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# CODE OF ETHICS

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## North Coast Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Ohio, Inc.

The following guidelines are established with the knowledge that ethics cannot be legislated. However, the standards set by the club will, over time, provide direction for members who generally desire and intend to do what is right. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide principles of practice which the club's members may utilize as they strive to breed, show and live with the Bernese Mountain Dog, and strive to preserve and perfect its unique beauty, temperament and working characteristics. Each individual's conscience will determine his/her actions as it relates to the Bernese Mountain Dog, and we realize that there are exceptions to every rule.

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### I. All Club Members

1. I will insure that all dogs in my care are provided with adequate food, shelter, human companionship, medical care and basic training.
2. I will become educated about the Bernese Mountain Dog and the fundamentals of dog ownership.
3. I will insure that all my actions are in accordance with the best interests of the Bernese Mountain Dog.
4. I will obtain obedience instruction for myself and my dog(s) from a reputable instructor(s).
5. I will exhibit good sportsmanship at all times, whether at events sponsored by the Club or other dog shows/matches/trials, etc. I will treat all club members with respect.
6. I will cooperate with other regional Bernese Mountain Dog clubs, the parent club and the AKC in order to further the breed and its future in America.
7. I will support the club's activities and attend its meetings.
8. I will try to assist in the proper care of any Bernese Mountain Dog requiring rescue through the Rescue Committee.

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### II. Breeder Members

1. I will strive for perfection in the Bernese Mountain Dog in accordance with the official standard set forth by the AKC.
2. I will become knowledgeable regarding the fundamentals of breeding and exhibiting the Bernese Mountain Dog.
3. I will register all breeding stock with the AKC and keep complete and accurate records of all matings, litters and pedigrees.
4. I will follow good business practices and ethics in sales and breeding contracts, and honor all agreements, whether written or oral.
5. I will become knowledgeable regarding the basic laws of genetics and the Bernese Mountain Dog breed standards prior to breeding dogs.
6. I will plan breedings to assure that a sufficient number of good homes are available for the resulting puppies, and be willing to accept the return of placements which do not work out for the owners or for the puppies.
7. I will provide only truthful representation of stock to the purchaser when selling or advertising any puppies/dogs.

8. I will refuse to sell or co-sign puppies or dogs to any known retail or wholesale outlet, or to commercial dealers. And, I will not knowingly supply dogs for raffles, giveaway prizes or other such projects.
9. I will guarantee the health of my stock subject to a veterinarian's examination within 48 hours of sale.
10. I will try to keep in touch with the progress of dogs of my breeding in order to better evaluate the development of my stock/line.
11. I will keep the health and well being of the individual dog in mind when making decisions regarding breeding age and frequency.
12. I will breed to/from only physically and temperamentally sound dogs that

have been certified against any known breed disorder through the use of OFA, PENN Hip, CDC or CERF.

13. I will supply buyers with a four-generation pedigree and information on inoculations and veterinary care, in addition to, basic care and feeding instructions. I will transfer puppies only after they have reached seven (preferably eight) weeks of age, utilizing a written sales agreement. I will make certain that buyers have adequate facilities to properly care for the Bernese Mountain Dog. And, when appropriate, use AKC limited registration for puppies that are possibly not of breeding quality, to assure (to the extent possible) that these animals will be spayed/neutered.

*This Code of Ethics has the approval of the members of the North Coast Bernese Mountain Dog Club and its Board.*

*In applying for membership to the Club, I agree to voluntarily comply with this Code of Ethics and the By-Laws of the North Coast Bernese Mountain Dog Club.*

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*Signature*

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*Date*