

Hello New (or Potential) Owner of a Bernedoodle:

For those that are getting one of my pups, I just want to share more information that may not have been spoken about owning a Bernedoodle/puppy. I do these breeding's because I love the Bernese Mountain Dog and the positive energy involved in raising the puppies. They are a lot of work and I take pride in all the attention paid to them. Prior to these doodles, I bred Bernese for 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. Both the sire and dam have been genetically tested and with this F1 cross breeding, I will hope for pups to be with you many years. They should not shed much but you may be able to get some hair out when you brush them. I am passionate about the mother(s) and the hardships she goes through in order to share her puppies with you and me.

Choosing a puppy - is on a first come first served basis 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 4 weeks, families can come to the house to visit the pups weekly. 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 – About 6 months when you get the rabies vaccine (after all their initial ones, ) 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 her back yard 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 the flyers, there she was, sitting on her front porch. I keep those flyers in the event it could happen again. I'm just suggesting, that you have a plan, in the event something happens or even a pre-made flyer – time is of the essence. (My brother would always sign-off with me to lock the front door, for me to you, keep the gate latched.

**Professional Training And For Communication With Them** – Use single words when possible and have the whole family use the same words. Schedule on or before pick-up, a training class or a personal trainer and have the whole family participate.

**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 to 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 they are in the act. Once they are done going, reward them with "good potty" and give them a pet. Watch your excitement level (always) because the poodleside of them might get overly excited. 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. For poo, if you want them to poo in a certain area outside or on a tray inside, pick up a fresh poo and set it there. Within their environment, dogs always want to go potty or poo where they have gone before.

**Teething** - Until they lose their baby teeth at about 4/5 months, they will want to chew or at least mouth anything and everything. Some of the best toys during teething are kitchen utensils – hard plastic spatulas, plastic spaghetti grabbers, plastic water bottles etc. But 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. Be consistent and be ahead of them.

**Food** – Currently I am using Costco Lamb and for Mom's a bit of the Turkey. Don't buy grain-free foods, they need that fiber. On your vet's recommendation or at least for the first 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. Preferably around 23% if you are giving them treats or other forms of protein. When you change foods, do it gradually. But watch the protein level that the dog is given daily otherwise diarrhea or loose stools will result.

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, shredded carrots and a probiotic ("Doggie Dailes" when they are a puppy). Other supplements for a strong healthy coat and good overall glandular health are Fish Oil (at 6 months 1 pill and at 1 year 1- 2 pills daily thereafter – I give at night). One I use in the morning is Solid Gold Seameal which is a dry supplement sprinkled on the food.

**Diarrhea Bland Diet** – Sometimes you may need to switch to a bland or soft diet for diarrhea. For me, it consists of foods that are easy to digest, are soothing to the digestive system and contain ingredients that help them restore a solid stool. It is a boiled lean meat such as chicken, hamburger or turkey; a starch such as cooked white rice or sweet potato and maybe a teaspoon of cottage cheese. Also, a tablespoon of pumpkin is really good and get the type that is 100% pumpkin without sugar. I'll send you home with a month of probiotics but they are also good to have on hand.

**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 when they go out and pick it up immediately. If you can't watch them trying using the command "ICKY or YUCK" right after they are finished.

**Bones** - (Raw only – never, never cooked), Teeth and Treats - My favorite daily treat when leaving them behind and walking out the door is just a couple of kibbles. 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. Always the important thing about bones is to monitor them. One puppy about 8 years ago swallowed the bone and they had to take her to the vet to throw it up. 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 few shredded carrots 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 (Petrodex) to brush their teeth (just the outside onto the inside of their mouth. 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. The dosage needs to be determined by a doctor. Because you want to catch it quickly before it goes further in their system and causes a blockage. One last thing about marrow bones. The ones I buy (at Safeway) come in a pack of 6 or 8. When they have emptied it out, I put it in the dishwasher first then make a puppy puppy cocktail of shredded carrots or broccoli, 1 probiotic, kibble, and a ½ a tablespoon of peanut butter. I pack it in there and freeze them.

**Anxiety?** - (New subject from one pup that went to a vet in the Tri Cities) – 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 opportunity 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. 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 they are through their vaccinations (and afterwards), you are welcome to return to the house for scheduled Play Days. It gives the parents the opportunity to chat and the pups will have the whole yard to run in with their siblings. These are held the 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> weeks typically on a Saturday at about 10:30 am. .

**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 2nd at 12 weeks and the 3rd at 16 weeks. If you are near me, I would ask that you take them to Happy Animals Animal Hospital in Renton. If not, I like to give just DAH2PP vaccine = Distemper, Adenovirus, Hepatitis, Parvo and Para influenza. After these vaccinations, the protocol is annual boosters thereafter. Please be leery about

additional vaccines through their life. If you don't want to vaccinate, still have a titer test done. This test their immunity of the DAHP. Rabies should never be given on top of any other health issue including vaccine. Again, taxing the immune system. 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.

**Bordetella vaccine for Kennel Cough** - 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 (the 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 may want to have your dog boarded, the kennel will require this vaccine.

**Leptospirosis vaccine** - Please, please never give this vaccine to your dog. It is not inherent to our region yet do not let your dog drink out of mud puddles where bugs may have been. Their water should always be available and changed daily..... Long story (maybe the vaccine is better and safer now), but I was about 10 minutes away from losing a dog to this vaccine. After any vaccine watch your dog and make sure you do not witness any swell of their face.

**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:

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)** - Early training on your part is strongly advised. The pup 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. One person leashed the puppy to the bed and once the puppy stirred, because it won't want to potty where it is sleeping, it stirred the owner awake to take them outside. If you get up and potty take them first. If left alone and away from you may expect a lot of crying until

they are older. Once fed and gone poo and potty, they general will sleep for a couple of hours. If you can, take them with you. They want to be where you are. If in the car, have a crate for them.

**Brushing, Bathing, Blowing and Trimming** - With Bernedoodles one should expect mild shedding yet they will need to be trimmed about every 4 months or so. When you find a groomer and the cut you like, when you leave their shop, book your next appointment (groomers are hard to get into). 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 day. I'll put the blower's hose close to their skin otherwise it may mat 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 fully 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 training (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.

**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. Be happy but be calm. My best friend's wife, is always excited and very goo goo poo and. You can turn your 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 procedure but check. If you choose to trim them on your own, make sure you also have the quickstop in case you cut too short. There was a tool one of the recent family got that allowed her to trim and collect it at the same time - I don't remember what is called.

**Deadly Things For Your Dog Are The Following** - Avocado, chocolate, grapes, 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 puke 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 size of both the Bernese anernese and their size but I will be very interested to know how yours finish (grow-up).

**Annual Reunion** – In the summer I will invite you back for a reunion of all the litters. Please come if you are available.

**Summary** – Until after their last vaccination, they should not go to a dog park or anywhere where a lot of dogs have been. Microchip at 6 months with rabies. 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).