



Read about the Breed

Bernese Mountain Dog

Working Group



The Bernese Mountain Dog is an Ancient Swiss Breed that Excels at Pulling Carts

Breed History:

- Bernese Mountain Dogs originated 2,000 years ago in Bern, Switzerland as farm dogs.
- Early uses of the breed included guards for home and flock, draft dogs for milk wagons, and cattle drovers.
- One of four similarly colored Swiss breeds known as *Sennenhunde*, or Alpine Herdsman's Dog.
- AKC recognized in 1937.



Keys to the Breed:

- High Energy Indoors
- Special Exercise Needs
- Special Grooming Needs
- Good Watchdog
- Good with Kids

Breed Characteristics:

- **Appearance** — "Berners" have a striking tri-colored coat that is long, silky, and soft to the touch. The ground color of the coat is jet black, with white and rust accents.
- **Grooming** — Weekly brushings help keep the coat from tangling. Intense seasonal shedding keeps your vacuum humming several times per year. Teeth should be kept clean and nails trimmed.
- **Exercise** — Bernese are typically happy to spend time in the house with their family. Regular walks or romps in the backyard will suffice to keep them in shape. They are not high endurance dogs.
- **Temperament** — Fun-loving, good with kids, and rarely shy or timid. May be somewhat aloof with strangers on a first meeting. Generally good with other animals, but needs training and socialization.

Vital Stats:

- **Size** — Dogs (males) stand 25-27.5 inches, bitches (females) 23-26 inches
- **Weight** — Dogs average 90-120 lbs, bitches 70-90 lbs
- **Life span** — About 8 years on average, can live to 11 or 12
- **Common Health Issues** — Pet shop puppies should be avoided due to hip and elbow dysplasia, hot spots, and malignant histiocytosis (cancer)
- **Breed Clubs** — Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

Go to www.northwestpets.com for more breed profiles!

AKC Standard Says:
"The Bernese Mountain Dog is a striking, tri-colored, large dog. He is sturdy, balanced... and intelligent."