mountain Dogs occurs as the mild form, as distinguished from the severe form, which occurs in Scottish Terriers and Shetland Sheep Dogs. It is characterized by the abnormally low production of a protein found in the blood called von Willebrand's factor which plays a key role in the complex process of clotting a damaged blood vessel.

**Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) Tests (GenSol):** Cheek swab test kits. Both the DM SOD1(A) and SOD1(B) tests are necessary to determine the risk category for your dog: Clear, Carrier, At Risk. **DM** tests for the common gene mutation found in several breeds. If you have had only one test done previously for your Berner, it is likely the test you used was SOD1(A), and it does not need to be repeated. SOD1(B) tests for the second mutation that seems to affect **ONLY** Bernese Mountain Dogs.

Degenerative myelopathy is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that occurs in many breeds of dog. The test being offered is based on the research done at the University of Missouri which identified mutations in the DM SOD1(A) gene. To date, the major mutation associated with this disease has been detected in 124 breeds, with a second mutation, SOD1(B) limited to the Bernese Mountain Dog.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE—ACT NOW!**

**AKC DNA Profile** kits can be obtained from the AKC Online Store at <https://shop.akc.org/products/akc-dna-test?variant=30519215236>.

*See page 23 for DNA requirements to exhibit at the national specialty.*



**"So make the friendship bracelets,  
take the moment and taste it!"**

*-Taylor Swift*

**You don't have to be a "Swiftie" to celebrate long standing and  
new friendships at the 2024 National Specialty!**



Join in the fun by finding and exchanging friendship bracelets found in random welcome bags, as well as hidden throughout the show site. Or make your own and bring them to share. According to tradition, one places a bracelet onto the wrist of a friend as a symbol of friendship and may wish for something at that moment. The bracelet is worn to honor the time, energy, and love put into their friendship and as a way to connect with others on a shared experience . . . just like our National Specialty!

# LONGSHOTS

The 2024 Committee is pleased to announce that LONGSHOTS will be at the Purina Farms Event Center. Pat Long and helpers will be hard at work Wednesday through Friday to take great portraits of your dog(s) to raise money for the Bernese Mountain Dog Charitable Foundation.

For the suggested donation of \$50.00, you will receive approximately 25 photos of your dog(s), copies of all the photos (please bring a flash drive), and a print of at least one of them. All of the money will go to Bernese Mountain Dog charities; Longshots donates all of the services and materials. No reservations are needed; it's first come, first served, although elderly or ill dogs jump to the front of the line.

Longshots portrait photos make a perfect gift for Mother's Day, birthdays, a thank you gift to your breeder, or simply a gift to yourself to enjoy. Be sure to drop by!

Longshots will be located in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Events Center, in close proximity to the conformation ring.

# SPECIAL DOG SHOW EVENTS

## **The FAN Award**

The Fan Award will be awarded at the Awards Banquet to the oldest male and female dog exhibited at the Specialty, including parades. The award is offered by Friends of the Fan Award in loving memory of "Fan" Camelot's Fantasy and Meg Auger, who sponsored the award from 2003-2015.

## **TRIATHLETE Challenge—Entry forms due March 20, 2024**

Are you and your working dog ready to shine in your favorite performance venues? Are you ready to show off your multi-talented teamwork? Dream big and set your sights on the Specialty Triathlete Challenge!

The Specialty Triathlete Award is given at the Awards Banquet to EACH berner/handler team who earns a qualifying leg or passing score in three or more different working venues. Yes, you can do it all! The eligible events are Herding (PT or higher), Rally, Obedience (regular classes only—novice, open, utility), Agility (all classes), Tracking (all classes) not offered this year, and Draft (all classes). Only one score or performance in each venue will count towards this award. If your dog can pull, heel, sniff, run, and jump—just pick your venues and shoot for the stars! The Specialty Triathlete Award is something special. You and your Berner will love the prizes and unique Triathlete duffel bag for every winner. Award offered by Ruth Nielsen, Mazama Mountain Dogs.

To be eligible, download and complete the Triathlete Challenge form on the Specialty website and email to [RNielsen@Nielsenlaw.com](mailto:RNielsen@Nielsenlaw.com) **no later than March 20, 2024**. Mailed entries also accepted, send to Ruth Nielsen, 55 Quaking Aspen Road, Winthrop WA 98862.

Questions? - email Ruth at [RNielsen@Nielsenlaw.com](mailto:RNielsen@Nielsenlaw.com).



# SHOW PHOTOGRAPHERS & VIDEOGRAPHER

## **Official BMDCA Specialty Photographer**

Don Meyer Photography, 3628 Dunn Spring Rd, Labadie MO 63055, (636) 239-1402,  
[billmeyerphoto@gmail.com](mailto:billmeyerphoto@gmail.com).

The "Official BMDCA Specialty Photographer" will be the only photographer authorized by the 2024 National Specialty Show Committee and BMDCA to take and sell official specialty win photos featuring judges at the Specialty. Judge photos may be taken at off-site locations by Show Committee approved photographers in the event those judges are unavailable to be present at the Specialty.

Other commercial photographers authorized to sell photos for specialty events must be approved by the Show Committee and will be required to sign a vendor agreement with the Show Committee for specified events and will only be authorized to shoot and make available for purchase candid (or action) photos and those judge photographs where the judge cannot be available for photographs with the "Official BMDCA Specialty Photographer."

## **Candid Ringside & Performance Photographers**

Candid ringside and performance photographers approved at the time of publication are included below or in specific event descriptions.

Chris & Andrea Stefanac, (804) 347-0452, [chrisertec@aol.com](mailto:chrisertec@aol.com), [www.csphotoonline.com](http://www.csphotoonline.com)

Annie McDannold, [clickingtocapture@gmail.com](mailto:clickingtocapture@gmail.com), [www.clickingtocapture.com](http://www.clickingtocapture.com)

Alyssa Janiszak, [valorkennel@aol.com](mailto:valorkennel@aol.com), [alysajjaniszak.shootproof.com](http://alysajjaniszak.shootproof.com), <https://www.facebook.com/AlyssaJaniszakPhotoDesign>

## **Videographer**

ShowDogVideoPros, 2639 Pocolomas Ct, Las Cruces NM 88011, (575) 993-3460,  
[showdogvideopros@gmail.com](mailto:showdogvideopros@gmail.com), [www.showdogvideopros.com](http://www.showdogvideopros.com)

- The professional video services and live streaming at this show are governed by an exclusive video contract with the Club. No other commercial video recording, video recording from a tripod, monopod or other supported camera/device, or any video recording or streaming of large parts or whole classes shall be permitted.
- The contract terms permit individuals to record small bits of video of their own dogs only, and using handheld devices only (e.g. phone, tablet or small camcorder). Individuals may post recorded videos of their own dogs to social media (Facebook, YouTube, etc). **However, during show hours LIVE Broadcast Streaming to social media (e.g., Facebook Live) is not permitted.**
- Submission of an entry form and/or physical presence on the show grounds shall constitute both implied and real consent for both the handler and the dog to be professionally video recorded and streamed live only by the professional video services as contracted by the Club for this show.
- All rights to video record and live stream or otherwise exploit this event and/or the persons or animals participating in it, including the names, likenesses and biographical matter of dogs, owners, handlers, breeders and kennels participating in the event shall belong solely to the show giving Club and/or the American Kennel Club, Inc. No spectator, participant, owner, handler, breeder, or kennel shall make commercial use of any video recordings of any person or animal participating in this event without prior written approval from the Club. This event may not be broadcast to social media (e.g. Facebook Live, etc) without prior written approval from the Club.
- Violation of these show video policies may result in an Event or Bench Committee hearing.
- ShowDogVideoPros permits, and encourages, local/national news media coverage. The Video Company will allow professional news media coverage (tripod mounted cameras, professional film crews, news reporters).

# GROOMING

**NOTE: Grooming and Crating is allowed in designated areas only. Due to LIMITED GROOMING SPACES, sharing of grooming spaces is encouraged. Remember, we're Bringing Friends Together!**

## **LIMIT OF 2 GROOMING SPACES PER PERSON**

Exhibitors may reserve a 10' x 10' grooming space for **\$150**, which includes one electrical plug with 20 amps of power, for the entire show period. Paid reserved spaces will be indoors on a concrete floor in the Gateway Hall or rubberized flooring with plastic sheeting provided in the Great Hall. Spaces are available on a first come, first served basis through Master Registration until capacity is reached. Exhibitors **will not be allowed**

**to select which location (Gateway Hall/Great Hall) when reserving space; all spaces will be assigned at random based on availability.** Day crating (no electric access) will be available for Obedience and Rally exhibitors.

All set-ups will be supervised by the Grounds Committee as representatives of the BMDCA. The Club reserves the right to restrict the number of grooming tables and to rearrange grooming areas and set-ups as required by circumstances for the safety and convenience of all. This includes moving crates, tables, and other equipment. Exhibitors are expected to comply with all Club rules as laid out by the BMDCA.

The Columbia MO Kennel Club is allowing select BMD Regional Clubs to host Supported Entries in conjunction with their All Breed shows on Saturday, March 30 and Sunday, March 31. Please consider entering as this will be a great opportunity to warm up for the National! **Any exhibitors wishing to enter these shows MUST note their breed on the Columbia MO KC Grooming reservation.** They will be putting all Bernese entrants' grooming spaces in one area of the Gateway Hall. Per Purina Farms Event Center, dogs and exhibitors MUST be out of the building by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 31, no exceptions. Your equipment MAY stay in the building, but in order to allow Purina Farms employees to properly clean the building, make sure you clean up around your equipment as best as possible. **For the BMDCA National, you will be required to move your belongings to your newly assigned spaces on Monday, April 1, 3:00 p.m. You will not be guaranteed the same space you had for the Columbia MO KC shows, and you will not be permitted into the grooming area earlier than 3:00 p.m. on Monday. No Exceptions! You must make separate grooming reservations for the BMDCA National Specialty, even if you have purchased a space through Columbia MO KC!**

- **MOVE-IN: Begins Monday, April 1 at 3:00pm**
- At time of move-in, exhibitors will be required to supply contact information, including hotel, room number, and cell phone number.
- **Generators and electric heaters are also prohibited.** All extension cords and dryers are subject to inspection, and non-compliant equipment may be removed by show personnel.
- The grooming area will be **open** daily from **6:00am** (except for move-in day as indicated above) until **9:00pm**.
- **DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO STAY OVERNIGHT IN GROOMING/CRATING AREA.**
- Parties wishing to set up together should submit forms under the same Group Name. All reasonable effort will be made to honor requests, but are not guaranteed.
- **GROOMING SPACES MUST BE VACATED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF ALL CONFORMATION EVENTS ON SATURDAY, APRIL 6.**
- There are six stainless elevated bathing tubs in the bathing room in the hallway of Gateway Hall. Hot and cold water are provided. Please adhere to all posted rules. Additional bathing tubs are accessible in the Service Center near the RV lots.
- Bathing/Grooming is not allowed in any hotel room.
- Absolutely no x-pens will be allowed in the grooming area except within the assigned grooming space.
- Ringside chairs are NOT to be taken to the grooming area.
- Exhibitors and handlers will be held responsible for clean conditions in/around their assigned space. Grooming and crating spaces will be monitored and must be cleaned each day. Failure to follow instructions given by a show committee member can result in forfeiture of space.
- Participants and visitors must abide by the posted signs on the show grounds; failure to do so will result in a warning and possible ejection from the show site and/or event.
- **SMOKING IS PROHIBITED** inside any building and within 20 feet of doorways.
- The BMDCA and the show committee will not be responsible for theft or damage of items left in the grooming area. Participants are encouraged to use good judgment when leaving dogs, personal items, or equipment unattended.

For questions, contact Loyal Bouaoun at [lavishbmd@gmail.com](mailto:lavishbmd@gmail.com) or (314) 550-4567.

# **BMDCA JUDGES EDUCATION SEMINAR & WORKSHOP**

**Friday and Saturday, April 5-6, Registration Deadline March 20, 2024**

**Fee \$50, Late Registration Fee \$60**

**Judges Education Seminar—Friday, April 5, 8:00am, Founders Room**

Mentoring will follow the seminar, and the Hands-on Workshop will follow the completion of the day's judging. A continental breakfast will be available at 7:45am prior to the seminar. Lunch will be provided to seminar attendees.

**Judges Education Ringside Mentoring** will be available on Saturday, April 6, with parent club approved mentors. Mentoring can also be arranged for Thursday, April 4, with prior notice. The BMDCA hosts four draft tests during specialty week which showcase the dogs' working abilities. Mentoring can be arranged for any judges wishing to attend one of these events. Requests for draft test mentoring can be made on the registration form.

BMDCA members who meet the AKC requirements for breed application and plan to apply for AKC judge licensing within the next year may attend the seminar.

To register, visit [https://www.bmdca-store.com/BMDCA-Judges-Education-Registration\\_p\\_1717.html](https://www.bmdca-store.com/BMDCA-Judges-Education-Registration_p_1717.html). For questions, contact Nancy Stewart, BMDCA Judges Education Committee Chair, at [nancybmdca@gmail.com](mailto:nancybmdca@gmail.com).

## **SHOW SUPERINTENDENT & PREMIUM LIST**

BarRay Event Services, Inc. will be serving as our Show Superintendent:

BarRay Event Services, Inc.

113 E Fairhaven Ave

Burlington WA 98233

Phone: (360) 755-7086

Email: [dogshows@barayevents.com](mailto:dogshows@barayevents.com)

Mailing Address:

PO Box 508

Burlington WA 98233-0508

Fax: (369) 755-2248

Website: [www.barayevents.com](http://www.barayevents.com)

Onsite Secretary:

Sherri Spavale

PO Box 510491

St Louis MO 63151-0491

Phone: (314) 369-7737 (mobile/text)

Email: [info@specialtyshowservices.com](mailto:info@specialtyshowservices.com)

Website: [www.specialtyshowservices.com](http://www.specialtyshowservices.com)

BMDCA members can look forward to receiving notification of the Premium List via Ecomm. Visit [www.bmdca.org/2024-specialty](http://www.bmdca.org/2024-specialty) to access a link to the Premium List. You may contact the show superintendent to request a printed copy of the Premium List by mail.

## **ATTENTION EXHIBITORS**

### **AKC DNA REQUIRED FOR ALL DOG SHOW ENTRIES**

The BMDCA requires each entrant to provide a valid AKC DNA Profile Number for the dog entered on the Official Entry Form at the time of entry. AKC DNA numbers are not required for Special Attractions such as parades. Failure to meet these requirements will render the dog ineligible to enter the event. This may result in the loss of all awards earned at the event, as well as subject the entrant to possible disciplinary action by the AKC and/or BMDCA, including but not limited to, suspension from club privileges and entry of club events. All DNA numbers will be verified by the BMDCA within 30 days after the National Specialty. Prepaid AKC DNA test kits can be obtained from the AKC Online Store at <https://shop.akc.org/products/akc-dna-test?variant=30519215236>.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE:** Instead of sending your information and DNA sample directly to the AKC, you will now enter your information into the DNA Online Portal and mail your DNA sample directly to AKC's service provider. **FAILURE TO COMPLETE THIS STEP WILL DELAY processing.** If you do not have access to the internet to activate your kit, please contact AKC DNA at (919) 816-3508 FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR SAMPLE. **DON'T DELAY! KIT DELIVERY CAN TAKE UP TO 2-3 WEEKS; RESULTS CAN TAKE 7-8 WEEKS AFTER RECEIPT.**



## WAIVER OF RIGHTS—ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc. reserves the right to remove any animal in distress from a parked vehicle or crate, and all persons attending these dog events hereby waive any claim for damages against the club for such removal. The Club regards the health, safety, and life of any dog on the show grounds to be paramount to other property or privacy rights. We will attempt to reach the responsible party but cannot guarantee contact will be made before action is taken.

## SHOW VETERINARIANS

**Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Services**, 1021 Howard George Dr, Manchester MO 63021, Phone (636) 227-9400, 24/7 emergency care (24.5 miles, 28 minutes from Purina Farms)

Directions from Purina Farms: Turn right on Checkerboard Dr, right on William Danforth Way, right onto Hwy MM, right onto Old Rte 66W, left onto I-44E/USD-50E. Take Exit 272 toward MO-141N, keep left at the fork, follow signs for MO-141N, turn left onto MO-141N, keep left to stay on MO-141. Turn right toward Howard George Dr/S Outer Rd, turn left onto Howard George Dr/S Outer Rd to 1021 Howard George Dr

**Fox Creek Veterinary Hospital**, 18962 MO 100, Wildwood MO 63069, Phone (636) 458-6569, 7 days a week 8am-8pm with 24-hour on-call medical team (8.3 miles, 13 minutes from Purina Farms)

Directions from Purina Farms: Turn right on Checkerboard Dr, right on William Danforth Way, right onto Hwy MM, left onto MO-100/Old Rte 66E, right on Fox Creek Dr, clinic is on the left

### **Additional Veterinarians (On-Call)**

**Franklin County Veterinary Hospital**, 921 W 14th St, Washington MO 63090, Phone (636) 390-9280 (13.9 miles, 22 minutes from Purina Farms)

**Pacific Animal Hospital**, 450 Flier Dr, Pacific MO 63069, Phone (636) 257-2100 (4.7 mile, 9 minutes from Purina Farms)

## PREMIUM LISTS

Premium Lists for the following events will be available for download at [www.bmdca.org/2024-specialty](http://www.bmdca.org/2024-specialty) in late January.

## HERDING

### **Saturday, March 30, Herding & Trial Field**

Start your Specialty week testing your Berner's working ability at two AKC herding tests/trials in one day! Lunch will be available for pre-order through the BMDCA store.

### **AKC Herding Tests and Trials, Two All Breed Limited Entry Tests & Trials, Bernese Mountain Dogs Preferred**

**Trial Chairpersons:** Sara Karl [karl3106@comcast.net](mailto:karl3106@comcast.net)

**Test Secretary:** Theresa Corcoran [theresa@gameonk9events.com](mailto:theresa@gameonk9events.com)

**Judges:** Mrs. Caroline Sparks & Ms. Debbie George

Classes offered: (Sheep only) Instinct Test, Herding Test, Pre-Trial Test, Course A: Started, Intermediate, Advanced





## **FARM DOG**

### **Sunday, March 30, Herding & Trial Field**

**Judges:** Mrs. Caroline Sparks & Ms. Renee Meriaux

Join us for this fun event that plays to our Berners' general farm dog heritage. We will have two tests, so you and your pal can earn the Farm Dog Certified title in one day, providing a great kick off to your Specialty week. There are some trees around the fields, but pop-ups or shade cloths, and chairs for the two leggeds are strongly encouraged. Lunch will be available for pre-order through the BMDCA store. For questions contact Julia Smith at [orchidj5@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidj5@yahoo.com) or (303) 808-4550.

## **AGILITY**

### **Monday, April 1, Great Hall**

Are you and your dog agile? You can show us at the AKC Agility Trial on Monday in the Great Hall. There will be space for set-ups near the ring. Dogs will run on artificial turf. Lunch will be available for purchase on-site.

**Trial Chairperson:** Renee Meriaux [meriaux1@earthlink.net](mailto:meriaux1@earthlink.net)

**Trial Secretary:** Kris Osojnicki [machberner@gmail.com](mailto:machberner@gmail.com)

**Judge:** Mr. Craig Josling

## **DRAFT**

### **Monday, April 1, Tuesday, April 2, Thursday, April 4, and Friday, April 5, Working Dog Field**

There will be four BMDCA Draft Tests offered throughout the Specialty week. Come join us at the Gateway to the West! All tests will be held at the Working Dog Field adjacent to the Purina Event Center. There will be space for set-ups near the ring (bring shade) or in the shaded Sit & Stay Pavilion, first come first served. Lunch will be available for purchase onsite or preorder via the BMDCA store. If you have questions about the tests, contact Dawn Gibbs at [dawng1019@aol.com](mailto:dawng1019@aol.com), or Gina Craig at [ginadraftsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ginadraftsecretary@gmail.com).

**Trial Chairpersons:** Dawn Gibbs, Annette McLaughlin, and Jenny Zablotny

**Trial Secretary:** Gina Craig at [ginadraftsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ginadraftsecretary@gmail.com)

**Draft #1 Judges:** Ms. Patti Davieau & Ms. Beth Dennehy

**Draft #2 Judges:** Ms. Valerie Horney & Mr. Jasen Duncan

**Draft #3 Judges:** Mr. Steve Likevich & Mr. Bob Schmidt

**Draft #4 Judges:** Mr. Barry Solomon & Mr. Bob Schmidt

## **SCENT WORK**

### **Tuesday, April 2, Service Center**

**Judge:** Ms. Natalie McManus

There will be limited car parking/crating available in the RV lot adjacent to the Service Center. Classes offered will include Novice and Advanced HD, Interiors and Exteriors, and Novice through Master Containers. For questions, contact Scent Work Chair Denise McClure at [denisemclure54@icloud.com](mailto:denisemclure54@icloud.com).

## **OBEDIENCE & RALLY**

Obedience and Rally will be held at the north end of the Great Hall. Please do not set up crates before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday to ensure that the staff of Purina Farms has ample time to set up the rings. Crates should not be set up at the north end of the rings. Crates may be left in the building overnight on Wednesday, but NO DOGS may be left overnight. Note that the flooring in the Great Hall may be different than anything you have trained on, so allow time for your dogs to walk around a bit in the building before showing.

### **Obedience Trial, Wednesday, April 3, Great Hall**

**Judges:** Mr. Fred Buroff & Mr. James Comunale

Regular titling classes offered include Novice A & B, Open A & B, and Utility A & B. Optional titling classes offered include Beginner Novice A & B. Non-regular classes offered will include Team, Veteran, and Brace. The Specialty Obedience HIT and High Combined will be awarded from the regular classes. Team Obedience will be held in the conformation ring after the conclusion of conformation judging on Wednesday. Judges often comment on how much they enjoy the way our Berners perform in Team Obedience, so get your teams and costumes ready and let's see a big entry! For questions, contact Vicky Hall, Obedience Chair, at [ravhall@aol.com](mailto:ravhall@aol.com).

### **Rally Trial, Thursday, April 4, Great Hall**

**Judges:** Mr. Fred Buroff & Mr. James Comunale

Regular titling classes offered include Novice A & B, Intermediate, Advanced A & B, Excellent A & B, Master, and Choice. High Triple Q and High Combined will be awarded in accordance with AKC Rally Rules and Regulations. For questions, contact Denise McClure, Rally Chair, at [denisemcclure54@icloud.com](mailto:denisemcclure54@icloud.com).

## **CONFORMATION EVENTS**

Regular and Non-Regular Conformation, Sweepstakes, Futurity, Veteran Sweepstakes, Junior Showmanship, and the 4-6 Month Puppy Competition will be held indoors. Bred-By-Exhibitor classes will be split per the new AKC guidelines. See premium list for eligibility requirements.

The 2024 Specialty Committee is excited to announce that special rosettes will be awarded to the breeder of each winner of our major conformation events—Best of Breed, Best in Sweepstakes, Best in Veteran Sweepstakes, and Best in Futurity.

The National Owner Handler Series (NOHS) will be offered at this event. We will be using a procedure that tracks all eligible entries in NOHS competition to determine continued eligibility based on the “dogs defeated principle” so that no dog is eliminated without being defeated.

Judging of NOHS Best of Breed, Best Puppy, Best Veteran, and Best Bred-by-Exhibitor will be held immediately following the regular judging of Best of Breed in the same ring.

**Personal chairs will be allowed ringside, however, they must be removed from the Events Center at the end of judging each day. If not, they will be removed by the show committee and can be retrieved the following day at the convenience of the show committee. Ringside chairs will also be provided by Purina Farms and reserving chairs from day to day will be prohibited.**

## VERSATILITY SHOWCASE

This stand-alone conformation competition will showcase dogs and bitches that have received the BMDCA Versatility or Versatility Excellent Award. Entries will be submitted through BaRay Event Services, our Show Superintendent. Classes will be offered for Dogs/Bitches Under 7 Years and 7 Years and Over, with Best in Versatility chosen from the eight class winners. **Intact and altered dogs ARE eligible to compete. Awards must be verified by Valerie Horney, BMDCA Versatility, Working & Active Award Chair at [valhorney@comcast.net](mailto:valhorney@comcast.net) prior to close of entries on March 6.** Since this showcase is a Special Attraction, **dogs or bitches judged first in these classes will not move on to Best of Breed by virtue of having won these classes.** Visit [www.bmdca.org/awards-titles](http://www.bmdca.org/awards-titles) for eligibility requirements.

## TOP TWENTY GALA

### *Welcome to A Formal Affair Top Twenty Gala!*

Join us for an evening of beautiful dogs at the BMDCA's eleventh annual Top Twenty Gala, which will be held the evening of Thursday, April 4. This event will showcase the top conformation dogs from **2023**. Entry is by invitation only and is sent to the top 20 Bernese Mountain Dogs in breed and all-breed points, as determined by AKC statistics from January 1 through December 31, 2023.

Dogs will be prejudged by a three-judge panel the afternoon prior to the gala event. Each judge will evaluate the dogs on a predetermined point system, enumerating the criteria of our breed standard. The emphasis for judging is on the individual qualities of the dog and how closely he/she conforms to the breed standard.

Points will be tabulated once the prejudging is completed, and the winner will be announced at the conclusion of the event. In addition, attendees will also have the opportunity to vote for the People's Choice Award during the evening festivities.

The Top Twenty competition will culminate Thursday evening in the main conformation ring at the Purina Farms Great Hall. The event will be open to the general public to view the final showcase of the Top Twenty dogs and presentation of awards to the top winners. No admission fee will be charged, and there will be a cash beverage and snack bars available. This event will be both entertaining and exciting as the handlers present their dogs to music chosen by them to represent the unique personalities of their dogs.

Junior Showmanship Competition will be held at the Top Twenty intermission so we can showcase our Juniors and give us an opportunity to show our support to our future exhibitors and breeders.

The theme this year is *A Formal Affair*. Exhibitors and attendees are encouraged to wear their finest formal outfits.

Top Twenty Gala donations are also very welcome and may be made through Master Registration.

