



Berner-Garde Foundation

AUGUST, 2023

OUR MISSION

The Berner-Garde Foundation is dedicated to advancing the health of Bernese Mountain Dogs by fostering collaboration and providing resources to reduce genetic disease.

OUR VISION

That all Bernese Mountain Dogs live long and healthy lives.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Support health research into genetic diseases through:

- ▶ Maintaining a health and pedigree database through voluntary submissions from owners, breeders, and other sources.
- ▶ Open sharing of data and information with Bernese Mountain Dog owners, breeders, and scientists.
- ▶ Preserving DNA samples and data for future health research through our partnership with BMD DNA Repository at Michigan State University.
- ▶ Collaborating with the scientific community to support health research relevant to the Bernese Mountain Dog.

Working to Ensure a Healthy Future



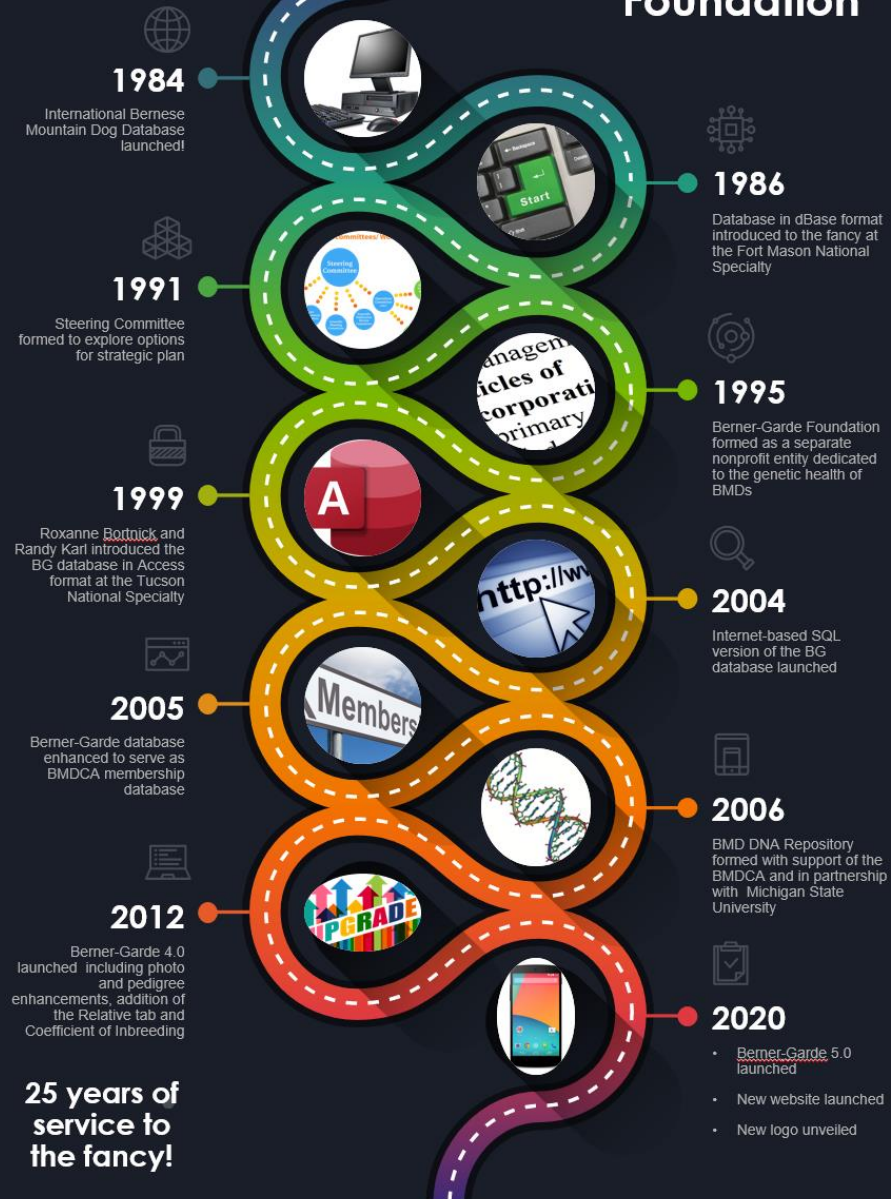
A LITTLE HISTORY

The Berner-Garde Database started in the 1970's by Martin and Barbara Packard



IEWG meeting(Barbara & Alida Wind) in Amsterdam

Berner-Garde Foundation



Timeline

- ▶ 1986 – Database introduced at BMDCA National Specialty
- ▶ 1995 – Berner-Garde Foundation established
- ▶ 2004 – Database accessible on the Internet
- ▶ 2006 – DNA Repository launched in partnership with BMDCA and Michigan State University
- ▶ 2020 – 25th anniversary of the Berner-Garde Foundation
- ▶ 2023 – Focused on working with researchers utilizing Repository DNA with supporting information in the database.



RESEARCH



BERNER-GARDE WORKING WITH RESEARCHERS

- ▶ Established a DNA and Tumor Tissue repository at Michigan State University
 - ❖ Currently has blood DNA from 3584 dogs and 472 frozen tumors
- ▶ Expanding work with researchers to provide them with DNA and data
- ▶ Sent blood samples to the research team of Dr. Catherine Andre and Dr. Benoit Hedan
- ▶ Dr. Vilma Yusbasiyan-Gurken of Michigan State University and Dr. Elaine Ostrander of the National Institutes of Health are collaborating on Histiocytic Sarcoma using both blood and tissue samples. The research is focused on both genetic causes and treatment.
- ▶ Supporting clinical trial of a drug to treat Histiocytic Sarcoma
- ▶ Funding research to develop “liquid biopsy” for Histiocytic Sarcoma

2020 was the 25th anniversary of the Berner-Garde Foundation

- ▶ Complete redesign of the website and database
- ▶ Automatically adapts to smaller screen sizes (phones and tablets)
- ▶ Easier navigation and searching
- ▶ More dog information with fewer clicks
- ▶ Targeted submissions with document uploads
 - ▶ Health Screens (certifications)
 - ▶ Health/Disease reporting
- ▶ Redesigned dog and litter submission forms in the fall of 2023

And a new modern logo!



Top diagnosed health issues

Last 10 years. 4026 diagnosed health records.

1.	Histiocytic Sarcoma	653 (16.2%)	12.	Osteosarcoma	63 (1.6%)
2.	Lymphoma	295 (7.3%)	13.	Melanoma	51 (1.3%)
3.	Cancer – unspecified	293 (7.3%)	14.	Adenocarcinoma	47 (1.2%)
4.	Mast Cell Tumor	161 (4.0%)	15.	Arthritis/Osteoarthritis	35 (0.9%)
5.	Cataracts	142 (3.5%)	16.	Inflamitory Bowel	33 (0.8%)
6.	Persistent Pup Memb	137 (3.4%)	17.	Renal Dysplasia	32 (0.8%)
7.	Hemangiosarcoma	120 (3.0%)	18.	Entropion	32 (0.8%)
8.	Hip Dysplasia	93 (2.3%)	19.	Sub Aortic Stenosis	31 (0.7%)
9.	Elbow Dysplasia	80 (2.0%)	20.	Degenerative Myelopathy	30 (0.7%)
10.	Gastric Dilatation	80 (2.0%)	21.	Round Cell Sarcoma	26 (0.6%)
11.	Cruciate Ligament	71 (1.8%)	22.	OCD	23 (0.6%)

BGF Database Dogs by Country

1.	United States	74045 (34.4%)	12.	Finland	2295 (1.1%)
2.	Netherlands	35739 (16.6%)	13.	Denmark	1991 (0.9%)
3.	United Kingdom	25499 (11.8%)	14.	Poland	1650 (0.8%)
4.	Canada	23781 (11.0%)	15.	Italy	1505 (0.7%)
5.	Switzerland	7606 (3.5%)	16.	Hungary	1494 (0.7%)
6.	Sweden	7457 (3.5%)	17.	Russia	973 (0.5%)
7.	Germany	4686 (2.2%)	18.	Argentina	953 (0.4%)
8.	Australia	3377 (1.6%)	19.	Austria	728 (0.3%)
9.	France	2887 (1.3%)	20.	Lithuania	671 (0.3%)
10.	Norway	2699 (1.3%)	21.	Czech Republic	597 (0.3%)
11.	Belgium	2600 (1.2%)	22.	Japan	536 (0.2%)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

Netherlands

- ▶ Greetje van Zonneveld Westerling

Belgium

- ▶ Carla Van Assche

Denmark

- ▶ Birgitte Damsgaard

Finland

- ▶ Tuuli Rikama

Ireland and Eastern Europe

- ▶ Diana Burkartaite

Italy

- ▶ Catia Mellica

Latin America

- ▶ Catalina Villamil

Norway

- ▶ Mia Caroline Sandøy

Poland

- ▶ Dominika Kania

Portugal

- ▶ Brito Mafalda

Sweden

- ▶ Hannah Sävholm

United Kingdom

- ▶ Aileen Barnard

Australia

- ▶ Beatriz Insausti
- ▶ Lindsay Thomson



www.bernergarde.org

THANK YOU!



QUESTIONS

