

Hello 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 great pride in all the attention paid to them. Although this is just my 3rd litter of Bernedoodles, 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 don't shed as much if at all and with a cross breeding, hopefully healthier dogs in the longer run. I am passionate about the mother and the hardships she goes through in order to share her puppies with me and us. They do not come without expense and you should always know that when owning a dog. While my experience is not as great with the poodle, with Bernese cancer is the most concerning after the 7 year time period. With this F1 cross breeding, I will hope for pups that last many, many years being more indicative of a poodle's life span. With Bernese they say that any time over 7 years is "God's Time." I've bucked the odds though and had a 13.5 year old, a 10.5 year old and 2 - 9 year olds. Three of four succumbed to cancer. I currently have 3 dogs – Lily Louise the Dam (Bernese Mountain Dog) of the pups who will be 3 in February, a half-sister Bernedoodle Cheeto who has had many other names (Angel, Trooper, Giddy, and Snack Pack). She is a black and white Bernedoodle. My third dog is a Bernese who at this writing is 10 weeks old.

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 7 weeks. The puppies however would not go to their new homes until they are 8 weeks. At about 3 to 4 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 Bernese or Bernedoodle I have many long winded 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.

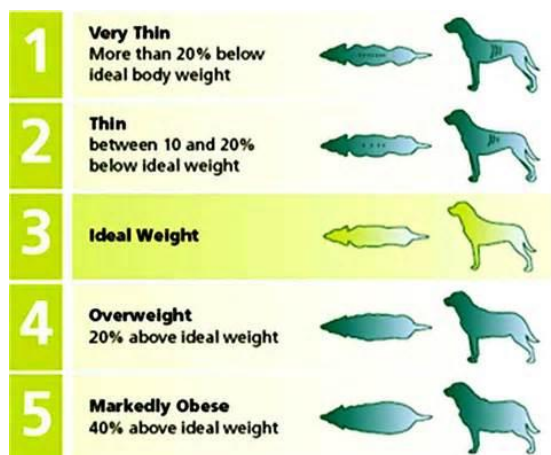
Microchip – Upon your first visits to the Vet, please get your puppy microchipped. It is a little scan-able small piece of hardware that is injected in the back of their neck to identify them as yours. If they get lost, or picked up for any reason, a standard protocol is for the vet to scan the back of their neck in an attempt of finding their owner. This is only about \$20 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.

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 each time. I’ve had adult dogs that probably didn’t need to go but squatted because of this command. Once they are done going, say good potty and love them up.

Teething - Until they lose their bay 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.

Good dog food - throughout their life is important. Although I’ve 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). Its \$25.00 less and about 8 pounds more. I compared the ingredients to Solid Gold and they were 80%+ 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 treat) 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 they are being fed 3 times a day. Keep increasing their food intake slightly leveling off at about 3 cups twice a day as a mature dog. I also suggest read the bag for their recommendations because as a puppy they should get a bit more. A healthy weight would have you seeing a slight inward sway on their waist in front of their back legs.



Easy supplements to their meals are - broccoli, apples without the seeds, bananas, carrots (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 2 year 2 pills thereafter) and **NR Seaweed** which is a dry supplement – and may be bought at this site: <http://www.naturalrearing.com/coda/index.html> or **Solid Golds SeaMeal**. These 2 are my favorite supplements and not too expensive.

Changing dog foods – When changing foods, dogs need to be transitioned over a couple week period. Each couple of days, increase the amount of the new food slightly. While many dogs transition seamlessly, some dogs have an adjustment period. Diarrhea, loose stools, and vomiting are the most prevalent symptoms. It is important to understand the underlying causes of transition issues so that they may be minimized or completely avoided.

Eating Poop – As a puppy not so unusual but concerning. 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.

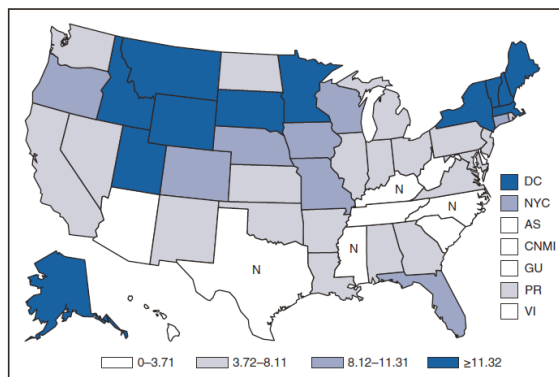
Bones (raw only), teeth and treats - My favorite daily treat when leaving them behind and walking out the door is a carrot. If added to their food it should be a shredded. They body will absorb the shredded carrot best. Marrow bones are great and I also give beef rib bones after shaving off the excess 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...

Spaying and Neutering – Wait until they are 1 year old before spaying or neutering. This gives their bones the best chance at maturity....As your pet matures, hormones produced by its testes and ovaries determine the shape and length of its bones. 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.

Vaccinations – **Big one for me ...please be careful throughout their life!** Before your dog leaves he/she will have had 1 of 3 vaccinations. I'll have the first one done at 8 weeks and you'll do the second at 12 and the last 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 Bernese Mountain Dog with 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 is something you always need to be mindful of. **Until 1 week after their 16 week vaccination, your dog**

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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 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 advises it but otherwise I like them....



Bloat – Dogs die from Bloat and it is a concern of any large breed. 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 can be bought to help so their eating down so know the signs. 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.

Professional Training - it 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 of trust. Basic training is enough. For me the best correction is a strong verbal EEETTTT! This gets their attention away from whatever they are doing wrong.

Brushing, Bathing and Trimming - (This was written for Bernese and not Bernedoodle). With Bernedoodle one should expect less hair being dropped and the potential need to have the dog trimmed every 2 months or so. A utility cut trims the hair the same length all over their body. If this were a Bernese, then I would suggest brushing them a couple times a month – more when/if they are blowing their coat which last a couple of weeks. When blowing their coat it can be a mess but brush them will minimize it. 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 in the undercoat of a Bernese could easily cause a hot spot resulting in a skin infection. Because I am allergic to dogs, I use a dog grooming blower to blow them a few times a week. You are supposed to place the blower close to their skin so the hair won't mat. Mine really enjoy the blower and it makes their coat fluffy. If using a people blow dryer, turn off the heat. Mine also come to like the vacuum ran on them. To avoid sliding on floors, trimming their feet after about age 2 might be necessary their whole life.

Exercising and Pulling on Leash - While a Bernese or a Bernedoodle will just want to sit at your feet (or on the couch), I would not run your dog hard until their bones are full formed at 2 years. Walks are okay (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. I would buy 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. They will get tired of being jerked around and begin to look to you for direction.

Jumping Up On You or Others - 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. 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.

Nail Trimming - We trimmed their finger nails at 2, 4, 6 and 8 weeks. I'll suggest taking them to a groomer every 6 months to maintain their nails. It's only about \$6.00 to get them trimmed.

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 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. Protect, protect, protect..... 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 puke it up luckily.

Age 6 – Two things to do: Since The Bernese side of the puppy has a tendency to get cancer, at age 6 please go online and but **CAS Options**. Also if you haven't already, change them to a grain free diet. The best is **Solid Gold's Sun Dancer**. I would also continue supplementing with fish oil and NR Seaweed or Solid Golds SeaMeal. To make this point, Liberty one of my earlier Bernese, was diagnosed with lung cancer at the age of 9.5. Without using Chemo, the owner change her diet removing all grains (Sun Dancer) and added the CAS Options. Liberty is now gone but went on to live 2 years after the diagnosis.

Janet, Lily Louise, Cheeto and Rose Bud

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