

PUPPY PACKETS - PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE OWNER'S MANUAL FOR THE PUPPIES YOU BREED

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DESCRIPTION - You've made careful decisions to place your puppies in good homes and you want the new families to have the information they will need to keep their puppies healthy, happy, safe, and learning to be a positive member of the family and community. How do you communicate all you have to teach them with the distraction of an adorable new puppy? A puppy packet is the owner's manual you send home with the puppy to serve as a helpful guide to implement all the things you've told them that they won't remember. An effective puppy packet is a useful reference for the puppy's lifetime. In this workshop we will present ideas for assembling great puppy packets, and ask participants to share their ideas, experiences, and examples.

PRESENTORS - Sandy has been a BMDCA and BMDCR member since 1994, and has attended and competed in nearly every National Specialty since 1995. She has owned and bred many champions, including two top producers. Sandy has owned, bred, and handled dogs that have been successful at the National Specialty level including, Reserve Winners Dog in 2003, Best of Opposite Sex in 2004, Reserve Winners Bitch and Best Bred-By-Exhibitor in 2005, and Best in Futurity and Best of Opposite in Futurity in 2011. Summit dogs have been successful in obedience, drafting, junior showmanship, agility, herding, and therapy work. Sandy enjoys mentoring new owners, handlers, and breeders. She has judged puppy and veteran sweeps at regional specialties, has served as the BMDCA Futurity Chairman since 1999, and was appointed by the BMDCA as a Judge Mentor.

Sharon adopted her first Bernese in 1997, a special needs puppy who did not live long, but touched many lives and left her passionate about Bernese Mountain Dogs. She waited a year for another puppy from the same dam and breeder. That puppy is now a 12.5 year-old retired champion and therapy dog, and the breeder, Sandy Dunaway, is Sharon's closest friend and mentor in all things Berner. Sharon was fortunate to welcome two more Berner girls bred by Sandy, one of which was Reserve Winner's Bitch and Best Bred-By Exhibitor at the 2005 National Specialty, and now the grandmother to three generations living with Sharon. She participates in multiple capacities with BMDCR and is Futurity Assistant for BMDCA. She has bred multiple litters.

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

I. Purposes of a Puppy Packet

- A. Place to keep important documents: registration, microchip, vaccination record, etc.
- B. Provide important health information pertinent to owning a BMD
- C. Provide emergency information such as poisoning control, veterinary contacts
- D. Provide information on what to do if your dog is lost
- E. Provide important diet information/guidance
- F. Provide training information and resources
- G. Provide health screening information
- H. Provide club information and information on local

II. Format of a Puppy Packet

- A. Containers
- B. Organizers
- C. Sections
 - 1. Puppy
 - 2. Dam
 - 3. Sire
 - 4. Nutrition
 - 5. Grooming & Sanitation
 - 6. Training & Activities
 - 7. Health, Safety & Emergencies

III. Breeder-Prepared Contents for Puppy Packets

- A. Health & Wellness Protocol
- B. Copy of Contract
- C. Registration and Permanent ID Documents
- D. Copies of Sire & Dam Registrations and Health Certificates
- E. Photographs

IV. External Sources for Puppy Packet Contents

Materials List by Source with Ordering Information

V. Accessories for Puppy Packets

- 1. Starter supply of food
- 2. Collar and ID tag(s)
- 3. Familiar smells object
- 4. Familiar toy

VI. Checklist for Assembling Puppy Packets

A Handy Checklist of Materials, Each Flagged as Basic vs. Optional

VII. Q & A and Experience Sharing