



2019 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES ©

MONDAY 9-11 AM

LIFELONG STRENGTH AND MOBILITY JULIA TOMLINSON DVM

Among the several seminars and workshops focusing on senior Berners, this seminar will offer tips for keeping your dog mobile and strong for a lifetime. Dr. Tomlinson will lead a discussion of proactive tactics to help you maximize strength and mobility, and how to recognize signs of concern throughout life, specifically focusing on the musculoskeletal and nervous system.

Dr. Tomlinson is a board certified specialist in rehabilitation and sports medicine (Diplomate, ACVSMR). She earned her veterinary degree from the University of Liverpool, England and her PhD in physiology from North Carolina State University, where she studied pain medications. She is also a Certified Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapist (animal 'chiropractic' equivalent). Dr. Tomlinson is the founder of the American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians and is an active member of the Canine Sports Medicine Association and the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management. She has lectured locally and nationally with audiences ranging from owners and trainers to veterinarians and is a consultant in musculoskeletal wellness for the pet food industry. She owns Twin Cities Animal Rehabilitation + Sports Medicine Clinic which treats family, sporting, and working dogs from all over the Midwest.

WHY DIDN'T MY BITCH GET PREGNANT? MARTINA GREER DVM

Oh, the challenges of breeding Berners!!! There are three categories of reasons a bitch fails to produce a successful litter: 1. Failure of successful semen delivery, 2. Failure of conception and 3. Failure to complete a successful pregnancy. Both the female and male Bernese Mountain Dog face challenges with fertility. What can we do differently to improve fertility? New breeders and those with many litters to their credit will all learn from Dr. Greer, a long-time friend and generous source of wisdom for our community.

Dr. Greer received her DVM in 1981 from Iowa State University in Ames Iowa. In 1982, she established the Brownsville/Lomira Small Animal Clinic. In 2010, she graduated from Marquette Law School. She practices law part-time with her law partner, Attorney Sheila Kessler, at Animal Legal Resources LLC. She is president of the [National Animal Interest Alliance](#). She is the author of Canine Reproduction and Neonatology, a contemporary book on the practical aspects of breeding and raising healthy dogs. Dr. Greer raises and shows Pembroke Welsh Corgis and Danish Swedish Farmdogs, her daughter, Katy, showed and bred Berners. Their family has raised 6 puppies for Canine Companions for Independence, a service dog organization.

SILVER MUZZLE SENSATIONS SHARON MIDDENDORF

Silver Muzzle Sensations is all about maintaining enrichment for our senior dogs. Our older canine companions need to stay active as they age to stay healthy and mentally vital. This workshop is interactive, you will play a variety of physically appropriate activities and mentally stimulating games with your dog, one dog at a time. Group discussions around senior enrichment will be interwoven throughout the session. You will leave with fun, simple ideas to help maintain an enriched life for your senior dog and a better understanding that our silver muzzle sensations are never too old to have fun.

Sharon has been training dogs in a variety of dog sports since 2002. She began as an agility instructor and achieved a National CPE Agility title with her Border Collie mix, Izzy. She has been teaching nose work since 2010 and is a Certified K9 Nose Work™ instructor and an AKC Scent Work judge. Sharon teaches tracking, facilitates classes in Barn Hunt and Dock Diving and is a Tier Two WAGS instructor. She is a graduate of the ITC: Teaching and Training behavioral course. She is passionate about enrichment in general and particularly for senior dogs and the lessons they teach us, and she developed one of the first Senior Enrichment Games classes in the nation. She is a guest blogger for the Animal Emergency and Referral Clinic in the Twin Cities and the operations manager at For The Love of Dogs, LLC, Mendota Height, MN.

MONDAY 12 NOON - 2 PM

CHRONIC PAIN: STEALING QUALITY OF LIFE IN OLDER ADULTS LISA PARSHLEY DVM

Chronic pain in later life is a problem for many senior dogs and can even cause personality changes that may make your aging Berner unrecognizable. Where's the joy? And the enthusiasm? How can you help when your Berner can't speak??? All older adult Berners should undergo a comprehensive pain assessment that will be able to guide your veterinarian's diagnosis and determine her selection of treatments. Whatever the underlying problem, both drug and non-drug modalities might be recommended. Dr. Parshley, a frequent and generous mentor to Berner U students, will explain how to help your beloved veteran.

Dr. Parshley received a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Oregon Health Sciences University in 1994. After working for almost 5 years in basic biomedical research, she pursued a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from Colorado State University. Once she received her DVM, she completed a small animal internship at Cornell University and an Oncology residency with Dr. Barbara Kitchell at Michigan State University. She has been awarded a specialty certification in oncology from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Dr. Parshley also has extensive experience in emergency medicine (her other love), critical care, and palliative medicine. Lisa spent her summers growing up in the Puget Sound area and is delighted to have finally achieved her dream: Olympia Veterinary Cancer Center in Olympia Washington.

EUROPEAN-STYLE SIEGER EVALUATIONS DENISE DEAN

Denise, a respected and experienced Berner breeder judge, has offered to evaluate your Berner in the European manner. Denise will closely observe and evaluate over 30 different conformation characteristics while the dog stands in a relaxed, natural pose and then is gaited down and back. She will then give an oral critique of the dog to you and all the observing Berner U students. You will also receive a written, signed evaluation of conformation and if your dog receives an "Excellent" rating, a Sieger certificate. Questions and discussion are encouraged so please speak up. Everyone is welcome to come and observe without prior registration.

Denise has frequently taught both the AKC BMD Standard and the Sieger Evaluation class at Berner U. She is thrilled to be able to do the Sieger Evaluations again because she has completely enjoyed doing this in the past and hopes to make it a great learning experience for everyone involved. Denise has had Berners since 1979 and was fortunate enough to Judge the National in 2011. Berners are her passion and she enjoys every aspect of sharing her life with them. As an AKC judge, she now judges the Working and Herding groups and most of Non-Sporting.

MONDAY 3-5 PM

BMDCA BREEDER SYMPOSIUM OPEN TO ALL

THE NEW BMDCA ILLUSTRATED BREED STANDARD REVISION DEBORAH WILKINS

“First things first” at Berner U means “Know the Standard”. This seminar will cover the basic information about Bernese using the *new* BMDCA Illustrated Standard. Preview the beautiful illustrations and the excellent photographs that give meaning to the words describing the ideal Bernese Mountain Dog. Discussion will provide an opportunity to explore the purpose and educational value of an illustrated breed standard as it applies to judges, Bernese Mountain Dog breeders and fanciers.

Deborah has been a member of the BMDCA since 1988. She served on the Board of Directors and is currently chair of the Judges Education Committee. As an AKC judge since 2001 Deborah is approved to judge the Working Group, 15 Terrier Breeds, Australian Shepherds, and all breed Junior Showmanship. She has served as the AKC Delegate for the St. Croix Valley Kennel Club, is a founding member Bernese Mountain Dog Club of the Greater Twin Cities, a founding member of the Northstar Working Group Association and a current member of the Corpus Christi Kennel Club. She is an active member of several national judges’ organizations and has the expertise and experience to discuss the exciting new Standard with Berner U students.

HISTIOCYTIC SARCOMA & LYMPHOMA: CAUSES & THERAPIES LISA PARSHLEY DVM

Cancer kills 80% of Bernese so understanding both the causes and the remedies is part of our core curriculum as owners. Despite numerous treatment protocols, we continue to lose a significant number of Bernese specifically to Histi and Lymphoma. Veterinary oncologist, Berner owner and previous Berner U faculty member, Dr. Parshley will cover everything you need to know about the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of these common cancers.

Dr. Parshley received a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Oregon Health Sciences University in 1994. After working for almost 5 years in basic biomedical research, she pursued a doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from Colorado State University. After receiving her DVM, she completed a small animal internship at Cornell University and an Oncology residency with Dr. Barbara Kitchell at Michigan State University. She has been awarded a specialty certification in oncology from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Dr. Parshley also has extensive experience in emergency medicine (her other love), critical care, and palliative medicine. Lisa spent her summers growing up in the Puget Sound area and is delighted to have finally achieved her dream of an Oncology clinic in Olympia Washington, the Olympia Veterinary Cancer Center.

TUESDAY 9-11 AM

MYTHS & REALITIES OF CANINE CANCER THERAPY ANTONELLA BORGATTI DVM, ERIN DICKERSON PHD & JESSICA LAWRENCE DVM

Cancer awakens myriad feelings and fears in owners that may lead them to seek out information from online resources rife with misinformation. Believing Dr. Google can lead to a delayed cancer diagnosis and affect treatment decisions. Veterinarians play a crucial role in addressing and dispelling false information related to cancer in their patients and must be ready to set owners straight about top misconceptions about cancer in pets. The Berner community is blessed with accomplished veterinary researchers who devote their professional lives searching for cures to the many cancers. Drs. Dickerson, Borgatti and Lawrence will discuss the principles of therapy and explain how they choose a specific treatment using histiocytic sarcoma and lymphoma as examples. They will separate fact from fiction as well as leave plenty of time for questions, hoping to generate a lively discussion about a difficult topic.

Dr. Dickerson is an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. She graduated with a BS in biochemistry from the University of California-Davis in 1989, and she received her PhD in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997. Dr. Dickerson then spent three years as a post-doctoral researcher and four years as an Assistant Scientist at the School of Veterinary Medicine in Madison developing targeted drug approaches to treat cancer. In 2005, she became an Associate Scientist at the Ovarian Cancer Institute, Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta Georgia where she worked with several groups to develop targeted nanoparticles as vehicles to deliver drugs to cancer cells. In 2009, Dr. Dickerson joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota and the Masonic Cancer Center. Her research laboratory at the Masonic Cancer Center focuses on the development of drug resistance by cancer cells and the creation of new strategies to overcome this problem in cancer patients. She has also spent the past decade developing a research program devoted to studying canine hemangiosarcoma, and her group is working on new approaches to treat this disease.

Dr. Borgatti is Associate Professor of Oncology at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center. She graduated CUM LAUDE from the University of Torino, Italy. After three years in general practice, she received a scholarship to pursue specialized training in oncology at North Carolina State University where she subsequently remained as a Research Associate, Oncology Intern, and Clinical Instructor in Oncology. She completed a Residency in Comparative Oncology at Purdue University where she also received a Master of Sciences Degree in 2006. Dr. Borgatti became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Oncology) in 2006 and a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in 2007. She worked at a specialty referral hospital in North Carolina for two years before joining the faculty at the University of Minnesota in 2008. She is also a Member of the Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota and Director of the Oncology residency program.

Dr. Lawrence joined the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 2016 as an Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology. She earned her DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College and completed advanced training in radiation and medical oncology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to joining the CVM, Dr. Lawrence spent 3 years as an Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Georgia before spending 3.5 years as the Head of Oncology at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Lawrence is a clinician researcher with a strong interest in comparative oncology, which aims to better understand the pathobiology, diagnosis and treatment of human and animal cancer. She is particularly interested in finding new ways to improve radiation killing of cancer cells while limiting radiation-induced injury to nearby normal tissue that may result in treatment-related complications, such as acute radiation inflammation and organ fibrosis.

HOW THINGS WORK: IMMUNITY, VACCINE & TITERS NANCY MELONE PHD

This presentation explains in lay terms the various components that work together to protect dogs from harmful disease-causing pathogens, including the immune system, vaccines and acquired immunity. The presentation does not get into debates about vaccinations, although it will explain how “herd immunity” depends on a large number of dogs who have acquired immunity either by vaccination or by getting the disease and surviving it. We also address the topic of titers – what they are, what they tell you, and what they do not tell you. We end by speculating on why some vets do not promote titers as much as their clients might like. The answers might surprise you.

Nancy's articles on canine health have earned numerous awards, including the Dog Writers Association of America's Maxwell Medallion, the Morris Animal Foundation Advances in Canine Veterinary Medicine Award, and the American Kennel Club Publication Communication Excellence Award. She owns and breeds Bernese Mountain Dogs under the name ThornCreek Reg'd. and Nederlandse Kooikerhondje under the name Eendenkooi. Nancy serves on the board of the Kooiker Club of the USA (Nederlandse Kooikerhondje) and was a former board member for The Berner-Garde Foundation, Inc. and Bernese Auction Rescue Coalition (BARC), Inc. She is editor emerita of the BMDCA's The Alpenhorn. Email: nancymelone@icloud.com

DRAFT DOGS 101 JACK CRIFASI

Anxious to get started in drafting with your Berner? This beginner session is for you! This is a hands-on workshop, with a class discussion followed by outside 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 dragboard, pull sled, control with commands, get in shafts, hitch to cart, pull cart. This is a hands-on training workshop, so bring your well-mannered Berner to the class! Dogs will be under leash control at all times. 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.

TUESDAY 12 NOON- 2PM

COMPARATIVE ONCOLOGY & THE ANIMAL CARE & RESEARCH CENTER ANTONELLA BORGATTI DVM, ERIN DICKERSON PHD & JESSICA LAWRENCE DVM

Come learn the mission of comparative oncology as it pertains to the Animal Cancer Care and Research Center (ACCR) and hear three knowledgeable professional cancer researchers describe some of the recent and current trials they have participated in. They will highlight the value of a Berner owner's support for trials and explain how they try to ensure that owners understand what is involved in a trial. Drs. Borgatti, Dickerson and Lawrence will also describe their vision for the future.

Dr. Dickerson is an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. She graduated with a BS in biochemistry from the University of California-Davis in 1989, and she received her PhD in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997. Dr. Dickerson then spent three years as a post-doctoral researcher and four years as an Assistant Scientist at the School of Veterinary Medicine in Madison, developing targeted drug approaches to treat cancer. In 2005, she became an Associate Scientist at the Ovarian Cancer Institute, Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta Georgia where she worked with several groups to develop targeted nanoparticles as vehicles to deliver drugs to cancer cells. In 2009, Dr. Dickerson joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota and the Masonic Cancer Center. Her research laboratory at the Masonic Cancer Center focuses on the development of drug resistance by cancer cells and the creation of new strategies to overcome this problem in cancer patients. She has also spent the past decade developing a research program devoted to studying canine hemangiosarcoma, and her group is working on new approaches to treat this disease.

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THE BENEFITS FOR BERNERS OF VETERINARY CHIROPRACTIC MICKY TRENT DVM

Veterinary chiropractic is the practice of spinal manipulation. Athletic Berners who enjoy draft, agility and obedience are ideal candidates. Senior Berners with hip dysplasia, cervical instability, acute neck pain, intervertebral disk disease, autonomic nervous system problems such as urinary and fecal incontinence and chronic back and neck pain can all benefit. Unusual for alternative modalities in veterinary medicine, chiropractic often provides immediate results!

Dr. Trent is a certified veterinary chiropractor and worked with small animals in that capacity. She has owned and loved Berners for years and is a Board Certified Large Animal Surgeon which includes years of training and experience with evaluation of lameness and gait abnormalities. She chose to pursue chiropractic training after seeing how much it improved her own dogs in comparison to traditional veterinary approaches. Dr. Trent, currently an Associate Professor, teaches at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Veterinary Population Medicine and is also a Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons. She has received the Merck AgVet Award for Creativity in Teaching (1995) and the Presidential Service Award (10/9/03) from the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians among many other honors.

WARM UP, COOL DOWN & RUJUVENATION MASSAGE ROUTINES CINDY FISCHER CSMT/ESMT

This Massage workshop focuses on muscle health for the working Berner veteran. Routine fitness activities such as hiking as well as performance sports like agility and herding require owners to think of how to approach both warm up and cool down routines. Rejuvenation massage routines for working and aging dogs are particularly important as they keep the older Berner mobile. Couch potatoes benefit as well! While the floor is carpeted you may want to bring a yoga mat to this workshop for your dog's comfort.

Cindy was certified in Equine and Canine Sports massage through Equissage in Round Hill, Virginia. Her nursing background has given her the knowledge of physiology along with anatomy, biomechanics and many other skills, which assist her in her practice today. In 1999, Cindy retired from nursing to practice equine and canine massage, acupressure and holistic care exclusively along with advocating for animal and owner. She opened the school of Supreme Motion where she taught Canine and Equine Sports Massage and Acupressure. Cindy is also a Reiki Master Teacher. She has given clinics and lectures in sports massage, acupressure, nutrition, fitness both locally and internationally and continues to offer teaching and clinics in these areas. Cindy has spent 30 years training and showing horses, competing in equine distance endurance racing where competitions took her up to 100 miles at a time. She has also trained and competed in marathon sled dog racing which took her up to 500 miles at a time and qualified her for the prestigious Iditarod Sled Dog Race in Alaska. She and her German Shepherd Dog, Journey, have been certified as a Search and Rescue team and she is currently training Journey's son, Thor, as a Search and Rescue partner. She also enjoys hanging with her retired Jack Russell Terrier, Piper, who has competed in flat racing, steeple chasing, barn hunt, go to ground and lure coursing.

TUESDAY 3-5 PM

THE TRANSFORMATIVE TRIFECTA: END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS, END-OF-LIFE-CARE AND LIVING WITH LOSS & GRIEF MARY-ANN BOWMAN, PhD

When our beloved dog begins that final mile of her journey, it typically and understandably precipitates an emotional crisis – how could it not? But when we are in crisis it can be difficult to learn what we need to know in order to engage with the hard decisions that may need to be made, to choose the best caring option(s), and/or to navigate the all-encompassing grief. Advanced Care Planning is not just for humans! In this participatory and interactive Berner U session, Dr. Sontag Bowman brings together her unique professional expertise and her experience and reflections about Life with Dogs to invite participants to think about the related processes of End-of-Life Decision-making, End-of-Life Care, and Living with Loss and Grief. In doing so, participants will gain critical knowledge and skills to inform future end-of-life experiences with their dogs, and to better support others who may be walking their final mile with a dog they love so very much.

Dr. Mary-Ann Sontag Bowman is an Associate Professor at the University of Montana where she specializes in issues related to loss and grief. She has long combined her expertise in dogs with her professional interests, including conducting a large study that gathered data from thousands of individuals about the death of a beloved dog and the grief that followed. A recent book chapter reflects her ongoing mental collaboration between professional expertise and reflections about Life with Dogs; the chapter, published in 2018, is titled "Final gifts: Lessons children can learn from dogs about end-of-life, loss, and grief." Mary-Ann has lived with Bernese Mountain Dogs since 1994, and her Kaibab Berners reflect generations of BMDCA Versatility Dogs, consistently excelling in performance events while also maintaining fidelity to the Breed Standard. She is currently on Sabbatical engaged in yet another study involving loss and grief, and also having fun training and showing her well-loved Berners: Harper, Sparkle, Daisy, and Claire.

RESCUE 24/7 KATHY DEYO & AMY KESSLER

RESCUE 24/7 will be a presentation of how rescuing Bernese is accomplished by the national club, the regional clubs and independent rescues such as BARC. We'll review all aspects of running a Bernese rescue committee: working with shelters, finding evaluators we can trust, identifying strategies for both supporting owners and for removing the dogs, attending to legal concerns, evaluating behavioral issues, finding foster homes, finding volunteer transporters, funding the program, using the web to locate and interview potential families - all with the goal of finding forever homes for dogs in need. The discussion will enable you to become more aware of the process and, perhaps, find a way to participate. Anyone curious about rescue is welcome to come without prior registration.

Kathy has been blessed with Bernese since 1986 and has bred five generations of Bernese under the Hapi Mtn kennel name. She joined the BMDCA in 1987, served on the BMDCA board in 2001-2002 and again in 2007-2008, and became the BMDCA National Rescue & Rehome Coordinator in 2001 after helping with several Bernese rescue situations in her area. She currently shows in conformation, teaches obedience, showmanship and agility classes, works with 4-H kids, and just enjoys her dogs including Spam, a 3-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier. She continues to compete and also performs with the family entertainment group, The Superdogs.

Amy is the founder and president of the Bernese Auction Rescue Coalition. BARC, Inc. a non-profit corporation dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating Bernese Mountain Dogs from dog brokers, dog auctions, puppy mills, and any other dangerous, exploitative or abusive situation. BARC, Inc. places these dogs in loving pet homes as spayed or neutered companions. Amy received the BMDCA Outstanding Service Award in 2002 for her dedication and work rescuing Bernese and setting an example for all member breeders. She has had Berners since 1993 and breeds under the kennel name Lionheart.

OSTEOPATHIC MANIPULATION - Using the Rhythms of Life to Heal * & AUTOLOGOUS CANCER VACCINES - What You Need to Know. JEAN HOLLENSTEIN DVM

This presentation will cover several different rhythms the organs move to and why, and when they get disrupted, our pets do not move well. We will cover some important and common patterns to note and how to fix them. This portion of the class will take about 90 minutes. After a brief review the latest information on the use of autologous cancer vaccines, Dr. Hollenstein will explain what you, as the dog owner, need to understand BEFORE taking that tumor out! About 30 minutes will be allotted for this portion followed by time for questions and discussion.

Dr. Hollenstein has shared her life with Mia, her 13 year old Berner, since she was a puppy. Mia has been vital and healthy until recently. Two other lovely, amazing Berners, Candy and Remi, have been fortunate to live with her. She graduated from the UMN College of Veterinary Medicine in 1988 and considers herself a life-long-learner.

*** new and correct time***

