



TRBMDC Incline

Official Newsletter of the Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club

Special Points of Interest:

- A Note from our President
- 4/23/23 Meeting Minutes
- "What Canine Genetics Really Tell Us"
- Friday, June 9th TRBMDC Meeting, Pizza, Memorial Bench Visit, and Grooming Tips
- Saturday, July 22 at The Greenhouse Winery - The Main Winery in Irwin
- Sunday, August 13 Meeting and Summer Picnic at Settlers Cabin Park - Iroquois Pavilion
- AKC 2023 Memorial Day Cluster Show
- How Hot is Too Hot ... for your Berner?
- Happy Birthday to Admiral, Scarlet, and Poco
- Berner Brags and Fun

TRBMDC Officers and Board of Directors

Karen Artuso, President

P.O. Box 242
United, PA 15698
(412) 580-8047
ar2so@zoominternet.net

Donna Millburn, Vice Pres. and Acting Secretary

615 Glengary Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15215
(412) 559-5655
Dmillb@comcast.net

Amy Lindenfelder, Treasurer

1825 Park Circle Drive
Glenshaw, PA 15116
(617) 462-3655
Amy.lindenfelder@gmail.com

Board of Directors:

Joyce Frey
Cathy Barth
John Millburn
Denise Reardon
Mary Sparks

Spring is here and summer isn't far away. Summer will mean our Berners will slow down due to the heat. There will be less morning zoomies. I will have to remember to pack a thermos with cool water in it for Poco when we travel.

Summer does mean swimming ... and Poco now loves to swim! As a pup she loved splashing in the shallow water of the lake. As a one year old, she was very unsure of swimming. I didn't blame her! Her butt sank! Before Poco we had Golden Retrievers or Newfs, who are born knowing how to swim! I got her a dog swimmy; and she caught on that summer. Her swimmy was simple and not expensive. However had I been taking Poco on a motorboat, I would have spent a little more!



In April, Dr. Bert Klei did a great job explaining the different DNA tests. I was curious about these tests, because Poco's Dad died of cancer shortly after we got her. He was only two years old. Bert explained that yes the DNA tests can indicate if a dog carries a trait for cancer, but that doesn't necessarily mean my dog will get cancer. There are so many variables that it's not a simple answer. Breeders won't likely breed two dogs who both have the markers for a health issue, thus lowering the chances of the pups inheriting that health issue. The tests give us valuable information ... and maybe in time the tests will continue to become more detailed and even more informative.

Bert, once again, recommended that each of us enter our dogs into the Berner-Garde Database. The Berner-Garde Database is an extensive collection of health and pedigree information on Bernese Mountain Dogs that has been compiled for over 40 years by breeders and owners across the world. This database allows researchers, breeders, and fanciers of Bernese Mountain Dogs access to the most extensive collection of health and pedigree information available. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to create a profile for their Berner, add health certifications, pedigree information, litters, photos and, most importantly, update the database with all health issues and if at all possible, age and cause of death. All pure bred Bernese are welcome to be entered into the database. Your dog does not need to be registered with any breed club and can be a rescue. To access the database, go to: www.bernergarde.org/home/.

I look forward to seeing you at Monroeville Park on Friday June 9 at 5:00 p.m. for our June meeting, pizza, dog walk to see the TRBMDC Memorial Bench and Grooming Tips. Also mark your calendar for an informal Get Together on Saturday, July 22 at The Greenhouse Winery - The Main Winery (2155 Gracin Lane, Irwin, PA 15642) and the TRBMDC Summer Picnic on Sunday, August 13 at Settler's Cabin Park (608 Ridge Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15208. (See page 7 for details.)

Karen Artuso



Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Meeting Minutes

Location: Ringers Pet Dog Training - Natrona Hts., PA **Date:** Sunday, April 23, 2023

The following members and visitors were in attendance: Julia and Wayne Airgood, Karen Artuso (Poco), Cathy Barth & Jim Meyer, Paul/Andrea/Ethan Bowman (Heidi Jo), Richard/Caroline Cannon (Lucy), Bert/Linda Klei (Nelly & Enzo), Mike Kosco (Harlee), Amy Lindenfelder, Dale/Mary Sparks, and Donna Millburn (Rayne).

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT: President, Karen Artuso

Karen reflected on the passing of TRBMDC Member, Ken Cechman (77) on 3/20/23. Kenny was a very dear friend to many of us. Karen shared a recent memory of when Kenny showed up early last spring to Monroeville Park to help set up for the meeting. Kenny often did nice things that flew under the radar, but were truly appreciated by his friends.

Karen also thanked Dr. Bert Klei for his very informative talk on "What Canine Genetic Tests Really Tell Us".

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT: Vice President, Donna Millburn – No report, but introductions made of today's visitors.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Treasurer, Amy Lindenfelder

Checking Account Balance \$ 4,184.66 Rescue Account Balance \$ 612.59

We are pleased to report that we have received most of our 2023 Club dues. We are working on the stragglers. We have 50 members counting each of the household members. We want our Club to be strong and helpful to those interested in Bernese Mountain Dog Members. COVID hit us hard, but we are rebuilding and continuing to be an active club.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY/ELECTIONS: Acting Secretary, Donna Millburn

Members and visitors were reminded to sign the attendance sheet. Visitors were asked to provide their email address to be included on our newsletter "The Incline" mailing list.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AKC CORRESPONDENCE: Secretary - No report

AWARDS: Karen Artuso – No report

FACEBOOK: Emily Nebiolo - No report

HEALTH: Emily Nebiolo - No report

INSTAGRAM: Amy Lindenfelder - A membership application was received today from Richard and Caroline Cannon. Sponsor sheets will be completed; and we will be ready to vote them into membership at the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: Amy Lindenfelder - No report

NEWSLETTER (TRBMDC INCLINE): Donna Millburn - Looking for your photos and/or articles for *The Incline*. *Emqil .jpg* images to *Dmillb@comcast.net*.

PUPPY REFERRAL: Karen Artuso / Joyce Frey - We continue to receive puppy and breeder request and are working to update our breeder recommendations.

REGIONAL CLUB COUNCIL: Joye Neff - No report

RESCUE: Julia Airgood - Heart of Michigan continues to need volunteers for fosters and transportation of Rescued Berners. As reported in the last Incline, Stella was adopted by Club Member, Heidi Pedicone and her family. Harlee was adopted by Mike and Jane Kosco; and she is at today's meeting. A T-shirt sale and raffles in support of rescue efforts will be held at today's meeting.

SUNSHINE: Gwen Geis – No report

TRBMDC WEBSITE: Denise Reardon - No report

OLD BUSINESS: The engraved bench slats for the TRBMDC Memorial Bench are installed - yay!

NEW BUSINESS: None.

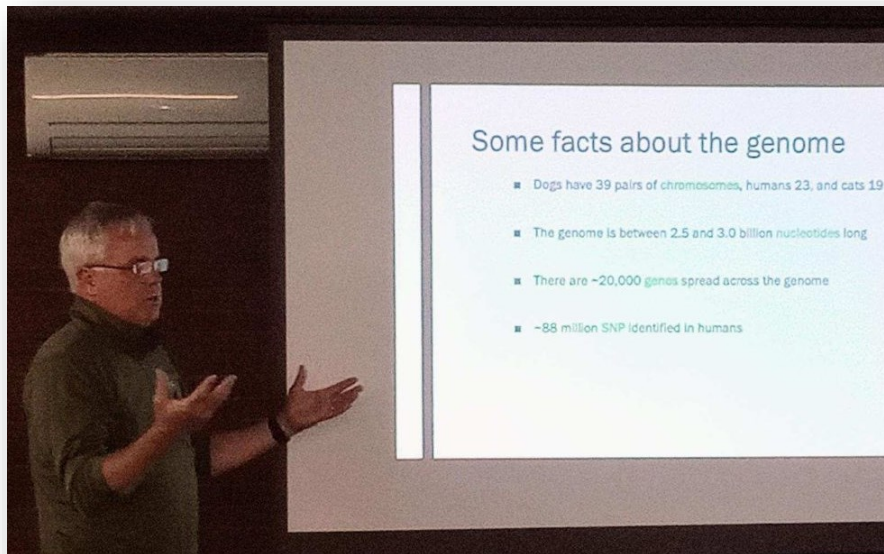
NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, June 9 at Monroeville Park - Pavilion #1 (5:00 - 8:00 p.m.) Monroeville Recreation & Parks provided the pavilion at no cost to the Club due to our recent purchase of the memorial bench. Check the Incline for details.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Millburn, Acting Secretary

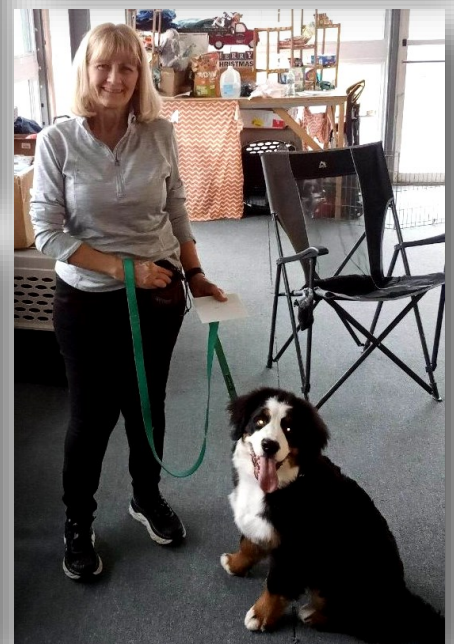


“What Can Canine Genetic Tests Really Tell Us?”



Dr. Bert Klei discussed the genetic tests that have become available for our dogs and what can be learned from them. He provided some background on the tests and shared how to interpret the results.

There are a couple of new genetic tests designed for early cancer detection (NyQ and Onco.K9).







Diagnostic Cancer Screening

ONCOK9
THE CANINE WORMY TEST FOR CANCER

- Tests for cDNA from 30 cancers
- Suggested to be part of annual wellness exams for older dogs
- Also, for at risk dogs



Degenerative myelopathy (DM)

- Progressive degeneration of spinal cord
- Onset typically between 8-14 year of age
- Dog equivalent of Lou Gehrig's disease
- Can only be positively diagnosed through autopsy
- Other neuro degenerative diseases can show similar characteristics (phenocopies)





Come to TRBMDC's **Evening Meeting** Friday, June 9 - Monroeville Park (Pavilion 1)



What: TRBMDC Meeting, Pizza Party, Dog Walk, Grooming Tips and Unveiling of the TRBMDC Memorial Bench

(Feel free to bring a side dish or dessert, if desired.)

When: Friday, June 9 (Starting at 5:00 p.m.)

Where: Monroeville Park "West" - 2399 Tilbrook Road, Pavilion 1
Turn off Tilbrook Road onto Baseball Blvd. Turn left into first parking lot. Look for the yellow TRBMDC Banner!

Who: TRBMDC Members and all Berner Friends
All Guests are Welcome - Bring Your Berners on Leash, Water, and Poop Bags
Please RSVP to Dmillb@comcast.net if you plan to attend, so we have an approximate count for pizza and refreshments!



GROOMING TIPS



Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Summer Events

Members, Visitors and their Berners are all Welcome to Attend!

TRBMDC Informal "Get Together" at The Greenhouse Winery - (The Main Winery in Irwin)

When: Saturday, July 22 (2:30 p.m.)
Where: Greenhouse Winery - The Main Winery
The Main Winery, 2155 Gracin Lane,
Irwin, PA 15642



(This is an informal Get Together of TRBMDC Members and Friends/Guests. Purchases will be at the expense of the attendees. Be sure to bring your Berners to join the fun!

TRBMDC "August Meeting and Annual Summer Picnic"

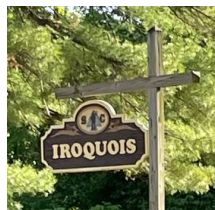
When: Sunday, August 13 (2:00 p.m.)
Where: Settler's Cabin Park - Iroquois Pavilion
608 Ridge Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15208



(Encompassing 1,619 acres in Collier, North Fayette, and Robinson townships. Settlers Cabin Park features an historic log cabin, wave pool, dive pool, shelters, tennis courts, playground, and walking/hiking trails,)

What: TRBMDC August Meeting, Summer Picnic and Dog Activities

Food: Please plan to bring a Covered Dish or Dessert of your choice.
TRBMDC will provide Hotdogs/Sauerkraut and Drinks.





A Peek at the AKC 2023 Memorial Day Cluster Dog Show (Lawrence County Farm Show Grounds, New Castle, PA)

For many years, TRBMDC held their Regional Specialty at the AKC All-Breed Show over Memorial Day Week-end. Lots of club members remember the hard work of Bev Cechman, Show Chair, and all of the members who supported the show by coordinating trophies, grounds, raffle, food, etc. It was a labor of love for many of us. Although we are no longer sponsoring the regional specialty, Julia Airgood shared some photos of this year's show. It's nice to see the Dog Show back in operation ... post COVID!

(Thanks to Julia Airgood for the great photos!)



Tamsen Nuss, shown in the photo to the left, is giving Julia Airgood's Berner, Margo, a ride in the golf cart. Margo looks like she loved it!

Tamsen used to be a Club members when she owned a Berner. She now has Golden Retrievers and was the Altoona Kennel Club Show Chairperson on May 25 & 26, since Altoona Kennel Club sponsored the show those two days. Congrats to Tamsen on her leadership as Chairperson.



Is this Berner actually sticking her tongue out at the judge ?



How Hot is Too HOT for your Berner?

Although most of us are looking forward to the warm, "Dog Days" of summer, our Bernese Mountain Dogs are not!

Berners simply do not tolerate hot weather very well. Even a healthy Berner starts feeling the heat when the thermometer exceeds 75 degrees. Older Berners, puppies and dogs with health issues are particularly vulnerable to heat stroke as the temperature rises. It's important for all Berner owners to recognize the onset of overheating.



Berners have a thick, double layer coat. The layer closest to their skin is short, and thick. It's the insulation layer for cold and hot temperatures. The upper layer is longer and thinner. Its function is to protect your Bernese against UV light, moisture and insects. Their beautiful, black coat makes them more susceptible to overheating, because as we learned in school - black absorbs sunlight and does not reflect it. It's the same theory of why a person should wear light colored hats or clothing in the heat. Unfortunately, the Berner is unable to simply change its coat as the temperature rises. However, it is interesting that the Berner's coat actually helps to regulate their body temperature. The upper layer allows air circulation to the skin and guards against the strong rays of the sun. **This is why it is critical to never shave the coat of your Berner.** Some owners believe that they are helping to keep their Berner cooler, but that is a misnomer! You should brush your dog's coat more frequently to promote shedding of the old hairs, thus lightening their coat.

Just how do you watch for signs of dehydration in your Berner? The following are signs of dehydration, which are risk factors for heatstroke: dry pale nose and mouth, sunken eyes, fast heart rate, lack of urination, and poor skin elasticity. Mild dehydration can resolve itself by drinking cool water - but do not put ice into their water. In hot weather, dogs quickly lose water. As dehydration continues to progress, your Berner could develop seizures or cardiovascular shock. The above risk factors might be a bit difficult to recognize in your Berner, so here are some signs that your dog is overheating.

- A dog's temperature of 104 degrees F
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Heavy drooling
- Unsteady gait or weakness
- Heavy panting
- Purple or red gums
- A coat that is hot to the touch



If any of the above happen, move your dog to a shaded area, provide some water (not ice water), and cover your dogs with cool, wet towels. Take your Berner to a veterinarian as soon as possible, especially if he/she is weak and unable to drink water. An intravenous hydration may be warranted.

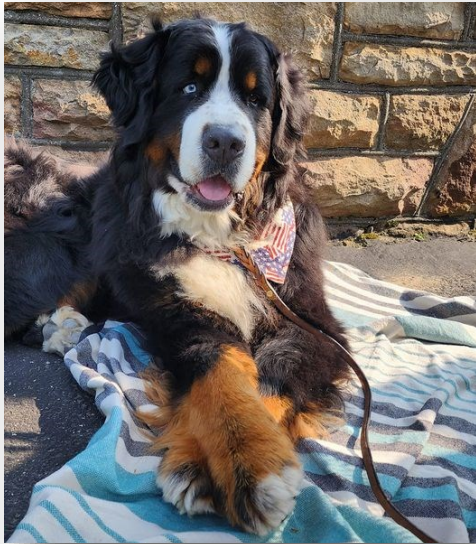
It is also important to avoid hot pavement. Press the back of your hand on the pavement for 7 seconds. If it is too hot for you ... it is too hot for your dog! Dogs paws are incredibly sensitive to heat! Their paws allow them to sweat.

Lastly read your dog's cues. You know your dog better than anyone else, so watch for subtle cues that could save your Berner's life.



Happy Birthday to Admiral, Scarlet and POCO

"Admiral Blue" Nebiolo
5/10/18



Happy 5th Birthday, Admiral!



"Scarlet" Albert
6/11/15



Happy 8th Birthday, Scarlet!

"Poco" Artuso
6/12/15



Are those silly
Raccoons still
hiding in the tree?

Happy 8th Birthday, POCO!

*(If you are not sure if TRBMDC has your Berner's Birthday on file,
email your Berner's name and DOB to Dmillb@comcast.net.)*



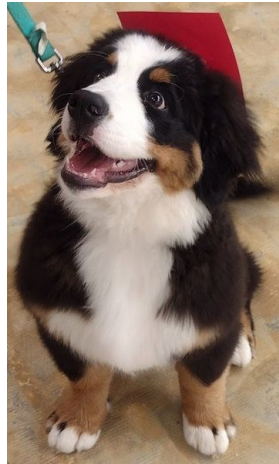
Berner Brags and Summer Fun



New title (5/26/23) for Margo (Airgood). She earned her NAP and her second leg in open jumpers. Congratulations!



Rayne passed her Kindergarten and Advanced Puppy Classes and received her Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certificate. Pretty sure that her kisses to the judge helped score some bonus points, because she actually chewed up her diploma!



Hope you all had a Happy Easter...
from Admiral!





Berner Brags and Summer Fun



Hope everyone had a great Memorial Day!



Practicing a little Agility with Margo leading the demonstration





TRBMDC 2023 Calendar

*See you on Sunday,
June 9th at
Monroeville Park
It's a Friday night!*

TRBMDC 2023 Calendar:

- Sunday, February 12 (1:00 p.m.) Meeting & Winter Dog Walk at Hartwood Acres
(Meet at Central Elementary School Parking Lot)
- Sunday, April 23 (1:30 p.m.) Meeting & Educational Talk on Canine Genetic Testing
by Dr. Bert Klei
(Ringers Pet Dog Training, Natrona Heights, PA)
- Friday, June 9 (5:00 p.m.) Meeting, Memorial Tribute & Grooming Tips
(Monroeville Park West - Pavilion 1)**
- Saturday, July 22 (2:30 p.m.) Informal Get Together at Greenhouse Winery -
The Main Winery (2155 Gracin Lane, Irwin, PA 15642)**
- Sunday, August 13 (2:00 p.m.) Meeting & Summer Picnic
(Settlers Cabin Park - Iroquois Pavilion)**
- Saturday, October 7 (1:00 p.m.) Meeting & TRBMDC K-9 Idol
(Northmoreland Park - Pavilion 7)
- Saturday, December 2 (1:00 p.m.) Annual Meeting, 2023 Awards Celebration & Holiday Party
(Location - TBD)

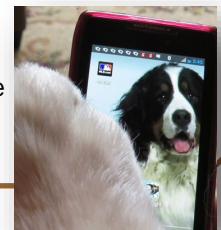
TRBMDC's Social Media

Facebook (Emily Nebiolo)

The TRBMDC Facebook name is "Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club". If you would like to post something on Facebook (a club announcement, Berner picture or achievement), email your write up with pictures and attachments to threeriversbernesemtn@gmail.com. In the Subject line, please type **"For Facebook Post"**; and it will be reviewed prior for posting. We are looking forward to increasing activity on the site, so please be sure to send your input and photos to ["threeriversbernesemtn@gmail.com"](mailto:threeriversbernesemtn@gmail.com).

Instagram (Amy Lindenfelder)

The Club's Instagram name is "TRBMDC". Since it is the Club's site, please send pictures and/or videos in a text message to Amy Lindenfelder at 617-462-3655. Amy is the Administrator of the TRBMDC Instagram site and is anxiously awaiting your adorable Berner photos and/or videos to share with our followers.



Thanks to our contributors: Julia Airgood, Karen Artuso, Donna Millburn (Incline Editor), the TRBMDC Board of Directors, and our wonderful TRBMDC photographers (including Jim Meyer)!