The BARC
BEACON
Shining the Light of Hope and Freedom

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WISCONSIN'S BMDCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

So here's the question: What is the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America's National Specialty? I'm sure there is an official, technical answer to be found somewhere, but if you ask me, it is the World's Fair of Berners; a place where Berner lovers from all over the country - no, world - congregate. It is a week long event attended by people who are as crazy about their Berners as I am...so I get to feel "normal" for a week. A big part of the Specialty is "conformation" - the beauty pageant - however, there is so much more.



I don't have show dogs, but that doesn't mean that there is little offered for me and my dogs at Specialty. On the contrary, we are extremely busy all week with the various competitions, educational opportunities, health screenings, shopping, socializing, and the list goes on.

For those of you who have never attended Specialty - and someday you absolutely MUST - I'm sure it is hard to imagine what it is like on a day-to-day basis. That being the case, I will share my experience attending the 2010 National Specialty with my two BARC boys, Jake (9 ½) and Murphy (2).

We arrived at the host hotel around noon on Sunday and were fortunate enough to be able to check in right away. I unpacked, took the dogs for a stroll around the grounds, then got them settled in the room. I met up with Nell Ward and got my rescue pins and beautiful yellow fringed and beaded rescue scarves for Jake and Murphy. I helped Nell set up the Rescue Gallery, which was right across from the Specialty registration tables. That made it easy to pick up my registration materials, all nicely packed in a lovely welcome bag with the Specialty logo on the front. Inside were samples of dog magazines and dog food and treats; information about local places to visit; a cheese and wine guide; my name tag; a hotel map; a welcome booklet with all kinds of necessary info including directions to off-site events like herding and tracking; an emergency info tag for a dog crate; my appointment times at the health clinic; my wrist bands for admittance to the welcome reception, awards dinner and judges dinner; and probably more things that I can't even remember now.

This being my 4th Specialty, I was bumping into friends that I had met at previous Specialties, but also meeting new people that I only knew by name but had never met face to face. I had dinner with friends and retired early because I needed to be up bright and early the next morning.

On Monday, we headed out at 6 a.m. to go to the herding trial that was being held on a sheep farm about 50 miles from the hotel. I had entered both my BARC boys in the herding instinct test just to see what they would do. Jake went into hunting mode and did not pass the test. It's the fastest I've seen him move in about 3 years. Murphy, on the other hand, passed the test, got a green qualifying ribbon, and could have earned a title if we'd have stayed for the afternoon. However, I elected to leave since Jake was so worked up about getting back to the sheep; I was afraid he'd hurt himself. We went back to the hotel and rested, socialized, and walked around the grounds.

Also offered on Monday was the tracking test. I have never done this with my dogs but I understand it is great fun. The dog must follow a scent to find a specific article (glove) and stay on track until they find it.

Berner-University started as well, offering classes and seminars on a wide variety of topics. Well behaved dogs were welcome to attend as well as their people. One of my favorite Berner-U classes to attend was the Sieger style evaluations. This is where a judge looks over a dog as if in the conformation ring, however they tell the audience what they are seeing. They actually critique the dog out loud. It is a wonderful opportunity for people like me, who really know little about conformation but would like to learn. I didn't get a chance to go to any of the Sieger evaluations this year, but I have in the past and highly recommend them.

On Monday evening I attended a fantastic presentation by Ronald Schultz, PhD. regarding vaccines and titers. Dr. Schultz is a leading researcher in this field and gave a very informative and enlightening seminar full of information we can all use to make the best healthcare decisions for our dogs.



Tuesday morning I was up early and went to morning hospitality where a wonderful array of breakfast foods and coffee were made available by the host committee each morning. Then it was on to our first Berner-U class at 9 a.m. It was a 2 hour clicker training

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Continued on next page

seminar. At 11:30 Jake had an appointment for a 30 min. massage with a wonderful woman who works on both people and animals. I figured he needed it after running around like such a wild man after the sheep the day before. From 12 – 2, Murphy and I attended the workshop portion of the clicker training class where we practiced what I had learned in the morning class. He is a much quicker study than I am! After class we went to the vendors tents to check out all the wonderful Berner stuff! I had Murphy fitted for a harness and cart so we could start drafting when we got home.

Speaking of drafting, that and agility were both held on Tuesday, and, unfortunately, it was windy, cold, and raining hard! However, those intrepid folks and their dogs competed anyway. Someday that may be Murphy and me!

Tuesday night was the welcome reception: a very nice light supper and cash bar, followed by the veterans sweepstakes. What a treat to see all those lovely veterans in the conformation ring, looking so proud.

Wednesday we had fewer commitments, so we started with having Longshots taken of Murphy. Pat Long generously spends most of the week taking very professional portraits with all proceeds going to Berner charities. Of everything at Specialty, this is the one thing not to be missed! At a previous Specialty, Pat actually got a couple of pictures of camera-phobic Jake, so I didn't take him this time, but she worked her magic, and I now have beautiful pictures of Murphy.

After the photo shoot we watched the competition obedience for a while, then Jake and I participated in the Parade of Titleholders held during the lunchtime break. Jake earned his Rally Novice title last fall just before his 9th birthday and, although he certainly did not have as many titles as most of the other dogs in the parade, none of their titles were more meaningful than his. Titles on BARC dogs are usually hard won. He wore his rescue scarf proudly! After the parade we watched some conformation, then some more obedience. Then it was back to my room for the wine and cheese get together I had planned for those BARC families attending the Specialty so that we could all meet and put faces with names. At one point I think there were about 25 people and 7 dogs in my hotel room - and did we have a great time! The dogs were just so good. It looked like the hotel decorated with bear rugs all over the place.

Thursday was the busiest day for us. It started with early morning appointments at the health clinic. They offer CERF eye exams, OFA cardiac exams, AKC DNA Profiles, Degenerative Myelopathy DNA tests, VetGen Type I von Willebrands Disease DNA tests, and blood draws for the Berner-Garde DNA Repository. Attending the health clinic is a wonderful opportunity to have your dog examined by specialists at a nominal fee. Although my BARC dogs are obviously not going to be used for breeding, I do want to know that their eyes and hearts are healthy.

We got good reports on both fronts, so then it was off to the conformation ring to watch some of the beauty pageant. During the lunch break, there was the Veterans' Parade in which Jake and I participated. Note: always bring tissues to the Veterans' Parade!

Later that afternoon, Murphy was entered in his first rally trial and qualified to earn his first leg toward a Rally Novice title. Yee-aaayy!...a green qualifying ribbon! Rally is such a fun thing to do and a great way to bond with your dog and build his confidence.

Thursday evening was the Health Fund Auction which is always lots of fun. Many wonderful things are donated to be auctioned off on this night. The bidding is fierce at times but always in good humor and fun. The amount of money raised is amazing - Berner people are very generous!

Friday was a much more relaxed day for me and the boys because all of our commitments were over. We enjoyed the nice weather watching the conformation in the outdoor ring and just having a good time with friends...and of course, shopping.

Friday evening was the BMDCA Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner, a lovely affair where both people and dogs are recognized for their accomplishments and contributions to the breed.

Saturday was the culmination of the breed judging, and it was exciting to watch as the judge narrowed down the field to her top picks. At the Judges Dinner that evening it was interesting to hear what the judges had to say about what they saw in the dogs they were judging.

At the end of the evening there were farewells all around. The next morning I had a lovely breakfast with friends before checking out of the hotel and heading back to the real world - the one that doesn't revolve around Berners, except in my house, and probably yours. If you've never had a chance to attend a Specialty, I highly recommend that you put it on your list of priorities if you're as crazy about Berners and Berner people as I am!

– Lori Simidian

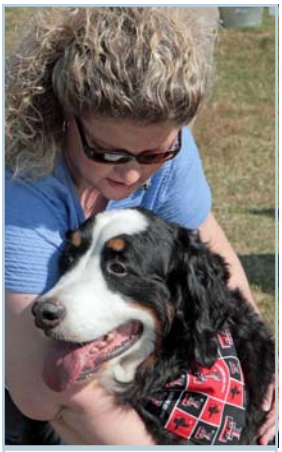
Specialty Collage Photo Key

1) Pat Tackett with BARC's Samson in the Parade of Veterans
2) BOS CH Adesa Floats Like a Butterfly
3) Long Shots photo of Patti Finley with Kenzie and BARC's Willow
4) WB CH Adesa Name That Tune
5) Lori Simidian with BARC boy Jake at the Parade of Veterans
6) Joye Neff with new baby, Breeze
7) Rescue Gallery in the host hotel's foyer hallway
8) Patti Johnson with BARC's Eddie visiting with fellow BARC mom, Lori Kennedy
9) BOB Liebenhund's Who's Your Daddy with handler, Malissa Ruchak
10) The Alphenorns played at the opening ceremony
11) TX Team Obedience which included Nuns (?) Kevin Curran with Gatsby, Jeri Mitchell with Molly, Shari Curran with Whisper, and (not pictured) Sherry Daniel with Mac
12) BOB line-up, Group 6: CH Anastasia's Summers in Dillon, CH Skylynn's Killian Red, CH Blue Mt's. Here's Lookn at You, and CH L-Sin's Dark Blue Moon
13) Patti Grijalva with Boomer and BARC's Jasmine
14) John & Nell Ward with Chase and Summer; Nell organizes the Rescue Gallery each year
15) BOB Liebenhund's Who's Your Daddy giving handler, Malissa Ruchak, a big hug!
16) Debby Fitch with BARC's Lindsey in the Parade of Veterans
17) Welcome sign at the host hotel
18) CH Adesa The Heat is On, 7-9 yr. old veteran's class, showing the youngsters what a perfect stride looks like
19) The Long Shots crew taking a moment off to be silly: Joye Neff, BARC moms Liz Caldwell and Lori Jacobson, and Pat Long with her rescue boy Brew
20) Karen & Steve Thompson, Lori Simidian, & Penny Turner at the Parade of Veterans with BARC/rescues Gina, Abilene, & Jake plus non-rescue, Moritz

SPECIALTY COLLAGE



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Lisa with Bosley

Welcome, BARC families and friends, to another summer edition of our newsletter! I don't know how it is where you live, but here in TX, we're into the full-tilt heat of summer already with temperatures reaching 100 several times in the last weeks! If you are like us, neither I nor my boyz are ready for this sweltering heat, so I hope this newsletter will give you something fun to do inside, in the air conditioning, that is fun and relaxing. So curl up with your Berner babies and enjoy!!

In this issue, we have a wonderful article on the 2010 BMDCA National Specialty that was held just last month in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, written by a talented BARC mom from New York. Many BARC families were in attendance and had such fun that we thought we'd share the fun in words and photos…so enjoy feeling like you were a small part of "Specialty" for the next few minutes even if you weren't able to attend in person.

We also have a major theme that occurred rather by accident. Now, I'm no dummy (at least I try not to be!)…when I see something as obvious as this, I have to capitalize on it and use it to hopefully help educate all our BARC families on the dangers of BLOAT. You will see this theme in our Family Spotlight and BARCINC Buzz articles as well as our Memorials section. Because of this, I asked Andrea Brin, our wonderful holistic health and wellness "guru", to address it briefly, giving you lots of links and such so that you can learn all about this dangerous and life-threatening condition that is very real in our breed. It is important to be informed and to understand the truths and the myths associated with bloat. We have also included a copy of Pat Long's Bloat Chart that we hope you'll print out and put somewhere obvious (like the side of your refrigerator) for easy/quick reference. Please take this seriously and take the time to familiarize yourself with the symptoms of bloat, and educate your entire family about what to look for, as the sooner you catch it, the better prognosis there is for your beloved furry friend.

We have a number of special announcements in this issue that we hope you'll give heed to…in particular, the Fundraiser FAQ's article announcing the impending BARC Fundraiser!! Everyone, PLEASE participate by either donating Berner items and/or purchasing tickets to try to win some of the fabulous donated prizes. It's a lot of fun and so exciting to win items!!

As always, huge thanks go to each and every person who has had a hand in creating this edition of The BARC Beacon. You guys are fabulous, and you know it!! I could never do this without the myriad of behind-the-scenes helpers who ensure that each issue is the best it can be. Special thanks go to the many who sent in "Specialty" photos for me to peruse and select from for the Specialty Collage. Obviously, I couldn't use anywhere near all that were sent in, but thanks to your generosity, I had a huge selection to choose from! Special thanks to Chris Stefanac for permission to use his professional photos of things like "Best of Breed" and "Best Opposite Sex", etc. Also a huge thanks to Pat Long for allowing us to reprint the Bloat Chart in our newsletter as well as allowing us to include her link in our article on bloat that will give you bucket loads of information that she has compiled on the issue of bloat over the years.

Wishing you all a wonderful, safe, and cool summer with your precious furry friends…

Lisa Hawes, editor with BARC's Bosley & Lil' Man Tonka



Tonka

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BERNESE AUCTION RESCUE COALITION

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Lending a paw to those in need

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BARC BUSINESS UPDATE

	2009	2010
Dogs Rescued	32	9
Adoptions Completed	29	13
Re-homes Completed	6	0
Donations/Adoption Fees	40,602	9,082
Expenses	33,030	9,238

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Karen Thompson at karenthompson@barcinc.net.

RECENT ADOPTIONS



Kate Buhrmaster	Los Angeles, CA
Audrey Donovan	Pittsburgh, PA
Marietta Ehrich	Metamora, IL
Lorrie Florin	Houston, TX
Lisa & Horst Hoefinger	Kennesaw, GA
Deb & Hank Post	Olean, NY
Dee Dee & Jory Prather	Lebanon, IN
Jack & Virginia Zaloudek	St. Louis, MO

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for submissions for the September issue of the BARC Beacon is Friday, August 6, 2010.

All submissions to be sent to the Editor, Lisa Hawes by email at lkhawes@yahoo.com.

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BARC FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

THE FITCH FAMILY IN CALIFORNIA



The Fitch Family

When I was first asked to write the "Family Spotlight" article, I thought, "Oh my gosh, they picked the wrong family; what do I have to write about?" But if one takes a peek at our life from the outside, it can be pretty comical.

The human members of our family are Mom (me, Denise), Dad (Mikey), Griffin (age 11), and Riley (age 8). Our current dogs include two BARC babies, Cosmo and Leo. We are always on the go. Griffin's busy sport schedule and Riley's therapy sessions (he's autistic) keep us busy. We are an outdoorsy family. We have an old 1978 Volkswagen Van that we love to take camping with the dogs.

Dogs have always played a huge role in my life. I grew up sharing my bed with them, and I wanted the same when I started my own family. I was first introduced to Berners when I was in high school. My boyfriend of many years had horses and tons of Berners. I knew I would have them when I "grew up".

I like to lump the family in one general grouping when I say we are insane, but I really think it's just me. I can't help but take in any animal off the street that needs help, knowing full well time is a resource we don't have and money is not growing on trees; but I can't help myself! And to be honest, my family is right behind me, helping out however they can. I have feral cats that I have never touched but have fed for 10 years; I've raised abandoned crows, taken home every sad goldfish from the local fair (which led to building a pond), and given shelter to any dog abandoned at the dog park. I have a problem!



Heading to the dog park.

Before the Berners came into our lives, we had 1 lab, 1 rescued lab/giant dog mix, and one wolf hybrid. The wolf hybrid had been with me since college. He was my longest relationship and a very special animal. We were together for 15 ½ years. My husband is now a close second with 13 years under his belt! When I lost Kaya Jo, the wolf hybrid (the other 2 dogs were 10 and 11), I started looking for the newest member of our family. Obviously two dogs were not enough! So there I was remembering that when I "grew up", I was going to have Berners. So I was delighted to find BARC as rescued Berners fit right into our lives, and yet I was horrified to learn more about puppy mills.



Mom & her Boys

The next thing I knew, we were picking up 3 BARC babies at the airport. My parents were adopting two, Pearl and Franklin, and we were adopting Cosmo. My parents live 5 miles away from us, so this was perfect. The Berners would still get to see each other. We now had Sierra, McGregor, and Cosmo. It was tough at first, poor Cosmo was afraid of everything: stairs, toilet flushing, TV, kitchen floor, etc. He would wet the bed, which was a little disconcerting since he wanted to sleep on top of me! My husband was on crutches at the time with a broken heel, so that did not help either. Cosmo would not go near him. Most of his fears are now gone, but he is still a mama's boy and prefers to be in our room on his bed where he feels safe. Cosmo, to this day, is still afraid of cameras! That makes it very hard to get pictures of him; it's the strangest thing I have ever seen.

Our Labs health was deteriorating, so Santa miraculously gave Griffin an early Christmas present – a six-month old

Continued on next page

THE FITCH FAMILY IN CALIFORNIA



Sugar, Griffin & Riley

puppy from BARC had arrived! Now we had 4 dogs, and a new trend had begun. Sugar de Booger, our new beloved BARC girl, was a kick in the pants! It had been 11 years since we had had a puppy in the house, and she knew it. She was a smart cookie and took full advantage of us. When I found this 70 lb. puppy on the kitchen table, I almost had a heart attack. We soon lost our Labs to illnesses, but don't worry, new rescue dogs were already in the works. Next came Chief, a blind and deaf 11 year old husky that had been neglected, and then came Leo, yet another BARC baby who took the BARC Train all the way out to California.

I will never forget when I showed up at the dog park with Leo. I had not told my parents that we were adopting another dog. My dad calmly said to me, "Denise, there seems to be another Berner here." I replied, "Really? I hadn't noticed." "How can you not notice him? He's the size of a lion?" my father declared. With a grin I said, "Oh, that's Leo, he's the 6 year old epileptic Berner with hip problems." And the medical ward at the Freeman house just keeps growing!

We are addicted to these great dogs with their loving, warm personalities. The coolest thing for me is watching my children with them. Griffin and Sugar were inseparable, and Riley spends most of his time lying on the ground with Leo having long conversations. I'm not sure what Riley discusses with Leo because poor Leo has lost many of his brain cells to the seizures, but they are happy. Riley is very connected to our animals. Cosmo follows me around like a saddlebag; he's always at my hip! Although I enjoy our daily walks, my favorite time with them is early every Saturday and Sunday morning. We go hiking in the mountains. It's peaceful and quiet on the hikes. It is hard to get that very often in Los Angeles.



Cosmo & Leo Camping

The last month has been tough. We had to put Chief down. He was just about 16, and his body was failing him. Although expected, it was still very hard. But what wasn't expected was losing our baby Berner, Sugar (5 years old), to bloat two weeks later. We were devastated!! We felt robbed! We have had four dogs for the last eight years. Our house seems strangely empty now with just the two boys although they seem to enjoy their new found boldness. We have quickly realized that Sugar ruled the roost and kept the boys in line. I thought Cosmo and Leo were so well behaved that they would never come in the kitchen and try to beg. Well, it turns out that Sugar never let them in the kitchen! Ever since she claimed the kitchen table when she was a pup, the kitchen was hers. Now, we have to make sure that Leo is nowhere around when we are eating. The boy has no manners and no qualms about trying to steal the food off your plate while you are eating! We hope to have another Berner in our home soon. Two is just not enough for us!



Sugar & Leo

As I mentioned in the beginning, we lead a very busy, crazy life which, in all fairness, we love. In between losing Chief and Sugar, I somehow came up with the idea that chickens would be fun to have plus we would then have farm fresh eggs right in the city. It was fun until I realized that they poop more than the dogs! What is fun about having seven hens is watching Cosmo and Leo with them. Cosmo tries to play with them while Leo is just excited to have another food source to steal. We continually have to get him out of the coop. He is always eating the chicken's food. These boys are hilarious!

We love our Berners. Life would be down right boring and incomplete with out them. Our goal next summer – 2011 - would be to try to make it out to the BARC reunion. We love a good road trip!

—Denise Fitch & family

BOSLEY'S CULINARY CORNER



STRAWBERRY-BANANA PUPSICLES

INGREDIENTS

1 quart strawberry kefir*
1 banana

DIRECTIONS

Fill popsicle molds ½ way with strawberry kefir; chop up banana and add a few pieces to each popsicle mold, pushing them down into the kefir with a utensil; finally, finish filling molds with strawberry kefir, allowing enough room for expansion when freezing. To serve, run warm water over popsicle mold to allow pupsicles to slide out. Serve whole in the yard or you can chop it into smaller pieces and serve it in your dog's favorite bowl for a chilly summer treat.



The history of kefir is centuries old. The word "kefir" is said to have originated from the word "keif" which means" good feeling". Kefir is like yogurt, but with a greater variety of cultures and significant health benefits. Unlike yogurt, which typically contains only two or three different bacteria, true kefir contains a greater range of different microorganisms, each with its own unique contribution. This is what separates kefir from all other cultured milk products. Kefir is made by fermentation of "kefir" grains, which resemble minute cauliflowers. The grains consist of casein and colonies of microorganisms that are grown together symbiotically. Kefir can only be made from pre-existing grains.

Kefir is considered to be one of the richest sources of enzymes. It plays a vital role in the development of a healthy digestive tract and helps improve the immune system. Kefir contains minerals and essential amino acids, an abundance of calcium and magnesium. Rich in vitamin B1, B12, calcium, amino acids, folic acid and vitamin K, it is an excellent source of biotin which aids the body's assimilation of other B vitamins. Other benefits include bowel regularity and decreased lactose intolerance. Evidence shows that the appropriate strains of lactic acid bacteria in fermented milk products can alleviate symptoms of lactose intolerance by providing bacterial lactase to the intestine and stomach. Kefir is recommended to restore intestinal flora while recovering from illness or when being treated with antibiotics. It eliminates unwanted toxins and pollutants in the body, just like antioxidants do with free radicals. Kefir enjoys a rich tradition of health claims and is known around the world for its preventative characteristics.

**If you have a recipe that you'd like to share for yummy homemade dog treats, please send it to lkhawes@yahoo.com to be considered for inclusion in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

MARCH'S PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE RESULTS



Top 5 captions in order of votes
TIE for 1st place!

1) <*Sigh*> I have to do everything…walk the dog, bark at the strangers, wag my tail, look cute… - *Patt Wiegand*

1) Ok, I'll show you around the neighborhood. - *Maria Mack*

3) See how well I've learned to fetch!?! - *Mary Ann Monte*

4) So let me get this straight…I pick up the leash like this, and then we walk like that??- *Kim Clark*

5) Hey! No, wait - let's go this way….PLEASE!?! - *Karl Eriksen*

BLOAT!



Andrea with Woofit

Bloat is an emergency!!

Do NOT underestimate/ discount it, as it CAN and WILL BE deadly if not caught and treated in time. There are many theories as to what causes bloat ranging from feeding from raised food bowls, to too much water or exercise before or after eating, to eating too quickly. Why it happens is not nearly as important as having the right/quick response to it if/when you notice your dog becoming symptomatic.

Some dogs may even be genetically predisposed to bloat. It is more prevalent in large breed dogs, especially those with large, deep chests. The best prevention is to be prepared. At all times, wherever you are, know the location of the nearest emergency vet! Other preventative measures include giving digestive enzymes, probiotics, and not adding water to kibble (this has recently been changed from the older theory that it was better to add water). Please study these links, get the bloat cards that Berner U offers to keep with you at all times, and print out the Bloat Chart to hang on the refrigerator or some other easy to find place. Make sure all your family members are educated on what to watch for and how to respond if they notice any of the symptoms.

These links should be useful as is the bloat card published by The Berner U and the Bloat Chart (on the next page), reprinted with permission from Pat Long from her bmdinfo site.

BLOAT LINKS:

http://www.bmdinfo.org/Health/Gastric_Dilatation_Volvulus_Bloat-Bernese_Mountain_Dog.php

http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body_bloat.html

http://www.ginnie.com/bloat.htm

http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=TUFTSBG2003&PID=5091&O=Generic

Recognize These Signs of Bloat

BERNER UNIVERSITY

- Distress, restlessness, panting, pacing
- Distended or tight abdomen
- Unproductive vomiting
- Excessive salivation/drooling
- Repeated turning to look at flank/abdomen

Have an emergency kit containing:
High strength simethicone product such as Phazyme,
Rescue Remedy and Carbo-Veg.
All are said to reduce gas and or assist with trauma.

SAMPLE

The Berner U has these cards available individually at $2.00 each or in packets of 25 to regional clubs. Please contact andrea@brin.org for more information. Pricing of packets vary with number of cards ordered.

- Bloat
- Heat Stroke
- Intestinal Blockage
- Dental Health
- Lyme Disease
- Vital Signs (2)
- Emergency Signs



© Medical Arts P/L

Andrea is skilled in canine massage and has completed course work in acupressure for dogs. Animal wellness comes naturally to Andrea, who has spent the last six years on a quest to create a holistic health environment for her two Bernese Mountain Dogs, Chi and Karma. Andrea also works as a nutritionist and wellness consultant. Her journey with her own dogs led her to bring services to the canine community that had previously only been available to their owners. She has chosen to step out of the box, think critically about their care and listen to their needs. She was instrumental in the development of Berner University and presents at the BMDCA National Specialty each year. Currently, Andrea is working with The Rabies Challenge Fund and other wellness projects.

SYMPTOMS OF BLOAT CHART

Quick Reference Guide For GDV

BLOAT

Vet's Emergency Telephone Number...

Stress >>>
Excitement >>>
Vigorous Exercise >>>
Large Meals >>>
Long Drink >>>
Swallowed Air >>>
Familial Tendency >>>

	What Is Happening	What The Dog Does	What You Should Do	Treatment
	Stomach function is normal. Gas accumulates in the stomach but the stomach does not empty as it should.	Dog behaves as usual. Seems slightly uncomfortable.	Keep the dog quiet; Do not leave the dog alone; Give Antacid if your vet agrees. Be aware of Phase I symptoms.	During this period the dog may recover without going on to develop Gastric Volvulus.
PHASE I GDV	Stomach starts to dilate. (Gastric Dilatation) Stomach twists. (Gastric Volvulus)	Anxious, restless, pacing; Trying to vomit-may bring up stiff white foam but no food; Salivating; Abdomen may be swollen.	Call your vet, tell him what you suspect and why. Take the dog to the vet without further delay.	During this period the dog may recover if your vet releases the pressure with a stomach tube.
PHASE II GDV	Blood suppy to part of stomach is cut off. Stomach tissue is damaged. Portal vein, vena cava and splenic vein become compressed and twisted. Spleen becomes engorged. Shock begins to develop	Very restless; whining & panting; Salivating copiously; Tries to vomit every 2-3 min; Stands with legs apart & head hanging down; Abdomen swollen & sounds hollow if tapped; Gums dark red; Heart rate 80-100 beats/min; Temperature raised (104°f)	Get someone to tell your vet you are on your way and why. Take the dog to the vet as quickly as possible.	During this period the vet will need to relieve the stomach pressure, start an intravenous drip and perform surgery to untwist the stomach.
PHASE III GDV	Spleen and stomach tissue become Necrotic. Shock now very severe. Heart failure develops. Shock now irreversible. Death	Unable to stand or stands shakily with legs apart; Abdomen very swollen; Breathing shallow; Gums white or blue; Heart rateover 100 beats/minute; Pulse very weak; Temperature drops (98°f)	Death is imminent. Get someone to tell your vet you are on your way and why. Take the dog to the vet as quickly as possible.	As well as doing everything above, the vet will need to remove part of the stomach and the spleen. He will also need to use powerful drugs to counteract shock. It may not be possible to save the dog's life.

Printed with permission from Pat Long—http://www.bmdinfo.org/Health/Gastric_Dilatation_Volvulus_Bloat-Bernese_Mountain_Dog.php

FUNDRAISER FAQ'S — BENEFITS FOR BARC, INC

Q: Which fundraiser is currently running or will run during this quarter, and where do I go to find it?

A: The BARC fundraiser is the one that will be running this quarter; it will be starting on July 10th and will run through about August 31st. http://bernese.biz/2010BARCFundraiser.htm

Q: Why should I, as a Bernese Mountain Dog owner, participate, and how does it benefit our breed?

A: BARC (Bernese Auction Rescue Coalition, Inc.) goes into abusive and neglectful situations and rescues purebred BMDs from puppy mills, pet shops, and other exploitative situations; they then find loving pet homes for each spayed/neutered companion. Rescue should be important to all BMD owners, and if for no other reason than love of the breed, you should be interested in ensuring that these sensitive and loving creatures stay out of abusive and neglectful situations. Supporting this fundraiser and BARC benefits our breed in many ways, especially by protecting the health and temperament of the breed. To learn more about BARC, visit http://www.barcinc.net.

Q: How does this fundraiser work?

A: Go to the website listed below and follow the directions to participate in this fundraiser. Simply send a check for the amount you choose to Joye Neff and tell her which items you'd like your tickets placed on in hopes of winning them when they draw for the prize winners at the end of the fundraiser. There are, as always, LOTS of great prizes to choose from. Mail your check to: Joye M. Neff, 1182 Firwood Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243-1825

Q: How do I participate to donate items?

A: To donate items, simply purchase the items (especially Berner items), then send them to Joye Neff. Be sure to send her an email letting her know it's on its way, and include a nice photo of the item for uploading to the website.

Q: How do I participate to win items?

A: To try to win certain items, simply go to the website and follow the directions by sending Joye a check for however many tickets you'd like to have towards winning the items of your choice. Be sure to include your email address along w/ your name and snail mail address/phone number and, most importantly, choices for how many tickets go into which bags!! Then wait until the contest concludes, and Joye will announce the winners of the drawings for each item…and hopefully, you'll be a lucky winner!!

You may also see www.BMDfundraiser.org for information on all Berner charities and fundraising links.

BARC note cards

Announcing BARC note cards, featuring the winners of the 2010 BARC photo contest. Each set includes 12 note cards, envelopes, and paw print seals for $18.





RESCUE FUNDRAISER!

My two oldest Berners have written diaries of their first two years in my house. After many inquiries about producing a book, I finally compiled them and I am having them printed and bound as ordered.

The cost is $20.00 (including shipping) with $12.00 going towards rescue. If the book is purchased in Canada, the funds will go to the Canadian Berner Rescue; if the book is purchased in the US, the funds will go to BARC. Overseas purchases can designate the charity of their choice.

Thank you for supporting our rescue groups!
Adeline Maxim (adeline.maxim@calgarypolice.ca)

BACK TO BASICS ~ PART ONE



Helen & Paxil

Rather than write about a specific behavior problem in this issue, I have decided to write about the "basics" for successful dog ownership. Many behavior issues can be avoided if the owner understands what they should do even before they bring their dog home. This article is the first of a series that will appear in future issues.

Years ago, Barbara Woodhouse (famed British trainer) was known for her "no bad dogs" philosophy. For the most part, she was right. What was bad was the dog's training.

Every dog at one time or another will exhibit a behavior that is not to our liking. This does not make him/her a "bad" dog. Dogs behave like dogs, but many of their behaviors are not appropriate when sharing the company of us humans. As owners and care providers, it is our responsibility to teach our furry loved ones which behaviors are welcomed and which behaviors should be left at the curb. If you show your dog what you want him/her to do then reward and praise them when they do it, your dog will repeat that behavior. Even better, if you "capture" your dog doing something that you like, LET HIM KNOW IT with praise and reward him with a treat or a belly rub.

Whether you are beginning to train a new puppy or a recent rescue, the basics of training remain the same.

Effective training needs to be "dog friendly". It should not and does not involve physical punishment. Simply interrupt the unwanted behavior and redirect the dog to a more acceptable one. The key to successful training is based on a foundation of mutual trust and respect. Once this is established, training should be consistent and fun.

Many "unwanted" or "undesirable" behaviors most probably could have been avoided had the owner provided appropriate training from day one. A puppy is never too young to begin training, and no dog is too old to learn.

With that all said, what are the first steps toward successful training?

First, consider your breed of dog and what it was bred to do in life. Obviously, if you have a dog that was bred to hunt, don't expect him to be a content couch potato day in and day out. A dog's genetic instinct must be factored into having a "well behaved dog." If a dog does not have a purpose in life or a "job to do", he will invent ways to amuse himself that may not be amusing to you!

Berners are people dogs. For the most part, they do not do well living a solitary life. They thrive on companionship and need and enjoy having a purpose in life. This doesn't mean they have to pull a wagon nor do they have to be enrolled in a zillion sports (although they do benefit greatly from doing so). What they do need is basic good manners training and most importantly, they need to be an active part of your life. They are not trophies to be admired from afar or some jewel kept in a vault to be taken out for special occasions.

PLAN AHEAD

Before you bring your new dog home, PLEASE, do your research. Read up on your breed, talk with other owners or breeders about the dos and don'ts, and familiarize yourself so there are no surprises.

Decide where your dog is going to be situated. If he is to be crated, decide where the crate(s) will be located. If you have a young puppy, I often suggest having an additional crate at the side of your bed. This not only comforts your puppy but allows you to hear him stirring and in need of going out to potty. If your dog is to be gated off, decide what room(s) will be accessible to him/her and have the appropriate gates BEFORE you bring the dog home.

Family members need to discuss who will be the primary care giver. Decide upon who will be feeding the dog and have the proper food on hand before you bring your dog home. Additionally, decide who will be walking the dog and set up a feeding/potty break schedule that is going to be followed explicitly. (This means on weekends too!)



Purchase an appropriate collar and leash for your dog. My favorite collar is the martingale style that is a "limited" slip collar from which the dog cannot back out; it also will not choke your dog. *Premier* makes one (the *Premier* no-slip collar) and many of the pet stores carry this martingale-style collar. There are no buckles. In addition, I strongly suggest you purchase a good leather leash (5-6 ft.) and NOT a flexi-leash for training. Flexi-leashes are good ONLY when the dog is trained to walk well on lead. https://www.premier.com/App_Content/media/store/products/PRC.jpg
Another thing to think about is that if you have a garden, be certain to have appropriate fencing and enclosures.

If you already have a resident dog, please consider his emotions! Introductions are vital to ensure harmony between the existing dog and the new addition. When you bring your

Continued on next page

new family member home, DO NOT THROW EVERYONE TOGETHER AT FIRST! If possible, bring your existing dog along with you when you pick up your new one. Once you are home, be sure and keep the new dog safely separated from the existing dog. Allow your resident dog to see and sniff around the new one while he is contained. Reward your resident dog whenever he is in the presence of the new dog. It is important to take your resident dog to an area in the yard where the new dog has eliminated so that he understands the new dog is now part of the "family". Give them time to adjust. You know your dog best, but don't "assume" anything.

BASIC TRAINING

Basic training and socialization should begin on day one in your home. If you have a puppy, he or she will need good health shots before they can attend classes with other dogs, but don't waste valuable training time. If you have a rescued or rehomed older dog, begin your training and setting of boundaries from day one.

Socialization is equally as important. Naturally, new pets need to get accustomed to his/her new surroundings and should be given time to adjust and settle in. However, begin helping your new family member adjust by putting him/her on a routine that works for YOU. Once puppy has settled in, begin to introduce him to new people, places, sounds, objects, and surfaces. If you have a puppy, you can even throw a "puppy party" where friends with puppies can come over and socialize their pups with yours. You can even wear hats, have noise makers and even balloons. Older dogs need socialization too. In fact, socialization should NEVER stop.

As mentioned before, puppies are never too young to begin training. Older dogs too, can learn new behaviors if they are presented in a dog friendly and positive manner.

Potty Training is one of the first things you will want to work on with your new puppy/dog. I like to caution against "going for a walk" to potty your dog/puppy during initial training because there are too many distractions. To house train effectively, start by taking your dog out on a leash to an area where you want them to do their business and begin using a cue such as "hurry up" or "go potty." Even though this word means nothing now, it will have relevance later on. In addition, bring along little treats the size of your finger nail (I love to use Cheerios). As soon as your dog begins to do his stuff, SOFTLY and slowly tell him/her "good boy/girl" and when they are finished, immediately pop a treat into his/her mouth AT THE LOCATION where they pottied. FYI: Dogs will return to areas and repeat behaviors where they were rewarded.

NOW take him/her for a walk! You will be amazed at how quickly your dog will go potty in anticipation of a walk with you afterward (as opposed to going right back inside).

Older dogs usually house train quite quickly if you are consistent with their feeding/walking routine. If they are already house trained, they will adjust to their new schedule of "where and when" to go.

Puppies are in dire need of consistency and routine. If they are fed the same time daily, walked the same time daily, you will begin to see a pattern. I often suggest keeping a "pee & poop" journal. This is a great tool that will dictate to you when and how often puppy needs to be taken out, more specifically, to poop.

Usually, puppies need to pee every half hour on the hour and should be given the opportunity to do so and then some. Pooping is based on how many times a day they are fed and at what time. FYI: If your puppy loses interest in you or wanders away sniffing, TAKE HIM OUT IMMEDIATELY. The fewer accidents that occur in the house, the faster the housetraining will progress. Please keep in mind puppies do not have the muscle control that more mature dogs have until they reach about 6 months of age. In addition, they need to pee upon waking, after playing, and especially after anything that is arousing or stimulating like obedience lessons or visitors coming over.

So now you are prepared. You know what you need to do before hand: Purchase your crates, leashes, bowls, food and bedding before puppy comes home. Assign everyone their responsibilities, and all family members should familiarize themselves with the dos and don'ts. If everyone is on the same page, there will be total consistency and that is the key toward helping your new member adjust and do the right thing.

Until next time, remember your new dog or puppy's experiences should be filled with ONLY GOOD THINGS!

— Helen

HELEN HOLLANDER, CPDT—*Helen graduated from Hofstra University with a degree in Psychology and later worked in the field of Special Education. Canine Behavior and training has always been Helen's hobby. Upon her children's graduation from High School, Helen switched professions to that of working with dogs on a professional level and furthering her education in Canine Behavior.*

Helen is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and member of the Certification Council of Pet Dog Trainers, a Professional member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT), a Certified Behavior Counselor through the Animal Behavior Center of New York. In addition, Helen serves as a Board member of the Nassau/Suffolk Owners Handlers Association and is a member of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America. In 2006, she became an AKC certified Evaluator for the CGC. Helen is a proactive advocate of dog-friendly, reward based training and is the owner of THE EDUCATED PUP, LLC, a private training and behavior counseling practice, located on Long Island, NY. In addition, Helen moderates an E-List that offers help for those people who own Shy/ Aggressive Bernese Mt. Dogs. Email BerneseAggressiveandShy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to join.

Helen presently shares her life with her well trained and understanding husband and two Bernese Mt. Dogs and one Iraqi rescue pup, Dusty. When not counseling other people's pets, you can find Helen ringside handling one of her Bernese in conformation.

Introducing the NEW BARC Database!!

We would like to commemorate your BARC dog's special dates! Please help us start the BARC Database by sending information about your dogs (both current and past). We are asking owners of all BARC dogs to submit birth dates, adoption dates, any identifying numbers they might have been issued (AKC, APRI, etc.), and any awards or achievements they may have attained.



Receiving awards is NOT necessary for entering your dog's info, so please help us make this database as complete as possible! The information on achievements will be used to show how, in spite of often horrendous backgrounds, our dogs bounce back and often become champions in their own rights.

Once started, we will include a feature in each newsletter that will highlight BARC birthdays, anniversaries, and special events. We can't do this without you. So send us your dates so we can all plan to celebrate with you!

Send your information to maryannmonte@bellsouth.net.

BARC BRAGS

BARC's Ashflat Princess Graci

I wanted to submit this picture of Graci and me.



We did the Newfie Draft Test in April in Golden, Colorado, and Graci received their "Specialty Carting Title."



Lori Kennedy
Denver, CO

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WE'VE LOST

In Our Hearts

We thought of you with love today,
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday,
And the days before that too.

We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name.
Now all we have is memories
And your picture in a frame.

Your memory is our keepsake,
With which we'll never part.
God has you in His keeping,
We have you in our hearts.
-author unknown



IN MEMORIAM—MISHA SCHMOYER



Misha BARC's A Lot, CD, RA, DD, CGC, TDI
January 24, 2001 — March 13, 2010

From Russia with Love; Misha was from the 2nd group rescued by BARC back in 2001. She was one of the "Lucky 17" that were rescued that day in March.

We had many firsts together:
passing her NDD & DD's on the first try
1st BARC dog to earn drafting & obedience titles, paving the way to show everyone that BARC dogs are good dogs; they just had a rough start in life, but they blossom with love.

First and foremost, she was my best friend and heart dog. She was always there with a smile by my side, waiting and watching for her next adventure. I miss you, Mishie, more than words can say.

Beth Schmoyer
Bethlehem, PA

IN MEMORIAM—SUGAR FITCH



Sugar

April 23, 2005-May 6, 2010

Dear Sugar,

I knew I had met my match
When I found you on the kitchen table.
What had Santa given us? I would not be able.

A feisty bright girl had come to our home
With an agenda, quite all of her own.
Training classes, ha, you had no desire.
With a glance at the teacher and a cute little whine
I'm sure you were saying-you're wasting my time!

I have to be honest, my Sugar Rose
You're intelligence kept me on my toes.
But having a dog smarter than me
Is not all that it's cracked up to be!

The speed of your run
Let me know what you were up to.
A slow and calm trot you were just having fun
But a frantic sprint - I needed to find you.

"Drop it!" I'd yell, and you would in a dash.
It was always a mystery what would come down in a crash.
Our tri-tip steak dinner, the laundry, or trash?
Nothing was sacred from your speedy grasp.

Our backyard was your personal lair.
If something was stolen, we knew it'd be there
Lying around in your own private nest
Were half of our belongings I do protest!

Coming home was always great fun!
We knew you'd attack us with a thundering run.
Then you'd spring from the shadows without missing a beat
And take the boys out, right off of their feet.

We miss your mischievous ways
It's not fair, we just did not have enough days!
The house is too quiet. We miss your sweet face.
We hope you have made it to that beautiful place.

Griffin's heart is broken
He misses you so!
He's so sorry he was not there
To see you go.

You were Leo's angel and alert me just right
When he has a seizure in the dark night.
My favorite moments are with you in my lap
Talking with you calmly about your latest mishap.

My Sugar Dear life will never be the same. We miss you so deeply, you can't believe the pain. We hope you are running free and stealing food off Heaven's counters. Stirring up trouble for all you encounter.

Love you.

Mom, Dad, Griffin, Riley, Cosmo & Leo
The Fitch Family

IN MEMORIAM—MIKKI THORNTON



Mikki

May 27, 2001 ~ March 26, 2010

It is with great sorrow and enormous pain that we tell you that we had to let Mikki go. He was eaten up with cancer, but hung on as long as he could to be with us. We adopted him from BARC when he was 8 months old, and Gary and I feel so lucky to have been able to share our lives with him all these years. He came to us timid and shy. We were lucky that it only took him about 2 weeks to get used to us. I can remember the first time, during the middle of the night, when he jumped up on the bed next to me, and then he very quickly jumped back off as if he thought he wasn't supposed to do that. Well, after that, he would spend much of the night lying next to me on my side of the bed. He never got over his fear of storms, gas ovens, or gas grills, but there wasn't anything else that he feared. He loved his car rides, our trips to Colorado and Minnesota, and he especially loved his trips to Dallas where he got to hang out with his friends at BARC Bashes, go to the regional Berner club meetings, and hang out with his Berner buddies at Unleashed Indoor Dog Park. He was a very special boy to us. He was our first Berner, and he taught us so much about what it meant to be a Berner and to love Berners.

The timing of his parting was especially awful in that it all happened just before the 2010 BMDCA National Specialty in Oconomowoc, WI this last May. For the first time in years, we were going, and we had some very special plans for our Mikki, who was now considered a "veteran". We regret that he did not get to meet his Auntie Janice Parky (mom to his littermate and fellow BARC sibling, Halley), nor did he get to be in the veteran's parade for which we'd already signed him up. There were so many people who we wanted Mikki to meet at Nationals, but it just wasn't meant to be.

He loved his fur-siblings (well, maybe Cody, the Husky, not so much), and we know Izzy (BARC Berner sister) especially misses him. Casey, our beloved 13 year old Golden and Mikki's best buddy, joined him at The Bridge only weeks later, so we know they're together again forever. All the gratitude in the world goes to BARC for saving these babies and allowing us to bring Mikki, then later, Izzy, home to be a part of our family. The pain of his loss would have been unbearable without the faithful love and support of the BARC and Berner communities. We are grateful for your expressions of caring at this great time of loss. We will always love and remember our Mikki. He was named after my father whose nickname was Mickey; my dad was Scandinavian. Our last name was Mickelson, hence the nickname Mickey. My father was a great man, and his namesake, Mikki, represented him well. I know that my dad, my mother, and several of his Berner buddies who went before him met him at The Bridge and are looking after him. There will be no more fear or anxiety or pain, sweet Mikki. God speed...



All our love,
Dad, Mom, and the crew
(Gary & Cheryl Thornton w/ Cody, Cheyenne, Izzy, and Elin)





CONFORMATION - PERFORMANCE - WORKING- RESCUE - PETS

$35 SPECIALLY-PRICED PORTRAIT ADS

See YOUR Berner in the OCTOBER 2010 *The Alpenhorn*!



Best in Show, Best Couch Potato, or Best Working Dog!

Feature your BMD in a specially-priced quarter-page formatted ad (see samples above) to run in the October issue!

DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2010

Send this completed form, a check made out to the BMDCA for only $35 (regular price $40), and dog's photo (1 dog per portrait) to *The Alpenhorn* via surface mail. E-mailed forms will not be accepted. Photos should be scanned at no less than 300 DPI at the size to be printed. Photo will be sized at 2"x 3" or 3"x 2" for the ad and may be placed in a picture frame in your ad. If you are sending a digital photo, you may e-mail it, but a paper printout of the photo, with the dog's name marked on the back, must accompany this form. Photos will be returned if you include a SASE (please use correct postage).

Full name of dog_____

Call name_____ Age_____

MAXIMUM 25-Word (or 140-character) description of the dog _____

_____

_____

Owner's name_____

E-mail _____

BMD's date of birth _____ Berner Garde ID# (required) _____

The BMDCA requires a Berner Garde ID # for all ads. Copies of OFA/CERF/PennHIP certificates or a printout from the OFA/BGF database documenting certificates must accompany health test claims as documentation. Send complete package and check to *The Alpenhorn* Editorial Office, c/o Nancy Melone, 118 Lakeland Drive, Mars, PA 16046-2114.

Questions and digital photos ONLY (see instructions for photos above): nmelone@consolidated.net

TARGETING & SIT, DOWN & STAND

Clicker Training Lessons

gentle & effective obedience training for your dog

Targeting

This one is really fun & easy! You are going to teach your dog to touch something with his nose on cue. Do this because: it's fun, it's a good way to teach your dog to ring a bell to go outside, finishes, it can be used to desensitize a dog to nail clipping time, to teach agility, musical freestyle, & obedience trials exercises as well as for teaching service dog type behaviors.

Here's what you do:

Stand in front of your dog (or kneel in front of a little one). Rub some of your treats on the palm of your hand, so your hand smells good (to your dog!). Have the actual treats in your other hand.

Quickly bring your smelly hand, empty, palm forward almost right up to his nose. I guarantee the first time he'll poke it, hoping it contains that treat he smells. Super! He touched you! C&T (Click & Treat), giving the treat from your other hand. Be sure you clicked just at the exact moment he touched your hand! If you aren't in time, don't click at all, just praise.

Do it again & again, gradually moving your hand a bit farther back so eventually he is reaching out or walking to touch it. But do it gradually - over several sessions. I knew my Rottie Teddy had the concept when she would reach out to touch my hand, but keep eye contact with me the entire time.

Now... at the seminar where I learned this from trainer Leslie Nelson, she said that many dogs will do this excitedly about 6 times, then lose interest & just look at you. Don't quit - just perhaps rub a bit more treat smell on your palm.

You can add the signal (or "cue") pretty quickly because the behavior is so easy. As soon as your dog is reliably touching your hand when you offer it, begin saying "Touch!" as you put your hand out.

Next steps are to have your dog touch your other hand instead and start to become variable with rewarding.

You can also then use the signal "Touch" to mean touch other things. In our classes we use it to teach dogs to go lie on their beds, and at home my daughter taught Sugar Bear to ring some bells hanging from a doorknob as a signal that she wanted to go out. Very useful behavior! Sugar Bear can also pick up something I drop, get me a tissue when I sneeze, and push an Easy Button - all taught with targeting.

Sit, Down & Stand

Be sure you have finished The Clicker lesson!

Teaching the sit, down & stand are very easy, but may require patience. Instead of physically putting the dog into position, saying the command & hoping he makes the connection, you will be helping him to discover them. Have a bunch of tiny soft treats ready. You are going to use one as a "lure" to help him to get into the position you want. The lure is only used at the beginning - I will show you how to quickly fade it. (Be careful to follow the instructions carefully for that as you want your dog to always respond to you, whether or not you have a treat!). Stand or kneel in front of your standing dog. Show him a treat in your hand, then move it slowly from his nose up & back a bit over his eyes but slightly out of reach. Most dogs will rather quickly sit so they can better reach it. You might need to be patient & wait for a moment. But when he does, immediately C&T and praise. Please remember that the click has to come at the exact moment his rear hits the ground so he learns that that is what got him the treat! At this point you want to give the treat right away, too. It's okay if your dog gets up after the click - the click actually ends the exercise each time. If he doesn't sit at all - maybe keeps backing up trying to get the treat, then just turn away & ignore him for a few moments. Of course... don't give him the treat! Then try again, from the start.

Notice that I never said when to say "Sit." That's because it is best to wait until the behavior is being performed reliably before adding the verbal cue. That way he doesn't connect the word with the wrong behavior. Also, dogs learn the hand signals much more easily so tend to ignore the verbal commands that go along with them. It's best to teach them separately.

Once your dog is sitting, lure him into a stand by moving a treat from his nose straight out (stay parallel to the ground, if you lift up at all he will try to sit again!). Don't move the treat very far - you want him to just get off of his haunches and then stand still. As soon as he lifts into the standing position, C&T!

Continued on next page


Sara lures Sugar Bear up into a sit...


Sugar is sitting - C&T!


Sara lures Sugar into a stand...


Sugar is standing - C&T!

To continue practicing sitting & standing until that is easy. Be sure at this point you are reinforcing each correct response with a C&T. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jCOMpHsuwI&feature=player_embedded#!)

The Down is very similar to the sit. Lure him into a sit & kneel in front of him. Use a treat to lure him into the down position. Start the treat at his nose, then slowly drop it straight down to the floor and out a bit towards his toes so he needs to lie down to get it. Be careful not to go out so far that he needs to walk forward to get it! Some dogs drop right away... but most will need a bit of "shaping." For that, C&T if you see any progress (watch for elbows dropping). Eventually your pup will lie all the way down - then you can C&T and enthusiastically praise. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4I1UAtnSMc&feature=player_embedded)

Most dogs do the down more easily at first from a sit, but for some dogs doing it from a standing position is easier. If you'd like to try that, then drop the treat from his nose to the ground as before, but as your are reaching the ground go backwards (between his legs) a little bit instead of forward. Hopefully, he will drop into the "sphinx" position.

Some dogs, especially little ones, can achieve success at first if you stretch out one of your legs, making a bridge for him to walk under. Lure him into a sit in front of your leg, then show him a treat in your hand coming from under your leg and lure him into crawling under your leg to get it. The EXACT instant he is actually lying down, C&T and praise excitedly. What a good dog! Do that a few times, then try again the original way.

To get him back into a sitting position, lure him up the same way (as when teaching the sit), until he sits up, then C&T.

Once your dog is down, you can then practice "doggy push-ups". You know... sit-down-sit-down, C&T'ing each one. But don't forget to also practice plenty of sits & downs from a standing position.

Troubleshooting - is your dog not interested enough in your treats to work for them? Then get better ones. Read the section on treats on the Basic Info page.

NEXT STEP - LOSING THE LURE

Okay, so your dog is popping up & down like a little jackrabbit for that tasty lure, right! Practice a bit more with the lure like that, then proceed to the next step, which is to "lose the lure." If this is not done properly, you will end up with a dog that will perform the behavior only if he sees a treat. Hardly what we want! Instead, by carefully phasing out the lure, you teach him that it is not the sight of a treat that gets him a reward, but response to your command.

Review a few times luring him up & down with a treat in your right hand, C&T'ing each response. When you lure up for the sit, have your hand palm up. When you lure for the down, have your hand palm down. Next step is to have a treat in your signal hand, as before - that treat will still act as the lure but will NOT be given to your dog. Have a bunch of little treats in your other hand. Lure him into a sit (or down) with your signal hand, click, but then give him a treat from your other hand. He doesn't get the treat from the signal hand at all! Don't forget to click as soon as he sits (or downs), just before giving the treat.

Practice quite a few sits & downs, as well as sits from a stand that way. Very soon he will perform the behavior, then quickly look toward your other hand. That's good! What a clever dog!

Continued on next page






Remember... if you know you did plenty of reps of the previous step (at any point in the training of any exercise) and your dog just doesn't respond correctly, then look away for a moment, giving him time to think about it. It's funny when they start offering all sorts of behaviors, hoping for the reward! They lie down, offer a paw, bark... just smile & think about how clever your dog is to try all of those things... and wait for him to get it right! Then click & jackpot!

The next step will to be to go to using your signal hand to just give the signal (the same luring motion but without a lure). First, review a few times with the lure but giving the treat from your other hand as explained in the last step. The last time, go ahead & give him the lure treat, then right away do the exact same motion but with an empty signal hand. As long as your hand motion (the signal) remained the same, your dog will most likely be "faked out" and will respond as before. C&T & praise very enthusiastically! Remember, palm up for sit, palm down for down. Practice this until your dog responds reliably to each signal.

Now, if you are still kneeling or bending down to give the Down signal, it's time to start standing up. You will need to do this in small increments so your dog still understands the signal, getting a bit more upright each time until you are standing upright. Although at first your signal will need to be quite exaggerated you can slowly shape it to be much more subtle. The signal should eventually just be a slight downward motion with your palm down for Down, and a slight upward motion with your palm up for Sit. (Note to obedience competitors - that signal is also accepted in the ring. But if you prefer the arm straight in the air signal, you can just teach that, as well, later!)

The next steps are to vary where you are when you give the signals. Work on standing a bit farther away each time as well as standing at different angles (and beside your dog) before giving the signals. Remember to practice each of those more advanced things separately so each will be stronger.

Adding Verbal Signals

Once your dog is responding reliably to your hand signals, you can teach him the verbal signal for each behavior. Since dogs communicate primarily through body language, the hand signals were very easy - the verbal signals take a bit more effort. To make it easier, you are going to connect the new word (Sit, Down, or Up) to the already familiar hand signal for each behavior. To do this, say the word (i.e. "Down") and then immediately after, give the hand signal. Repeat, until your dog responds to the new word before you had a chance to follow through with the hand signal. Be careful to separate the verbal signal from the hand signal - if you say the word at the same time as giving the signal, your dog will focus on the familiar hand signal and won't likely notice the word. But if he repeatedly hears the word and learns that the hand signal will follow it, he will connect the behavior you want (in this example lying down), to the word.

Phasing Out the Clicker

So when do you stop using the clicker for these exercises? Whenever you feel that the dog has really learned the signals and is very reliable in responding to them. Does that mean at that point you never need to reinforce the behavior? Certainly not! Make an actual treat reward not as common. Instead, get the response,then praise enthusiastically, praise quietly, throw a ball, play tug 'o war, give his dinner, open the door to go outside - whatever. The best trainers are variable & unpredictable! The dog never knows what he's gonna get or when... that makes it all the more fun for him. If you don't believe me... take a stroll past the slot machines in Las Vegas!

If, after time, you start getting less of a response, just go back to positively reinforcing more often for a short time to refresh his memory. You never 100% stop using treats or rewards. A behavior that is never reinforced will go away. A behvior that is reinforced variably with stay strong. With compulsion (leash checking, etc.) methods, you would always go back to a few quick, sharp checks as reminders or as a warm up before going into the obedience ring. With purely positive methods, you simply "review" positively rather than negatively.

Have fun!!



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BARCINC BUZZ



Why Join The BARC List?

Adopting Sophia (BARC's Brandy) in March of 2009 has opened our lives to a new dimension of community. At that time I did not know that adopting a BARC rescue would connect me with a wide network of generous and like-minded people. After we picked up our Berner girl from Linda Palma's house in Dallas, we brought her home to Wisconsin where she met her new sister Lily, our American Eskimo dog who had come from a local shelter. As you may know from Sophia's blog, the girls bonded right away, and Sophia has matured steadily, however, not without some hair-raising experiences along the way.

I joined the BARCINC Yahoo! Group list on Linda's recommendation shortly after bringing Sophia home. Linda thought that list members would be a great resource for me as I struggled to make my super shy Berner girl feel at ease. Mind you, I am not a novice when it comes to integrating rescued dogs into the family. Sophia, however, would have been an extraordinary challenge without the knowledge I gained from the list.

I learned that my Berner girl is not unique with her tender stomach, her panic attacks, the gulping of air, her itchy paws and smelly ears that need special attention. BARC members tackle these and many other problems by sharing personal experiences, information, and advice on the list. Most importantly, I credit the members of the list with helping me save Sophia's life when she went into bloat exactly 2 months after we brought her home.

After joining the list, I realized that the topic of BLOAT came up quite a bit. This prompted me to print out a very handy guide that identifies the different stages of bloat and describes the appropriate action to take. So the night Sophia had a prolonged panic attack and gulped air unceasingly, I consulted the guide and realized that she showed early signs of bloat. Thanks to the chart, I knew exactly what to do: (1) monitor dog, (2) call emergency clinic, (3) discuss symptoms with the vet, (4) transport dog to the clinic.

It was a hair-raising dash to the emergency clinic in the middle of the night. I was alone with Sophia who tried to vomit between gulping air in the back seat of the car. In my rush, I had forgotten the eye glasses I use for night-time driving and my mobile phone. I remember the muscles in my neck tightening with each of the thirty miles I drove to reach the clinic, but we arrived safely and in record time. As luck would have it, the emergency vet turned out to be the regional bloat specialist. Dr. Stark met us at the door and, after examining Sophia, he sedated her and sent me home with his promise to call as soon as she was stabilized.

I vividly remember my prayers on the way home and the long wait for the call that finally came several hours later. Much to my relief, the news was good! Surgery had been avoided by the successful use of a stomach tube. Sophia was resting and would most likely be able to come home the following day. Dr. Stark was pleased that I had recognized the signs so early and brought her to the clinic right away. He told me that usually people wait too long before they seek help for their dogs and that 40% of the cases are fatal and many more require surgery.

This experience taught me the importance of the list: I was informed because BARC members share vital information on the group's Yahoo! list. Not only does this group of dedicated people participate in the rescue and fostering of Bernese Mountain Dogs, but their support of families who join the list is invaluable. In addition, I must admit that I have become very fond of the people who interact regularly on the list, and I'm honored to be a part of this community.

Ellie Borgstadt with Sophia and Lilly
In Wisconsin



Sophia Borgstadt

YAHOO! GROUPS

**To join the BARCINC Yahoo! group list, simply send an email to: BARCINC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com telling us a bit about you and your BARC baby.

You can also find BARC on Facebook Causes
http://apps.facebook.com/causes/199903

2011 BARC CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST



Time to submit your pictures! - We want to see your wonderful BARC kids and their siblings! They could be featured in the 2011 BARC calendar!

While we all know that ALL photos of our dogs are beautiful, what we're really looking for is those particularly high resolution (minimum 200-300 dpi), once-in-a-lifetime shots - the crème de la crème, if you will - those shots that *belong* on a calendar. No offense to our BARC parents....but we prefer dogs only...face it they're cuter!



If you have those great shots, then please send them electronically *in jpg format only* to Debby Fitch at thetrumancollar@yahoo.com to be entered in the contest. The winning photos will be selected by the newsletter staff and new ways-n-means coordinators – Debby Fitch and Beth McNeal. All the other photos will be kept to perhaps be used in smaller spaces throughout the calendar and/or to possibly produce other ways-n-means items to raise money for BARC. So by sending in your photo(s) for this contest, you are giving us permission and rights to use the photos however we deem fitting on BARC-related items for sale/fundraising. Please have your photos submitted by September 15.

THE LAST BARC — JUNE PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE



A new Photo Caption Challenge for June! The picture is randomly chosen out of the BARC Photobucket.

So all you creative, witty people out there, here's your chance to have some fun.

Email your photo caption to Lisa Hawes, Newsletter Editor (lkhawes@yahoo.com) by August 6, 2010.

The top 5 captions as chosen by the Newsletter Staff will be published in the next issue, along with a new challenge.

Enjoy!! Have fun!!