

Draft 101

Jack Crifasi

Monday April 28 12:00-2:00p.m.

Anxious to get started drafting with your Berner? This beginner session is for you! This is a practical workshop, with a class discussion followed by hands-on training. We will discuss the basics: proper harnessing, cart sizing, hitching, control and maneuvering. Then our plan is to move outside (weather permitting!) and go through the "Seven Step Plan for Beginners": harness up, pull drawboard, pull sled, control with commands, get in shafts, hitch to cart, pull cart. This is an applied training workshop, so bring your well-mannered Berner (at least 1 year old for working spots) to the class. Dogs need to always be under leash control. Due to limited gear, the first ten teams to sign up can participate in the hands-on training.

Jack and his Berners have achieved many draft titles in all-breed tests conducted by the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, and he loves sharing his draft training techniques in his popular workshops and demonstrations. He excels at introducing students and their dogs to draft work techniques with an emphasis on dog safety and control, and developing a happy, trusting and fun-filled handler-dog relationship. Limited sizes of draft equipment are provided for working spots, so please bring your own harness rig if you have one for your dog.