

# BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF AMERICA

## TOP TWENTY COMPETITION BY LAWS

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) offers a Top Twenty event to showcase excellence in the Bernese Mountain Dog. This event is an optional part of the BMDCA National Specialty and serves many purposes. It offers education for breeders, exhibitors, fanciers and judges. The event offers all who attend a chance to view the cream of the crop in competitive standings from the previous calendar year. Using a scale of points, each dog is evaluated according to how closely it conforms to the BMDCA breed standard. This process is not available at any regular AKC show and allows the spectators an opportunity to evaluate the dogs while scoring them at the same time they are being judged. The event is educational and promotes discussions of the standard. It provides spectators with an opportunity to see how individual views can produce a consensus decision. This event provides special recognition to those Bernese Mountain Dogs with the most outstanding records as well as their breeders, owners and handlers. The Top Twenty event provides an incentive for breeders to strive for Bernese Mountain Dogs excelling in conformation, movement, structure and temperament.

### **Statistics and Eligibility-**

1. Named among the final Top Twenty Bernese in conformation competition for Breed and/or Group points for the previous calendar year.
  
2. Standings are based on Breed and/or Group point wins as published in the AKC Awards publication for System I and System II for the period beginning Jan 1 and ending Dec 31 of the previous calendar year.
  
3. The Top Twenty Committee compiles the statistics as published in the AKC Awards or acquires these statistics directly from AKC at the end of the competition year.
  
4. All owners and co-owners of the finalists must be in good standing with the AKC at the time the invitations are extended, as well as at the time of the event.
  
5. All owners and co-owners participating agree to abide by any and all rules as they may become effective through authorization of the BMDCA Board of Directors as they concern the finalists' participation in the event. Failure to do so may revoke the privilege of future participation, regardless of eligibility.
  
6. Spayed bitches or neutered dogs that have been named among the final Top Twenty Bernese Mountain Dogs may compete in the event.
  
7. There will be three judges for this event a Breeder judge an AKC judge and a Wild Card judge. They will be selected by a sub committee of the Top Twenty Committee that are not actively campaigning a dog during the calendar year of competition. The judges identity will be kept private until the day of the event.
  
8. Invitations –
  - a. Each owner of a Top Twenty Finalist will be sent an invitation to participate in this event no later than 2 months prior to the Top Twenty competition at the National Specialty.
  
  - b. Included in the Invitation packet are:
    - i. Formal Invitation
  
    - ii. The Top Twenty Event: Rules & Eligibility

iii. Judging the Top Twenty Invitational: Procedures for Conformational Evaluation & Scoring

iv. Sequence of Events in the Ring

v. Score Sheet

vi. Catalog Advertisement Form

vii. Entry Form

viii. Instructional information relative to music selection

9. Trophies and Rosettes

a. Each Top 20 Participant will receive a Top 20 Rosette embossed with the dogs name on it.

b. Winner of the Top Twenty will receive a check in the amount of \$500.00.

10. Procedures:

a. Entrants and handlers will only be allowed to compete if the owner or agent attends the briefing held at a private location to be determined by the Top Twenty Committee for the purposes of:

i. Checking in with the Top Twenty Committee

ii. Receiving an armband

iii. Receiving the order in which the participants will enter the ring.

iv. Informing the owner or agent that they are responsible for cleaning up after their dog during this event.

v. At least one representative of the entrant will be present at this meeting.

vi. All participants will be given instructions regarding when to be ringside, where to wait, and specific ring/judging procedures.

vii. Attire for the Top Twenty. This event is considered to be a formal event and as such formal, black tie and gala type attire is absolutely encouraged to be worn at the event, both by attendees and handlers. Costuming or props of any kind, but not limited to, anything worn on the dog are prohibited. There shall be NO extraneous props for the handler, as well. This event is about showcasing the dogs and their road to this prestigious Top Twenty event. The dogs themselves should be showcased alone in a manner similar to any other AKC conformation event.

b. Scoring

i. Each entrant will be judged/scored by each of the three judges on a separate score sheet for each dog for each judge.

ii. Score sheets (attached) will be Bernese Mountain Dog Standard specific (AKC approved Bernese Mountain Dog Standard).

iii. Each entrant will be scored individually, by each of the judges, towards a maximum score of 100 points

- iv. After all entrants have been individually scored, all entrants will be brought into the ring together.
- iv. For purposes of a tie breaker, each judge will provide an overall impression scoring based upon a 1 to 5 range.
- v. Scores will be tallied by volunteers selected by the Top Twenty Committee.
- vi. The highest total scoring dog will be designated the winner of the Top Twenty event.
- vii. In case of a tie for first place the dog with the most combined group points will be designated the winner.