



BMDCGS RESCUE

Thank you for your interest regarding the adoption of a Bernese Mountain Dog through BMDC of Greater Seattle Rescue/Rehome Program. We receive many questions about our program so we have put together the information that follows. If you have specific questions that are not answered below please feel free to contact us again.

The Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue/Rehome and Placement program is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to placing dogs in need of new homes. None of its officers or representatives receives any payment for their services. Our organization incurs many costs in order to provide this service. A donation will be requested of new owners when a dog is placed with them to help fund this project.

Individuals that would like to adopt a dog should fill out and send in an adoption application. This will give the rescue/rehome committee the information to place a dog in the best home for both the human's desires and dog's needs. Because we cannot predict when the next dog will come into our program or each one's particular needs, it is important that we have a variety of potential homes to contact. Your application will be kept on file and you will be contacted if we have a dog that might fit into your home.

The number of dogs needing homes at any given time has become very unpredictable. We'll go nearly a year with no dogs needing help and then suddenly 6 need help within a couple months. Our average is 3 to 4 dogs a year. I never know when the next dog will arrive so it is very important to get your adoption application in and on our waiting list. It's extremely rare for us to have puppies and most dogs are at least two years old. The average age is 3 to 6 years old. They often come to us with a checkered history and sometimes have physical and/or behavioral problems. Each one is carefully evaluated and matched up with the home that best suits both adopter and dog. Homes are chosen from preapproved applications.

If you want to adopt a rescue dog because you would prefer an adult instead of a puppy, you might want to also contact breeders in your area. They sometimes have adult dogs that they are looking to place in the right home. You can find local breeders at <http://www.bmdca.org/olbr/> and at <http://www.bmdcgs.org/> under the 'buying a puppy' drop down.

Recently, our most pressing problem has been the explosion of possible Berner mixes. These are dogs of unknown origin that shelter staff classified as part BMD due to markings, size, and/or temperament. We are not able to help all of these dogs but, if you are interested, we will be glad to refer you to the shelter if we are notified of a mix that is available.

As part of your search for a dog, please include a trip to your local shelter or visit on line at www.Petfinder.com. You will be pleasantly surprised to find the wonderful dogs that are available. You can also enjoy the added benefit of knowing your effort of adopting a dog has saved a dog's life.

One other source to consider is Bernese Auction Rescue Coalition (BARC). This is an independent rescue group that is involved in saving dogs that are destined for a life in a puppy mill. Please visit the BARC site at www.barcinc.net. If you are interested, please fill out a BARC application located on-line.

You are also welcome at club meetings and events. This is a great opportunity to get to know the dogs and their humans. Our event calendar is available at www.BMDCGS.org

We hope this information has helped.

Kim Spooner (253) 332-4836 rescue@bmdcgs.org

BMDCGS Homepage address: www.BMDCGS.org

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF GREATER SEATTLE

ADOPTION HOME APPLICATION

Please fill out this form as completely as possible. There are no right or wrong answers. We need a clear idea of what type of home you will provide a dog. We strive to place every dog in a home that best meets his/her requirements as well as match you with a dog that will meet your needs.

NAME: _____ HOME # _____
ADDRESS: _____ WORK # _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Your occupation: _____ Work hours & days away from home per week: _____
Partner Occupation: _____ Work hours & days away from home per week: _____
Are there any other adults in the home? _____ How many? _____

How many children live at home? _____ Ages? _____
Do children often visit your home? _____ Ages? _____

Have you owned a Bernese? _____ What happened to the dog? _____

What do you like about the breed that makes you want a Bernese Mountain Dog? _____

What don't you like about the breed? _____

What other breeds are you considering? _____

Why do you want a rescue/rehome dog? _____

Do you rent? _____ Own? _____ House? _____ Townhouse? _____ Apartment? _____
Are you planning a move soon? _____ When and where? _____

Do you have a yard? _____ Acreage? _____ How large? _____

Will the dog be confined (fenced) or free? _____
If you have a fenced area, type of fencing? _____ Height? _____
Dog Run? _____ If no fence or run, will you be fencing soon and date? _____
If no fenced area, how will you exercise and provide bathroom breaks for your dog? _____

Where will the dog spend most of the day? Inside _____ Outside _____ Kennel _____ Other _____

Where will the dog sleep? _____

What are your plans for the dog when you are away overnight or vacation? _____

Do you have any pets now? _____ Are they spayed or neutered? _____

Types & ages: _____
Does your community have a limit on the number of pets allowed per home? _____ How many? _____

If you do not currently have any, have you ever had a pet (pets)? _____ What happened to it (them)? _____

Have you taken any obedience classes with other dogs? _____
When and Where? _____

Have you and your family carefully considered how a dog will fit into your lifestyle? _____
Do you have time to brush a large, long-haired dog each week? _____
Are you aware that almost all routine/non-emergency care (grooming, feeding, Vet care, etc.) for any large breed is often more expensive? _____
Are you prepared for the fact that most Bernese only live 7 to 9 years? _____
Are you aware that Berners shed black hair and wag things off table tops? _____
Who will be responsible for the dog? _____
Most rescue/rehome dogs have special training needs. Are you willing to take the dog to obedience classes or private lessons? _____
What behavior problems would you consider intolerable (jumping, growling, barking, digging, house soiling, dog aggression, etc.)? _____
Will you have the extra time to help a rescue/rehome dog make the transition to your family? _____
Have you housetrained a dog? _____ Are you willing to housetrain the dog if necessary? _____

Describe a typical weekday for your dog. _____

Describe a typical weekend day for your dog. _____

Do you have a sex preference? _____ Would you consider the opposite sex? _____

Would you consider an older dog (6+ years)? _____

Would you consider a dog with special health needs? _____

Would you like to be notified of possible Bernese mixes available from shelters? _____

Will you allow a Rescue representative to visit your home? _____

Will you agree to return the dog to the BMDCGS Rescue Program should some unforeseen circumstances prevent you from keeping the dog any longer? _____

If you have owned dogs before, what did you enjoy most about dog ownership? _____

If you have owned dogs before, what was difficult for you? _____

If you have not owned a dog please answer the above with what you believe would be the most enjoyable and difficult aspects of dog ownership.

Please describe the characteristics of the ideal dog for you and your family. _____

An adoption donation will be requested if a dog is placed with you. This is necessary in order to continue our work.
We reserve the right to refuse any applicant

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

REFERENCES: (preferably a Veterinarian you have frequented and dog related contact)

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Please write any additional comments or thoughts on back or on additional paper.

Rescue Representative contacted: _____

RETURN TO: BMDCGS Rescue - Kim Spooner, PO Box 8772, Covington, WA 98042

Phone # (253) 332-4836 Fax # (253) 931-0533