



Mr. Thomas Brown



I began my search in 1985 for a Bernese Mt. Dog, a year later in 1986 I acquired CH Dogwoods Joshua V. Hillbilly. Josh a fun loving dog and devoted companion became the foundation of Dogwood Swiss Mt. Dogs. From this humble beginning Dogwood Swiss Mt. Dogs emerged; creating a lasting affect on me, and the sport of purebred dogs offering the opportunity to be involved with Conformation and Obedience showing, the start of a breeding program of many champions of the ring and those of the pet community. The experience also provided a knowledge base for the trials and tribulation along with highs of the Bernese Mt Dog, this knowledge base has proved to be a strong imprint and the basis for what has now become a new chapter in the dog world for me; judging the Bernese Mt. Dog.

In 2005 many years after my start and just a few years after the loss of another personal great, CH Dogwoods Southern Greystone (Grady), I delved into the world of AKC Conformation Judging. With the loss of Grady I decided to offer assistance to the breed through promoting quality in a different venue than breeding and showing, and become a breeder advocate of the standard and quality through awarding and promoting what I feel the direction the Bernese Mt. Dog should aspire to.

I look for a well balanced large bone dog with soft expression and a pleasing sentiment; one that appears to display an unwavering commitment to owner or handler in devotion and confidence. Strength in movement is one of most important attributes for me, demonstrating agility in motion through front and rear movement with effortless might. These, in addition to the approved AKC standard with particulars, make up the ideal Bernese Mt. Dog. Though the perfect dog has yet to be born, our interpretation of the standard and the commitment to our breeders will bring the impossible closer to the truth. It is my goal as an AKC Judge to award and promote quality to those dogs and breeders that best follow and conform to our breed standard.

I am honored to be on the ballot for the 2008 National and feel a sense of pride with the underlying accomplishment of coming full circle from my novice beginning in 1985 to the possibility of judging the National Specialty in 2008.