

## **Hello New or Potential Owner of a Bernedoodle:**

I just want to share some information about me that may not have been spoken recommendations in owning a puppy.

I do these breeding's because I love the Bernese Mountain Dog and the energy involved in raising the puppies. They are a lot of work and I take pride in all the attention paid to them. Although this is just my 4<sup>th</sup> litter of doodles, I have bred Bernese for the past several years as companion dogs. The goal with the Bernedoodle breeding is to combine the intelligence of the poodle (Bernese are not dumb though) with the striking appearance and temperaments of the Bernese. This will generate dogs that should not shed at all but you may be able to get some hair out when you brush them. I am passionate about the mother and the hardships she goes through in order to share her puppies with you and me. While my experience is not as great with the poodle, with Bernese cancer is the most concerning after the 7 year time period. Both the sire and dam have been genetically tested and with this F1 cross breeding, I will hope for pups that last many, many years.

**Choosing a puppy** is on a first come first served basis (after the sire and dam if applicable) depending when the deposits come in and performed when the puppies are 6 weeks. The puppies however would not go to their new homes until they are 8 weeks. At about 3 weeks, families can come to the house to visit the pups. The first few weeks I like to keep the house as quiet and safe as possible.

Below is a lot of information I provide. I would ask that you pay special attention to the vaccination protocol. This information was originally written for my Bernese owners but also can apply to the Bernedoodles in most cases.

### **In owning a Bernedoodle these are my recommendations:**

**A fenced yard is a must.** You cannot watch the dog all the time and they need to have boundaries for their own safety and protection. I also suggest a doggy door of some type so they can do their business as needed.

**Microchip** – Upon your first visits to the Vet, please get your puppy microchipped. It is a little scan-able piece of hardware that is injected in the back of their neck to identify them as yours. If they get lost, or picked up for any reason, a standard protocol is for the vet or shelter to scan the back of their neck in an attempt of finding their owner. This is only about \$25 and last forever.

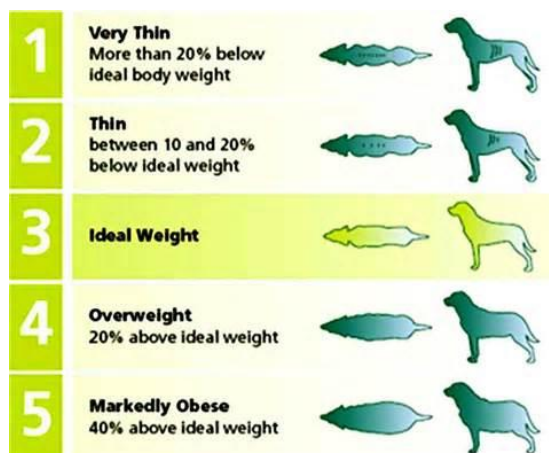
**Flyers** – Okay call me paranoid. When Rose Bud was just 10 weeks old and I left the front gate open, she went to the neighbors yards and somehow got in the back where her cousin was. When I saw the open gate, I freaked out, running around the yard, inside the house and neighborhood hollering for her. 30 minutes passed and I went to the print shop to print flyers so that I could post them. As I started past the neighbor's house to begin posting them, there she was sitting on her front porch. I keep those flyers in the event it could happen again. I'm suggesting, that you have a plan, in the event something happens or even a pre-made flyer – time is of the essence.

**Potty Training** - Generally, every time they wake up or while they are playing, they will want to go potty. After they eat, they will probably need to go poop. In the beginning, carry them the spot that they have gone before. To teach them to go on demand while they are going, say "go potty" or "hurry up" or whatever you want – just say the same command (whole family) each time they are in the act. Once they are done going, say good potty and love them up. Watch your excitement level though because the poodle side might get overly excited and mouth you. I've had adult dogs that didn't need

to go but squatted because of this command. One last thought, when inside and you notice they wander off, that is an indication they probably have to go.

**Teething** - Until they lose their baby teeth at about 4 or 5 months they will want to chew or at least mouth anything. Some of the best toys during teething are kitchen utensils – hard plastic spatulas, plastic spaghetti grabbers, plastic water bottles etc. Anything that is scared in your home that you think they might destroy, put it away in a closet for a couple months. I think I say this elsewhere but I'd suggest you buy some bitter apple spray and apply it to the legs of scared furniture, cabinets or molding. Re-apply as necessary and it should wipe off with a wet rag once they are done teething or old enough not to chew. Sorry but at little over a year, my Chewy is still personalizing the house and car to her satisfaction.

**Food** - throughout their life is important. Although I'd used Solid Gold for many years, there are even better ones on the market now...Blue Buffalo or Nutri Source large breed puppy. Saying this, recently I became disappointed in Solid Gold changing from brown rice to white rice without notification and I've gone to Costco – Kirkland Salmon Meal food (blue bag) or Turkey (red bag). Its \$25.00 less and about 8 pounds more. I compared the ingredients to Solid Gold and they were about 90% identical – the rest of the items on both products, who could figure out what they were? For the first year, at least 8 months, stick with the puppy food. It will have calcium for good bone growth. Whatever you go to in the future, just like people food, pay close attention to the first few ingredients and decide if that is what you want to put in your dog. When you change foods, do it gradually. Always watch the protein level that the dog is given daily (regular dog food and treats) otherwise diarrhea or loose stools will result. A normal protein level should be 28% or less for an adult food. Preferably around 23% because you will probably give them treats or other forms of protein. As puppies with me they are being fed 3 to 4 times a day. Serving portions are on the back of the bag and keep increasing their food intake slightly leveling off at about 3/4 cups twice a day as a mature dog. A healthy weight would have you seeing a slight inward sway on their waist in front of their back legs. As puppies, if hungry they will usually let you know.



**Easy supplements to their meals are** - broccoli, apples without the seeds, peas, bananas, carrots (finely shredded are the best). **Other supplements** for a strong healthy coat and good overall glandular health

are **Fish Oil** (at 6 months 1 pill and 1 year 2 pills thereafter) and Solid Gold Seameal which is a dry supplement. These 2 are my favorite supplements and not too expensive.

**Bland diet** – Sometimes you may need to switch to a bland diet. It consists of foods that are easy to digest, are soothing to the digestive system and contain ingredients that help restore a solid stool. For dogs, it generally involves a boiled lean meat such as chicken, hamburger or turkey; and a starch such as cooked white rice or sweet potato. A tablespoon of pumpkin can also be helpful.

**Eating Poop** – As a puppy not so unusual but gross. If they continue to do it they say they are missing something in their diet. There is a product called SEP (Stop Eating Poop) from Mud Bay but it didn't work for me. If they do eat theirs or someone else's I would suggest consulting a reputable supply store (not a big fan of PetCo or PetSmart) before switching foods. If they do eat poop, watch them poop and pick it up immediately. Most of the time it doesn't go down well and they will end up throwing it up.

**Bones (raw only – never, never cooked), teeth and treats** - My favorite daily treat when leaving them behind and walking out the door is a carrot. If added to their food it should be shredded. They will absorb the shredded carrot best. Marrow bones are great and I also give beef rib bones after shaving off the excess fat. The important thing about bones is that they need to be raw. Never give cooked bones because they splinter. Greenies are a type of treat that I would stay away from – dogs have been known to choke on them and die. Once a plastic peanut butter container is empty I give that to the dogs as a treat with a carrot in it. As your dog gets older and their teeth more brittle, bones are less advised. Many of my older dogs have broken off pieces of their teeth with bones – painful and surgery is needed to remove the tooth. Inspect your dog's teeth through their life. If their breath stinks it's for a reason. When you do have to have their teeth cleaned find a vet that does **Anesthesia-Free Pet Dentistry**. In this they don't have to knock them out. The Pet Doctor in Tacoma off the Bridge Port exit offers this service – 253-588-1851. There is a new cool additive to the food that they say works on the plaque buildup and it's called **DentalTreat**. With this you sprinkle it on their food. It is said to work but maybe I just didn't stick with it long enough. You can get a dog tooth brush and dog tooth paste to brush their teeth. Dogs can die from people food – like gravy from a turkey dinner – they contract pancreatitis – please don't think you are giving them something special – instead, maybe some canned dog food mixed in with their kibble for a special holiday treat...If they have ingested something they shouldn't and you don't think they will puke it up on their own, act fast. The vet will put a hydrogen peroxide mixture down them to stimulate puking. You want to catch it quick before it goes further in their system and causes a blockage.

**Anxiety?** – Look into A Pheromone Collar. They only last a month but it came recommended by a vet who took one of my puppies. The vet said *"She just is not laid back at all and she doesn't like to be confined at all (she exhibits "frustration and panic" if confined). I put an "Adaptil juvenile pheromone collar" on today to help w/ the transition."* The dog's body temperature warms the collar and encourages the diffusion of pheromones into the local environment. They say they are ideal for: puppy socialization, travel, kennels, and training. They will calm the dog down – they are good for the long term phobias like storms, fireworks, loud noises, and separation anxiety. There are lots of good videos on these I suggest you check them out.

**Spaying and Neutering – Please wait until they are 1 year old before spaying or neutering.** This gives their bones the best chance at maturity. I don't remember where I read this but...."As your pet matures, hormones produced by its testes and ovaries determine the shape and length of its bones.

7/8/19

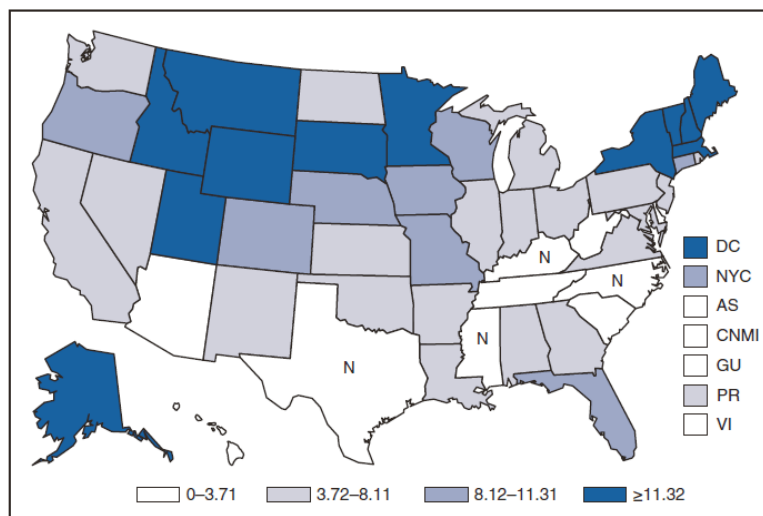
When these hormones are removed too soon through neutering before puberty, the bones grow for a longer period and to different proportions. This results in your pet becoming taller with abnormally shaped bones. This change in bone conformation means that angles and forces between bones and ligaments are changed from their natural design and could be more likely to fail. Your dog's knees are particularly at risk.”

**Play Days** – Until through their vaccinations (and afterwards), you are welcome to return to the house for scheduled Play Days. The pups will have the whole yard to run in with their siblings.

**Vaccinations** – **Big one for me ...please be careful throughout their life!** Before your dog leaves he/she will have had 1 of 3 vaccinations at 8 weeks. You will do the 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 16. I will ask that you take them to Priceless Pet Clinic in Normandy Park because they have the vaccine that I want you to use (19893 1st Ave. S. Suite 202 Normandy Park, WA 98148 Phone 206-592-6454) DA2PP = Distemper, adenovirus, Parvo and Para influenza. After these vaccinations, be leery about additional vaccines through their life – even though the vet may say that the “dog is due for their boosters” – **Ask instead for a Titer Test – 99.9% of the time, the dog still has its immunity from the prior vaccine and does not need the vaccination** – over vaccinating your dog (especially a on the Bernese Mountain Dog side with a potentially more compromised immunity) is unhealthy!

**Rabies should never be given on top of any other health issue including vaccine.** Again, taxing the immune system of Bernese (side) is something you always need to be mindful of. **Until 1 week after their 16 week vaccination, your dog should not be exposed to other dogs outside the home or taken to dog parks. Otherwise you risk double exposure from other recently vaccinated dogs that is tracked or sluffed off from their fur.** By law, you are supposed to give them the Rabies Vaccine every 3 years.

**Kennel Cough....the Bordetella vaccine** - In my opinion this vaccine does not do any good because kennel cough is like the common cold that you cannot prevent and the strain is always changing. If a dog does attract kennel cough, let it run its course unless they cough up green gunk – then antibiotics are needed. The cough (sound of it) in its early stages is unnerving but there is really nothing but comforting them that can be done. At some stage if you have to have your dog boarded, the kennel will require this vaccine. **Leptospirosis** – Please, please never give this vaccine to your dog. It is not inherit to our region. Long story but I was about 10 minutes away from losing a dog to this vaccine. Unfortunately this clinic (Priceless Pet) advises it but otherwise I like them....



**Bloat** – Dogs die from Bloat and it is a concern of any dog. A dog that eats very quickly should be monitored always for the signs of bloat. Go online and research the signs. There are food dishes that make the dogs eat slower. A dog with bloat can be saved – get them to a vet right away and surgery will be done to reverse the bloat and ensure it never happens again. Food dishes on the floor or elevated – the jury is out on which is better.

**Pet Insurance** - I have not carried pet insurance before but this was the research by 2 new current owners when asked what they found and the costs:

**Research from new owners –**

Mary:

Our premium is \$543/year and \$250 deductible, covers 90% of the vet bill (I think 90% is pretty standard). My husband had a discount thru work tho, I think it was 15% of the premium - it's worth taking a look thru your employer benefits! I can't remember if I checked Costco or Sam's club, but sometimes they have deals on insurance.

Even without the discount, it ended up being a better choice over Trupanion.

Megan:

We have it narrowed to Nationwide and Trupanion. Our vet partners with Trupanion, but more than one of our friends speak highly of Nationwide.

We checked Costco and it's a company that seems not as strong as the others.

**Professional Training (Nighttime too)** – Please. This is always advised. Early training on your part is also advised. They will look to you for guidance and knowledge – the more you work with them the better dog they will be and the more confident dog they will be. In the long run, your dog will just want to please you but training develops a very good bond. Basic training is enough. For me the best correction is a strong verbal **EETTT!** This gets their attention away from whatever they are doing wrong and hopefully re-directs them. Until they are about 2 years old they will act badly at times and “be a puppy.” Get the help of a professional please....Mentioned elsewhere but put precious things out of “their world” and consider baby gates where needed. At night they will want to be near you – hopefully you can make a secure spot near your bed. Some have leashed the puppy to the bed and once the puppy stirs, it stirs the owner to take them outside. If left alone and away from you expect a lot of crying.

**Brushing, Bathing, Blowing and Trimming** - With Bernedoodles one should expect no shedding yet they will need to be trimmed about every 4 months or so. A utility cut trims the hair the same length all over their body and pretty short. I always suggest brushing them weekly just to keep the hair fluffy. For the Bernese, and my allergies, I use a dog grooming blower and blow them about every other day. I'll put the blower's edge near their skin otherwise it may matt their hair. If using a people blow dryer, turn off the heat. They like both brushing and the blowing. For bathing I use regular baby shampoo. Whatever shampoo you use, make sure you rinse it all out and rinse some more, and then some more. Soap left near the skin can easily cause a hot spot resulting in a skin infection.

**Exercising and Pulling on Leash** - While a Bernese or a Bernedoodle will just want to sit at your feet (or on the couch), if you are a runner, I would wait to run your dog hard until their bones are full formed at 2 years. Walks are always fine (and as a puppy) but not until they are 17 weeks old at a dog park. If your dog pulls on a walk that's no fun. Consider a pinch collar until they learn to walk with you without pulling. If not, the bigger they get, the harder they will pull. A good training tip if they are pulling is to do several direction changes so they watch you better.

7/8/19

**Jumping Up** - The best way to break a dog that jumps up is grab a hold of their paws/legs and don't let go. After a couple of minutes of squirming to get down and once they have relaxed, put their paws to the ground. While you hold them up they will nibble at your hands but be diligent because jumping is never good. It is cute as a puppy but they will grow up and it doesn't stay cute and can be harder to break. Some others might recommend that they trail a leash around while in the house and if they jump up, step on the leash preventing that. I would also watch my excitement level when entering the house. Come in like you've been there for the past 2 hours. Sort-of ignore the dog and don't go goo goo poo poo over them because they will pick up on your excitement and probably act poorly. (Have you seen my Chewy around my best friends Dave and Gretchen? Oh lordy – Gretchen is very goo poo poo and Chewy picks up on it). You can turn you back on them and ignore and then pet them once they have sat.

**Nail Trimming** – I trimmed their finger nails throughout the time they were with me. When you get them groomed, it is usually included in the price. If you choose to trim them on your own, make sure you also have the quickstop in case you cut too short.

**Deadly things for your dog are the following:** Chocolate, Macadamia nuts, Moldy cheese, Onions, Potato skins, Tomatoes. **Table scraps** - Dogs have very different digestive systems and nutritional needs than we do. Poultry skin--and other fatty holiday foods such as stuffing and gravy- -can upset a dog's digestive system, as well as trigger a severe inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis), the organ that aids in digestion. Older, inactive dogs are especially prone to pancreatitis and too much fat can kill a dog. **Plants and parts of some fruits that are poisonous** - Aloe Vera, Apple seeds, Apricots/Kernels contain cyanide. Children have died from eating too many kernels!, Asparagus Fern, Azalea, Calla Lily, Castor Oil, Chrysanthemum, Cycas Revoluta (aka Sago palm and Japanese fern), Clematis, Cyclamen, Daffodil, Dieffenbachia, Easter Lily, English Ivy, Geranium, Ivy, Kalanchoe, Lantana (berries), Mistletoe, Narcissus, NB (Don't know what this is):/This plant is so toxic that smoke from burning cuttings can kill! , Oleander, Paspalum, Peaches/Both the stone and leaf contain cyanide, Poinsettia, Privet, Ranunculus (or Buttercup), Rhubarb – leaves, Rhododendron, Sweetheart Ivy, Tomato plant, Wandering Jew/Severe dermatitis, Wisteria, Yew.

**Yard Chemicals** - If you have to apply chemicals to your lawn make sure they are soaked in well and read the label about the safeness for pets. For slugs we use rock salt and there is a safe slug bait called **Worryfree**. Our neighbor (about 80 yards away) had a company come out and **spray their trees** for bugs and the over spray killed their dog that was in its kennel! Lastly, mice and rat poison, dish washer detergent, and antifreeze. Lastly, when a puppy, socks, underwear, towels, etc all smell really good to them – Once ingested, the fibers can rip up their intestines and emergency surgery will be necessary. This happened to me and the same day out of the hospital, she ate another towel. A quick run had her puck it up luckily.

**Pictures and Weight** – The first year your pup will get its height and the second year it will fill out. Please whenever you can, send me photos of your pup and let me know their weight. I'm well familiar with the Bernese and their size but I will be very interested to know how yours finish (grow-up).

**Summary** – Until after their last vaccination, they should not go to a dog park or anywhere where a lot of dogs have been. Microchip early. When taking to the vet for whatever issue they may have, don't let the vet combine that with rabies or another vaccination (taxing to the immune system). Roll up or put precious things away until they are older – consider bitter apple. Get professional training I would

use kibble as the treat (less protein). Accidents happen and it's generally our fault because we didn't pay attention - they go potty a lot as pups. Consider putting water away at night. Puppies love hands (they are the provider) they will want to jump up to them – not fun as they grow taller. Please wait until they are a year to spay or neuter. When bathing, rinse, rinse, and then rinse again – hot spots are not fun. Never cooked bones, raw marrow bones are best (Fred Meyer, frozen section). Know how to make a bland diet.

Email me anytime with questions.

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