

# No Puzzle, No Hassle!

## WHAT TO THINK, WHAT TO DO ?

### **No Puzzle, No Hassle, just learn, understand the Bernese Mountain Dog, and be yourself!**



If you do buy your first dog, you'll have lots of questions and you'll need to find answers. The breeder you choose will surely be happy to answer them. At Imier Kennel, we are committed to answer your questions before purchasing the puppy, at the time of adoption and of course whenever you have a question after adopting, you can contact us.

We believe that your first step to be taken will be to get general information about dogs, all races taken together. Often, a good book found in bookstores or the library will give you a basic knowledge as well as the Internet. Then, the next step may take you to a breeder if you need more specific information about a race.

No matter where you turn about care, food, training, you will face many theories, logical yes sometimes, bold or outlandish at other times. I am convinced that everyone is able to separate things in their own mind and make the right choices at their right time. You need to trust. Once you have made your choices, assume them, go ahead, do not revise the way you do things, that can create significant doubt between the dog and you unless you notice that something is going wrong.

Here's what I suggest:



#### **IN THE HOUSE**

Before the adoption of the puppy you will need to decide and plan where the dog's bed will be located, where he will have access, where you won't want him running and what parts of the house will be banned from the dog. Once these decisions are taken, you add the following two rules:

Rule number one: your dog should never sleep in your bed. Rule number two: the house is not a playground.

Then you do not deviate, you show the puppy the limits of his freedom, consistently.



## FOOD

We, at Imier Kennel provide to our customers enough food for 8 to 10 days so that the change of food can be done gradually. The puppy is an living being, so you must understand that some food may suit better than other types of food.

When the puppy arrives at home, think about buying small bags, small quantities of food just in case the dog won't like or react well to it. When things seem fine, then you'll be able to buy in bigger quantities and save a little. The most important is to make a choice based on the dog's health, your preferences, your beliefs, your budget and your availability. I say availability... Yes, do you cook? mix ingredients? Are you ready to make a mess? Perhaps the method of feeding with raw food or home cooked would be more a matter of conviction? The convenience of kibbles impresses you, go ahead! You are a follower of compromise, why not? The rule is that the dog must have access to all its nutritional needs. You choose what form and you will assume your choice. Your pet will feel your confidence and make you his pack leader, your assurance will give him confidence.

In fact with food, there are many ways, good, old, the most "in", scientific and else! The important thing, I repeat, is a balanced diet that keeps your dog healthy. Opt for the changes by conviction or if your animal shows health problems that require a special diet. But a special diet should be given by a veterinarian.



## BASIC NEEDS, FINANCIAL AND HIERARCHY

A dog needs exercise, usually much more than we think. A puppy needs less of course, but you have to adapt to the age and growth. A teenager or adult, the dog is full of energy to burn. We must help him to

liberate this energy, otherwise, if the dog stays home alone, instinctively he will seek to let go of this overflow of energy in destroying, digging and making a lot of nonsense. Walks, outdoor time and play, fast walking on a leash, everything is good.

The dog must live in a strictly hierarchical way, you're the boss, he is the subordinate and the dog is happy. If the hierarchy is not clearly established, the dog will seek to challenge it and nobody is happy when this type of dynamic happens. There is no need to be harsh or forbidding, anything can be done with calm and respect but a gentle firmness: the iron fist in a velvet glove. The puppy on his arrival at home, right away rules should be applied and followed. Of course, the dog will learn progressively, with consistency and by remembering him often. The puppy must be trained, and to pay for training classes is in our view, an indispensable asset and its worth many times its cost, you will not regret it.

A good brushing can be done weekly and at the same time the inspection of the claws, the ears, the skin condition and joints is sufficient. In moulting, increase the pace of brushing; more hair in the brush, less in the house...

Trust yourself, learn to clip the nails, clean ears yourself, check the teeth, give him his medicine even if he makes grimaces. Remember, you are his leader. Attention to excess! Too much washing or too much neglect is not a solution. Be a believer of good balance.

Does the dog need organic treats? The treats are not food so moderation is required. Count on quality of food, rather than small treats.

The dog does need ...? The dog does need ...? The dog is a dog, the Bernese Mountain Dog is happy in the company of good owner, surrounded by love, exercise and care. A good owner respects the needs of the dog and don't ask the dog to be a human or a puppet.

Your Bernese Mountain Dog will love you no matter to him the color of your skin, your physique, your disability or your social status. You take care of the dog's needs, food and its need for affection, this dog

will respect you, protect you and love you ... no need for expensive toys, collars and leashes flashy or special grooming.