



BMDCA Info Series

BMDCA Awards Program

2023 #29

Introduction ► Bernese Mountain Dogs are known for their versatility and working dog abilities. Looking back to the breed's origins as general purpose, working farm dogs and farmers' companions, it is easy to understand why Bernese Mountain Dogs are able and willing to participate in a wide variety of canine activities. To recognize and celebrate the breed's attributes, abilities, and accomplishments, the BMDCA offers many award types and levels for members and their Berners.

<https://www.bmdca.org/awards-titles>

Medallion Awards ► Medallions are awarded and sent to BMDCA members for titles earned in the following categories: Agility, Conformation, Coursing Ability Test, Draft, Herding, Obedience, Rally, and Tracking. With the exceptions of Draft titles, which are issued by the BMDCA, and Herding titles earned through the American Herding Breed Association (AHBA), all other titles are awarded through the AKC. All AKC and BMDCA Draft titles are posted to each dog's record in Berner-Garde. ABHA titles earned by BMDCA members are provided to the Herding Committee chair and that report is used to update dogs' records in Berner-Garde. Members can also submit proof of their AHBA titles to Berner-Garde directly thus updating their dogs' records on a timelier basis. As an additional member benefit, the first title a dog earns entitles it to a free *BMDCA Yearbook* page in the year earned.

Plaque & Special Medallion Awards ► Plaques and special medallions are awarded in many categories – Conformation, Agility, Draft, Herding, Obedience, Tracking, and Top Junior Handler - Performance Events. The Awards Committee performs the statistical calculations to determine the award recipients in these categories. Additionally, there are special awards for Versatility, Working Dog, and Active Dog. These awards are not automatically granted; rather, members must apply for them. These awards are highly prized and hard-earned. Special medallions are sent to Active Dog Award recipients. Versatility and Working Dog Award recipients are presented with wood plaques at the awards banquet held during the BMDCA National Specialty. Dogs earning all of these awards also receive a free page in the *BMDCA Yearbook*.

Conformation ► Awards made in the conformation category include:

- Top Conformation Dog based on All-Breed Points
- Top Conformation Bitch based on All-Breed Points
- #1, #2, #3 Conformation Dog based on Breed Points
- #1, #2, #3 Conformation Bitch based on Breed Points
- Top Junior Handler - Conformation

- Top Versatility Dog
- Top Versatility Bitch
- Top Versatility Excellent Dog
- Top Versatility Excellent Bitch

Performance Events ► Awards made in the performance events categories include:

- **Agility**
 - Top Novice A Agility Dog
 - Top Novice B Agility Dog
 - Top Open Agility Dog
 - Top Excellent Agility Dog
 - Top Master Agility Dog
 - MACH
 - PACH
 - Agility Grand Champion
- **Draft**
 - Master Draft Dog
 - Master Brace Draft Dog
 - Grand Master Draft Dog
- **Herding**
 - AHBA Herding Champion
 - AKC Herding Champion
 - AKC Dual Champion
- **Obedience**
 - Top Novice A Obedience Dog
 - Top Novice B Obedience Dog
 - Top Open A Obedience Dog
 - Top Open B Obedience Dog
 - Top Utility A Obedience Dog
 - Top Utility B Obedience Dog
 - Utility Dog Excellent
 - Obedience Master
 - OTCH
- **Tracking**
 - Champion Tracker
- **Top Junior Handler - Performance Events**



Special Awards ► The BMDCA offers many awards in recognition of dogs that have excelled in various disciplines.

- **BMDCA Versatility Award and BMDCA Versatility Excellent Award.** The Versatility Award was created to recognize those Bernese Mountain Dogs that show great breadth of achievement. One of the primary goals of this award is to encourage Bernese breeders and owners to preserve the Berner as an "all around" dog with a long tradition as a multi-use farm dog as well as a beautiful show dog.



- **BMDCA Working Dog Award and BMDCA Working Dog Excellent Award.** The Working Dog Award honors those Bernese Mountain Dogs demonstrating a high degree of achievement in several different performance activities. Draft titles are required at both levels because this is the working heritage of the Bernese Mountain Dog.



- **BMDCA Active Dog Award and BMDCA Active Dog Excellent Award.** These awards honor those Bernese Mountain Dogs demonstrating a high degree of achievement in many different companion activities.



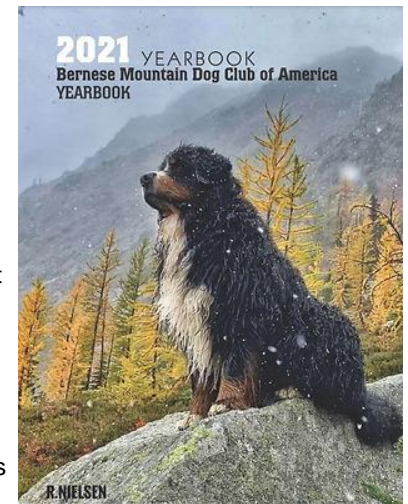
Additional information regarding these special awards can be found on the BMDCA website. This information includes more in-depth descriptions, award qualifications, and award application instructions. The award application deadline is January 31 in order to be included in the prior year's *BMDCA Yearbook* and honored at the awards banquet.

BMDCA Yearbook ► Published annually, the *BMDCA Yearbook* contains records, pedigrees, and photos; Top Winners and Top Producers; Versatility, Working Dog, and Active Dog Awards; New Titleholders and Advanced Titles; Top Junior Handlers; and Canadian Records and Titleholders. As a

member service, *BMDCA Yearbooks* can be pre-ordered as part of the BMDCA membership renewal and dues payment process. These yearbooks will be mailed directly from the printer to members who have pre-paid as soon as they are available. Limited yearbook quantities will be available beyond

those pre-ordered. Information and directions for yearbook submissions can be found on the BMDCA website. Questions should be directed to the BMDCA Yearbook Committee chair.

<https://www.bmdca.org/publications>



The Benefits of BMDCA Membership ► These BMDCA award programs honor the Bernese Mountain Dog and their BMDCA member / partner. It is such a thrill to receive a medallion or plaque that memorializes these achievements and the training and teamwork they represent. Celebrating your dog in the *BMDCA Yearbook* with all the other accomplished Berners provides an opportunity to share your pride and creates a publication to be treasured. Questions about the BMDCA Awards Program should be directed to the Awards Committee chair. For information about BMDCA membership go to <https://www.bmdca.org/membership-application>.