



# Bernese Mountain Dogs

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# The Bernese Mountain Dog

## About the Bernese Mountain Dog

The Bernese Mountain Dog is a beautiful tri-colored, versatile breed known best for driving cattle and pulling heavy loads through the mountainous terrains of Switzerland. Bernese Mountain Dogs, also known as Berner Sennenhunds, were brought to Switzerland by invading Roman armies over 2,000 years ago. They are excellent guard dogs and easily adaptable to a family life. These beautiful animals are intelligent, affectionate, loyal, and sometimes shy.

It is important to make an informed pet selection and equally as important to make informed decisions throughout the life of your pet. We will take you through the process of bringing home your new family member and lead you all the way to cherishing the memories you make together. We will provide you with a number of tips and helpful advice, including certified veterinary information. This complimentary book is full of information to answer your Bernese parenting questions. Take a few moments to enjoy this information, and you will spend many years enjoying a loving relationship with your Bernese Mountain Dog.

|                |                             |                     |   |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Average Weight | 55-80 pounds                | Temperament         | Gentle, playful, affectionate, and loyal                      |
| Average Height | 23-27 inches                | Good with Children? | Yes, protective and gentle with children                      |
| Coat           | Tri-colored, Long and shiny | Health Concerns     | Hip Dysplasia<br>Autoimmune Disease<br>Metabolic Bone Disease |

## Bernese Mountain Dog Characteristics

Bernese Mountain Dogs are affectionate and faithful companions. They make excellent watchdogs and family pets. They are athletic, hard working, sturdy animals and need adequate exercise. Bernese Mountain Dogs tend to be dominant yet good with children, friendly and loyal yet cautious with strangers, and slow learners with great retention capabilities. They have a typical life span of less than 10 years. Their coat is long, silky, multi-colored, and can be wavy. The dominant coat color is jet black with a white face spreading between the eyes. They also have a white chest usually in a "V" shape and white tipping on the paws and tail. Shades of brown and tan mark the four legs and gives the Bernese unique highlights above the eyes. This active breed requires a yard for play or frequent trips outside if kept in a smaller dwelling. They are frequently used for cow and sheep herding and have the capability of hauling carts. Of course, they are also good family pets and are popular show dogs. They are best raised on farms or in rural areas where they have lots of room to roam. However, a Bernese Mountain Dog can easily be housed in an urban setting, as long as you have a fenced yard or a place to take your dog for proper exercise. The Bernese is a faithful companion who is aloof with strangers and best trained as a young pup. Proper training, diet, grooming, exercise, and veterinary attention will benefit both you and your pet.



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## Selecting Your Bernese Mountain Dog Puppy

It can be a matter of personal preference whether to adopt or rescue a Bernese Mountain dog. Another choice might be to select your Berner from a reputable breeder.

### A Few Words About Adoption

Look for a pet adoption shelter or rescue center in your community by using community resources such as your library, newspaper, and online information to understand the reputation of the shelter before you consider adopting from one. Ask questions of the dog handler and of other people who may have used a particular shelter. Find out as much as you can about the history of the pet you are considering. Know that some pets are up for adoption, because they have been left behind due to divorce or families having to relocate. Not all pets in shelters or rescue centers come from abused or neglectful situations. Pet adoption or rescue is less expensive than purchasing from a dog breeder. For families who face economical challenges, this option is worth considering.

### A Few Words About Breeders

Perhaps you prefer a Bernese Mountain Dog that comes from a reputable breeder in order to raise your pet as a show dog or to breed Berneses on your own. Breeders are very knowledgeable about the overall health of this breed and, specifically, the lineage of their own litters. You can find dog breeders by looking in the newspaper, searching on the internet, or checking with your local vet. You should verify that the breeder is associated with the AKC. Dog breeders can be very particular about the person wanting to purchase one of their dogs. They may want to know what other animals are in your home, if you have a yard for the dog to play in, or if there are any children living in your home. When visiting the breeder's facilities, you need to make sure that the conditions are clean. If the mother and father of the puppy you want to buy live at the facility, it is advisable to meet and view these dogs for their behavior. The breeder should be able to provide a written health guarantee and all medical records.

Either option is viable based on your own knowledge, expectations, and personal conviction. The most important thing to remember when selecting your pet is to select the pet that's right for you and your lifestyle. Pet ownership is a huge responsibility.

## How to Choose your Bernese Mountain Dog

Because there are many different personalities or qualities you may want to look for in a dog, you may find that choosing a dog for you is a difficult task. Falling in love with a particular pet that just "feels right" is always a good choice.



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#### EXPERT TIP

#### Selecting a Crate

A dog should be able to stand and turn around inside a closed crate. If you have a Bernese Mountain Dog puppy, consider the average height and weight of an adult, and choose a crate based on those specifications. The average size of an adult Bernese Mountain Dog is 70 lbs and 25 inches tall. Choose a sturdy steel or plastic crate for large-sized breeds such as the Bernese Mountain Dog.

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## The Bernese Mountain Dog Pup

Each stage of your pet's life is characterized by special needs. Puppies' lives are full of learning experiences. Enjoy the time you spend with your puppy by using chew toys or balls to keep your puppy active and knowing that each time that you use these toys, you are training your pet. It is always a good idea to enroll your Bernese in a training class. A new pet owner has as much to learn as the new pet does of its owner. If you set boundaries when the puppy is young and always use a loving hand and voice with your pet, your Bernese Mountain pup will learn good habits, unlike a puppy not played with or taught what is acceptable by its owner.

## The Bernese Mountain Dog Adult

As your dog begins to age, his needs also begin to change. You should stay abreast of the changing needs of your pet and continue to keep your dog active and healthy. Changing its toys frequently is one way of maintaining its interest. Berneses can be aloof with strangers. To keep their social skills up to par, you should frequently introduce your dog to new friends. Taking your pet for rides in the car or walks on a leash are good ways to keep him familiar with new faces. If you notice changes in his temperament, you need to speak to your vet or other pet owners for advice on how to handle your pet's behaviors.

## The Bernese Mountain Dog Senior

As your pet reaches his senior years, there are some important things to know. Dietary and social changes are the most prevalent at this life stage with changes in its digestive system being most prevalent. You should make sure your senior Bernese maintains a proper diet and receives proper nutrients by starting him on a daily regimen of vitamins specifically for senior dogs. Tartar control products on the market today will assist you in maintaining proper dental care for your dog. You can purchase bones, toys, and toothbrushes that are essential to the health and happiness of an older dog. Bernese Mountain Dogs are pre-disposed to certain health concerns such as hip dysplasia. Because of this condition, you need to be watchful for any changes in the gait of your senior dog. If your dog moves slower than usual or limps, it could be a sign of a joint problem. You may want to provide a more appropriate sleeping and lounging area for your pet such as an orthopedic dog bed. Since hip and elbow dysplasia are common in this active breed, it is important to maintain a regular exercise routine and proper diet. It is best to stay involved with your pet's daily routine, activity levels, and regular vet visits. You can keep your Bernese healthy with the proper pet healthcare aids, knowledge, and care.

## Medical Considerations

As your dog grows older, its nails, paw pads, coat, skin, eyes and ears need special attention. You need to make grooming a happy time for your dog. You should keep the dog's coat clean and free of dander, fleas, and tangled or matted hair, along with keeping its nails trimmed, checking the pads on their paws frequently for spurs, and keeping tooth tartar under control. Keep up with all of your adult pet's needs by frequently checking these areas. The Bernese is a large breed and needs to have a balanced diet, so it doesn't become overweight. It is equally important to keep this dog active, especially since they are such athletic and sturdy animals.

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