



# Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue/Re-homing Adoption Application

Please Print; submit by standard U.S. Mail Only.

Sorry, but we can not accept e-mail applications (We need your original signature)

8/06  
web site

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**\* IMPORTANT\* Telephone/e-mail\*\*** \_\_\_\_\_

**A successful adoption depends on both the selection of the right "Berner" for you and the understanding of his/her care taking needs. So that we may assist you with this selection, please answer the following questions as completely and truthfully as possible. You will not be rejected as a possible placement solely on the basis of your answers. Thank you.**

Are you aware that most Rescue Dogs have special training needs? Yes  No

Will you have time to attend training classes to achieve a rapport with a Rescue Dog, which will result in a successful placement? Yes  No

Have you asked yourself whether your lifestyle is so busy that you might not have the time or energy to properly care for a Bernese Mountain Dog? Yes  No

What other breeds have you been contemplating?

Is your home a Single family home? , Townhouse/Condominium? , Other?

Do you own or rent your home? Own  Rent  If you rent, is your landlord agreeable to you're owning a dog? Yes  No

Do you have a completely fenced in yard for the dog? Yes  No  a fence is not mandatory but some placements it may be.

**Length, Width, Height?**

If not, explain how and where you will exercise a dog and allow it to eliminate body waste?

If you have owned dogs in the past, please list them and explain what happened to them?

Dog's name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ How long owned? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to this dog? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have any pets currently? Yes  No

How many? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of pets do you own?

Sex? # Male \_\_\_\_\_ # Female \_\_\_\_\_

Are they spayed or neutered? Pet 1 Yes  No  Pet 2 Yes  No  Pet 3 Yes  No

Are there limits of # of pets allowed community? Yes  No  How many? \_\_\_\_\_

How many adults in household? \_\_\_\_\_ Children? \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_ (Age: \_\_\_\_\_) Your age; \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_ (Age: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Age: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Age: \_\_\_\_\_)

How do family members feel about getting a Bernese Mountain Dog? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is anyone home during the day? Yes  No

Is anyone in the home allergic to dogs? Yes  No

Are you willing to housetrain the dog if necessary? Yes  No

Have you ever trained a dog before? Yes  No

Of the dogs you own or have owned, what did you enjoy most about dog ownership?

\_\_\_\_\_

Of the dogs you own or have owned, what did you enjoy least about dog ownership?

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where will the dog be kept during the day? \_\_\_\_\_

At night? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever owned or personally met a Bernese Mountain Dog? Yes  No

Why do you want a Berner? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about the breed? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like about the breed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you dislike about the breed?

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan to exercise a Berner? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_ Yours

\_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner

What are your work hours? \_\_\_\_\_ Days per week? \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please give some thought to each of the following questions, rather than automatically answering yes. Berners are a high-maintenance dog, and while you may love the breed, you may discover that you do not have the time or the resources to devote to its upkeep. But if you do, a Berner will more than repay you with a lifetime of loyalty.**

Are you prepared to spend \$150.00 or more a year on heartworm preventative, flea control and annual vaccinations for a large breed dog like the Bernese Mountain Dog? Yes  No

Are you aware that the care of some of the problems that Bernese can run in to thousands of dollars? Yes  No

Are you willing to spend a half an hour every other day for regular grooming and more time during the spring and fall sheds or have the dog professionally groomed? Yes  No

Are you prepared to deal with the cost, which often is more expensive due to the breeds large size, of non-routine/emergency veterinary care, especially as the dog gets older? Yes  No

Are you willing to provide training to solve any behavior problems? Yes  No

What behavior problems do you consider intolerable? (Biting, growling, barking, house soiling, digging) \_\_\_\_\_

Name, Address and Phone # of vet you are currently established with?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

If, no current vet, Name, Address and Phone of last vet you used, and when?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check any preferences you may have in a dog:*

Male  Female  Puppy  Adult  Purebred  Berner mix

Would you be willing to adopt a BMD with special needs, i.e., older, needs surgery, needs medication, blind or deaf? Yes  No

Would you be willing to adopt a BMD with requiring special training? Yes  No

May we visit your home and check your references to verify the information you have provided? Yes  No

**HMBMDC Rescue will cooperate with breeders who may have dogs to place. These dogs are not screened by the Rescue, and technically not part of the rescue network. Would you object to being included on a list provided to these breeders? Yes  No**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**We reserve the right to refuse an applicant.**

After you have answered the above questions, please sign and date this application, and mail the completed form to:

**HMBMDC Rescue, C/o Bruce & Linda Whiteside  
1063 Legault, Ortonville, MI. 48462.  
Phone/Fax: (248) 969-1960, E-mail, [BMDresQ@aol.com](mailto:BMDresQ@aol.com)**



## Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue/Re-home Adoption Policy

### *Heart of Michigan Bernese Mountain Dog Club Inc.*

The Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue/Re-home services of the HMBMDC exists to place stray or abandoned Bernese Mountain Dogs, in homes which will provide a high level of care and where the spirit of the HMBMDC is observed. The HMBMDC will also assist with the re-homing of dogs for BMD owners, who, for any reason, can no longer provide a home for their dog. Rescues and Re-homing shall be at the discretion of the rescue committee. Expenditure's of funds for such dogs, if possible, shall be the responsibility of the adopting homes.

In all cases, except when the HMBMDC deems it inappropriate, the breeder of record (if known) will generally be the first person contacted in regard to a rescue BMD, and be given the opportunity of participating in the rescue/re-homing and placement of the dog, or dogs involved, or having the dog, or dogs returned to them. Then all dogs that come to us are checked with any local lost and found ads.

The Rescue home, if different for the Foster home, shall, take as soon as is feasible after obtaining the Rescue Dog, to appropriate health professionals to evaluate the dog's health and temperament. The exams shall include: a health examination, are vaccinated, treated for parasites (internal and external), and given any other necessary health care. The dogs are then assessed, so that their behavior and temperament can be properly evaluated. The dog will then be placed into Foster Care (if different from the Rescue Home) to continue to evaluate the dog until a permanent home is found.

In order to be accepted for placement in the HMBMDC rescue/re-home program, the BMD must have a stable temperament and be in good health. A dog that is found to be overly aggressive, or of poor health, shall not be made available outside of the HMBMDC members. A dog the rescue is unable to place due to unstable temperament or health problems too extensive to treat, is euthanized. The decision to have the dog euthanized shall be based on the recommendation of the health care professionals and the HMBMDC and Rescue/Re-home Coordinator.

Rescue/Re-home Dog shall be spayed or neutered before being made available for adoption. If, for age or health reasons, the dog is placed before alteration, the new owner must agree to alter the dog by a specified date, to be set by the HMBMDC. If the dog is not altered by the specified date, the rescue will re-obtain the dog due to breach of contract.

Adoption applicants are carefully screened, first by written adoption application, then by telephone interview, and finally by an in-person interview. Adopter(s) must agree to follow the "HMDMDC Adoption Agreement" contract, and rescue/re-home adopters are asked to make a minimum \$100 donation at the time of adoption, (which may include a 1-year membership application into the HMBMDC, if applied for within 1-year of adoption), and adopters are asked to cover cost incurred for veterinary care of the dog, up to a maximum of \$200 (\$300 maximum adoption fee). We also assist with breeders and individuals with breeders' permission, in re-homing dogs that are not actually part of the Rescue/Re-home program; donations are appreciated to help fund those dogs in need, Rescues and Re-homing will be treated in the same manner. Foster Homes shall receive \$1 per day, for fostering a dog, with a minimum of \$75 of the \$100 adoption donation, going to the Foster Home to cover the costs of food.

Complete records are to be kept on each dog accepted into the rescue/re-home program, including the breeder, all old and new owners and rescue/foster homes, and follow-up records. The HMBMDC Rescue/Re-home Committee will maintain a permanent file for each dog placed, and publish an annual report to the HMBMDC pertaining to the dogs placed. The HMBMDC will select club members who will be available as rescue/foster homes. Each foster home is responsible to keep detailed records of each dog. The HMBMDC Rescue/Re-home Committee Coordinator should be contacted as soon as a BMD is going to enter the rescue/re-home service.

Funds for the HMBMDC Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue/Re-home are derived from adoption donations, and donations from other concerned individuals. If you are concerned about rescue, please consider making a donation to the HMBMDC BMD Rescue/Re-homing service. Send Donations to: [HMBMDC Inc.](#)

[C/o Bruce Whiteside, 1063 Legault, Ortonville, MI. 48462](#) \*Please note on check for "Rescue Dog Fund"