

Lorien Dell bernese

PUPPY OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS & SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR BERNESE PUPPY AND BEYOND

REMEMBER: These are only guidelines!

As your puppy grows, his needs will change.

PREPARING FOR PUPPY

Puppy-proof where the puppy will be: Furniture, rugs and anything loose is fair game for puppy teeth!

4-6 ft leash (nylon)

Flexi lead 26 ft

Medium (12-18") adjustable nylon collar (keep checking how tight this is as the pup grows; you should be able to slip two fingers between the collar and her neck!)

Crate – wire suitcase style: 24x36x30 (adult size 400)

Washable cotton mats 2x3' for the crate floor (cotton bath rugs without rubber backing)

Water bucket w/snap hanger (stainless)

Food dish (stainless) - stainless containers are easy to clean and never wear out

Toys – (tennis balls, toys with noise chips, puzzle balls, rope tugs, knotted socks, old shoes, worn-out work gloves are great! – but always keep in mind that Berners eat the darndest things – light bulbs, towels, underwear, dish scrubbers, remotes, cell phones, photographs, magazines, floor mats, etc., etc., etc – especially anything with your scent on it.

Good Treats: pig's ears, pressed (not rolled) rawhide bones, denta-bones, nyla-bones.

Bad Treats: anything indigestible that can be swallowed whole rather than chewed, such as: socks, dish rags, racquet balls (smooth and just small enough to slip down an adult's throat), cow hooves (almost punctured a Berner intestine; \$\$\$ emergency surgery to remove it...)

Nice to have, but not essential:

30-36" H, folding galvanized steel exercise pen (eight x 2ft panels). Great for travel.

• **FEEDING: Don't free-feed your pup. It's lazy, and it's not good for him. It'll make him a picky eater.**

MORNING

• Dog Kibble: **Canidae** Kibble (among acceptable substitutes are: Fromm's , Wolf Creek, Blue Buffalo, Solid Gold), which can be purchased from feed stores. Kibble ingredients should be labeled "human grade." Do not feed kibble containing wheat, corn or soy; these can trigger allergies.

• Prepare enough kibble for a day: +: 6 cups of dry kibble in a container, pour enough hot water over it to just reach the top layer of kibble; let it soak overnight; that way, you won't have a hysterical pup at your ankles waiting for his food . Measure his food into his dish, then sprinkle about a ¼ t. of Metamucil over it. Pour about ¼ cup hot water over it and stir all the Metamucil in.

• Start with 1-1/2 cups. If he eats it all and seems still hungry, try giving him another 1/2 cup.

• If he **still** seems hungry, check how his belly feels; if it's full, he's had enough. Some pups don't know when enough is enough. He'll forget about eating in a few minutes.

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Remember that he's growing at an enormous rate and will probably eat more now and in the coming months than he ever will again. However, a hungry dog is a healthy dog. Hunger is not always a sign that he needs more food, just that he feels good and is up for it. Overweight puts terrible stress on a dog's joints and heart. Control his food, and you will have less of him to love longer.

NOON (or thereabouts)

- 1 cup of soaked kibble. If he seems uninterested or eats only part of it, **take it away** until the evening feeding. If he still seems hungry, give him ¼ cup more.

EVENING

- Same as morning.

LAST CHANCE

- Around 9:00 pm offer him a last chance to drink water. Don't leave food out overnight or during the day; it will make him either fat or picky, a poor sleeper, and will delay housebreaking, or he can eat himself to death. "Free-feeding" is a lazy-man's invention. (See "Pack Leadership" in last section.)

SUPPLEMENTS: In general, puppies should not have supplements until they are at least 6 months old. The following are digestive aids. If his stool seems normal, you don't have to add them; just don't forget the Metamucil with every meal.

- 1/4 cup plain, full-fat yogurt (Mountain High can be purchased at City Market, Safeway, King's Sooper or Cubs). Give him this once daily.
- Prozyme: ¼ t. per cup, sprinkled over his kibble. Spray warm water lightly overall, wait five minutes, then give it to him. Make him sit before you put the dish down.

(This all sounds very complicated, but once you have everything set up, it's really not bad. In any case, call any time if you've questions.)

WATER: Keep fresh water available for him at all times during waking hours. At about 9:00pm, take his water away until morning. This should help with housebreaking.

TREATS: Cubed leftover steak, chicken, pork, etc; cheese, raw baby carrots, apples, tiny cubes of soft yummy stuff that are easy for him to swallow quickly; commercial treats like Beggin' Strips, pig's ears and American-made rawhide bones in moderation. Treats should ideally be used for rewards in training; I toss something into the back of pup's crate to induce him to run inside. That way, when you must crate him, he'll bounce in happily.

GROOMING: Following is a list of basic supplies for grooming your dog that I have found helpful:

- Plier-style nail clippers. Clip once weekly – don't cut into the quick; but if you do, use -
- Quik-Stop antiseptic styptic powder. Just dip his toe into the little jar if you've cut too closely.
- Long-toothed undercoat rake – for cleaning out dead undercoat.
- Slicker brush. Get a Lambert Kay; they're easier to handle and work better than other brands. Always remember to be gentle so he comes to enjoy his grooming sessions with you. Call me for tips on line-brushing. Use a Pinbrush for touch-ups.
- pH-balanced shampoo such as KC Pharmacals' Professional 16 to 1. This shampoo is economical and will last a long time.
- Chris Christiansen Systems' Ice on Ice (1-800-654-7006). Use this in a spray bottle mixed 16 to 1 with water after you have towel-dried your dog. Then blow-dry his fur. Blow-drying makes the whole ordeal faster and leaves him with a smooth, silky, shiny coat. It will also make removing dead undercoat hair a lot easier. The entire Day to Day line of products is great, but they're expensive and not really necessary for a companion dog.
- Bathe your dog at least once per month or more often if necessary. He will totally shed his coat once a year or so – usually at a very inconvenient time. When this begins to happen, his coat will become "clumpy." This is your signal to bathe him – once a week for 3 weeks or so, and brush him with the undercoat rake every day, using the 16-1 conditioner. If you do this, your dog will look better and his new beautiful coat will grow in much faster.

HEALTH-CARE

- A. **VACCINATIONS:** Recent editions (2004) of the Senior Dogs Project's newsletter have reported on the ever-broadening trend of eliminating vaccinations for adult dogs, except for rabies, where required by state law. We have now had a report that all 27 veterinary schools in North America are in the process of changing their protocols for vaccinating dogs and cats.

Here, in a nutshell, are the new guidelines under consideration:

"Dogs and cats immune systems mature fully at 6 months. If a modified live virus (MLV) vaccine is given after 6 months of age, it produces immunity, which is good for the life of the pet (i.e., canine distemper, parvo). If another MLV vaccine is given a year later, the antibodies from the first vaccine neutralize the antigens of the second vaccine and there is little or no effect. The titer is not 'boosted' nor are more memory cells induced.

"Not only are annual boosters for parvo and distemper unnecessary, they subject the pet to potential risks of allergic reactions and immune-mediated hemolytic anemia. There is no scientific documentation to back up label claims for annual administration of MLV vaccines. Puppies receive antibodies through their mother's milk. This natural protection can last 8-14 weeks.

Puppies and kittens should NOT be vaccinated at LESS than 6 weeks.

Maternal immunity will neutralize the vaccine and little protection (0-38%) will be produced.

A series of vaccinations is given starting at 6 weeks and given 2-4 weeks apart up to 16 weeks of age. Another vaccination given sometime after 6 months of age (usually at 1 year 4 months) will provide lifetime immunity."

1. Rabies: This is the only vaccination required by law and must be given by your vet at 16 weeks. Talk with your vet about how to get the three-year booster.
2. Worming: The puppies were checked for worms at six weeks.. Thereafter, worm him as necessary.
3. We give a Galaxy DA2PPv vaccination for parvo, distemper, adenovirus type2, and parainfluenza to the puppies at 6 and 8 weeks. Afterwards these become the responsibility of the Buyer at 12 weeks and at 16 weeks along with his first rabies.
4. Giardia: Almost all Rocky Mountain streams have giardia. You'll do well to get your puppy a vaccination and boosters before you take him on hikes.

B. TEETH

1. Use Petrodent or C.E.T. dog toothpaste daily. Most dogs have to learn to tolerate brushing, but if you start out by getting him used to the routine and not being too concerned at first with a perfect job, he'll adjust to the process. Good dental hygiene will add a couple of years to your Berner's healthy life.
2. Finger brush. These come together in a kit or separately.
3. Crest Spin-brush Pro: my dogs love these because you hardly have to touch the teeth for the brush to work.
4. C.E.T. Dental Rinse: this removes or softens plaque between brushing.
5. I think CET dental products are great.

C. EARS

1. Use Ear wash such as ChlorHexaderm or Oticalm. If used weekly, this will help prevent debris buildup and infections. Fill the ear with the solution, massage the ear canal below the ear itself, and then wipe out the ear with cotton balls. He won't be nuts about the process, but he'll thank you with his healthy ears.
2. If your dog continually flaps his ears and scratches at them, they may be needing attention. Smell the ear – a healthy ear will have very little odor; a mildewed ear will smell sour. Reddish-brown exude is a yeast infection – it won't get better by itself!
3. Durafilm Otic Suspension. A triple antibiotic/cortisone lotion for ear infections. Get it from your vet.

4. Otimax. An antibiotic/cortisone ointment for ear infections. A little goes a long way. Get it from your vet.

D. EYES

1. Get an eyewash solution such as Clear Eyes. If you notice your dog's eyes are goopy or red, wash them with a few drops; that should solve it.

2. Durafilm ophthalmic solution. Get it from your vet -- it's the best infection fighter and doesn't leave a greasy ring around the eyes. But beware: it has steroid in it and shouldn't be over-used. (I've heard that over-use can contribute to the development of cataracts.)

E. GENERAL

1. Hydrogen peroxide for cleaning wounds
2. Betadyne solution for cleaning and disinfecting wounds.
3. Triple antibiotic ointment for wound care.
4. New Skin for scrapes and punctures (that are clean).
5. Hemorrhoid ointment to help bring hair back to callused elbows.
6. Vets have new products for skin infections.
7. The entire line of Microtek products are great for skin/hair cleaning

HOUSETRAINING

A. SLEEPING

Make him sleep in a crate at night. Put newspaper in it, so if he goes to the bathroom, it will soak up and not get all over him.

He will cry for a few nights and be generally stressed out. This is not a happy time for him, but it is normal. He's missing his littermates and needs to transfer his affections to your family as his new "pack." We make our puppies stay in the crate all night, but not during the day unless we have an emergency that prevents us from monitoring him.

B. HOUSEBREAKING

Your puppy will probably be a mess for a few days. Be patient, and DON'T punish him for going to the bathroom in inappropriate places. Clean up after him, take him outside every 45 minutes or so and tell him to "do his stuff," praise him when he is successful.

It is helpful to take him to the same place in the yard each time. That way, he will get to know that this is the right place to go. Dogs need time to sniff and roam around before their bodies are stimulated to go to the bathroom. Stay with him if you can, so that you can praise him for a job well done. That way, he'll know when he's pleased you.

C. VERY IMPORTANT: PICK UP STOOLS EACH TIME HE GOES, or at least once daily. Dogs will sometimes eat them if they feel hungry. It's a bad habit, easy to start and hard to stop. Picking up regularly is the only way I've ever been able to put a stop to it.

C. CHEWING

Your puppy needs to chew. Old socks tied in a knot and baby toys that won't break: e.g., teething rings, rattles, squeakers, bells make great toys. If you don't want him to have it, don't leave it where the puppy can reach it!! He will want to chew anything with your scent. That includes phones, TV remotes, books, slippers, underwear, socks, plastic bags, newspapers, etc., etc. When we catch them chewing our stuff, we say, "That's not yours," take the offended object from him, reward him for giving it up with a "good dog" and a throat tickle; and then give him something chewably acceptable.

TRAINING & GENERAL INFO:

A. PACK LEADERSHIP

To raise a well-adjusted dog, who worships the ground you walk on, remember these principles:

You must control

- 1) food (when, where, how much)
- 2) where he sleeps
- 3) ingress and egress through doors and gates
- 4) boundaries
- 5) toys (They are **your** toys; he plays with them by permission) It's best not to leave out small toys he can swallow or rip apart.

B. REFERENCES

The following books have been invaluable to me. You will also learn a lot more and have many of your questions answered as you attend puppy kindergarten class.

HOW TO RAISE A PUPPY YOU CAN LIVE WITH, by Rutherford and Neil (Alpine). This book offers excellent guidelines for training any puppy in basic house and leash manners.

DOG TRAINING MADE EASY, by Michael Tucker (Howell)

THE NEW BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG, by Sharon Chesnutt Smith

Tips for bite training, exercise, general: <http://www.softcom.net/users/april/tips.htm>
and <http://www.loriendell.com/page002WhatisaBMD.html>

LAST WORDS

*Be patient; **love your puppy**; have compassion on him. He's entering a whole new world and has left everything familiar behind. It is totally normal for him to be very upset about leaving his brothers and sisters and birth-home. He'll cry and whine and howl, but it is his nature to turn to you eventually for comfort and companionship.*

Be there when he does.

DON'T FORGET:

I'm as close as a phone call away;

and

I love to talk about puppies and dogs

-- especially yours!

CALL (719)687-0270 or EMAIL (loriendell@hotmail.com)
IF YOU NEED TO TALK!

Yours in Bernerlove,

Lynn

MOST OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PRODUCTS CAN BE PURCHASED
at www.kvet.com and www.revivalanimal.com

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