



BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF WA

RESCUE/REHOME GUIDING PRINCIPAL

OBJECTIVE

The Bernese Mountain Club of WA is devoted to preserving and protecting the Bernese Mountain Dog breed. Rescue and rehoming are two ways this commitment is demonstrated. We will accept Bernese of any age that are surrendered or rescued and we will ensure that where they are mentally and physically healthy they will be rehomed.

DEFINITIONS & FORMS

- **Rescue dog** - is a purebred Bernese Mountain Dog that has been placed in a shelter, is a stray, has been abandoned or no longer can be cared for by the registered owner or caretaker.
- **Surrender dog** - dog is a purebred Bernese Mountain Dog that can no longer remain with its registered owner or caretaker and has been placed directly into a foster or permanent home.
- **Rehome** - is the process through which a dog is placed into a permanent home.
- **Foster Carers** - are club members who have been assessed as being suitable to provide temporary accommodation.
- **Surrender Form** – this form documents the health of the dog and the reasons for surrender
- **Foster Carer's form** – this form assesses whether the home environment of potential carer's meets the necessary conditions.

RESCUE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall be appointed annually at the first club committee meeting following the AGM.

The Committee shall consist of –

- Club President
- Treasurer
- Club Rescue Officer

FOSTER CARER'S

The Club shall encourage Club members to apply as foster carer's. The Foster Carer's application form shall be completed and forwarded to the Rescue Committee for consideration.

1. The Club Rescue Officer will liaise with the relevant parties i.e. owners, Council Pounds, Shelters etc. to secure the surrender of the dog into the care of the Club.
2. A Surrender form shall be completed to ensure that ownership of the dog is passed to the Club to facilitate rehoming and all the necessary health and mental issues are identified and documented.
3. The Breeder, if identified will be notified. It is the expectation of the Club that the Breeder assumes responsibility for the rescue/rehoming of their own bred dogs. However, where this is impractical i.e. interstate breeders, the Club will assume responsibility if requested by the breeder. A donation fee will be requested from the breeder to facilitate this rehoming.
4. Health Check – the Club’s Vet will assess the health and wellbeing of the dog. Where required the dog will be sterilised and microchipped before being rehomed.
5. Temperament Assessment - the Rescue Officer shall ensure that a temperament assessment is carried out prior to the permanent rehoming or placement with a foster carer.
6. Foster Care – it may be necessary to home a dog with a carer as a temporary measure, either to assess his/her character more fully or because the dog has special requirements and an ideal home is not ready. However, our preferred option is to place directly with the new owners.
7. Adoption – the Rescue Committee shall ensure that a suitable home is found for the dog as soon as possible once all health checks have been completed.
8. Fees – a nominal placement fee is requested to assist in the recovery of costs that are incurred by the Club. In special circumstances, this fee can be waived by the Rescue Committee.

Review Dates	
Version 1	August 2004
Version 2	January 2012
Version 3	August 2016

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