

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America Draft Test

P R E M I U M L I S T

57th & 58th Draft Tests Hosted by the

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley

Host of the first-ever BMDCA Draft Test held September 1991



**“To market, to market, pulling my rig,
Home again, home again, jiggity-jig.”**

**Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds
55 South Chelmsford Road
Westford, Massachusetts 01886**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
& SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026**

JUDGES:

Karyn Beyer
Mt. Shasta, California

Beth Dennehy
Steamboat Springs, Colorado

**Tests Open to All Eligible Dogs
Judging Will Be Outdoors**

Entries for both tests close at the address of the Test Secretary at 6:00 PM EDT, Wednesday, October 7, 2026, after which time entries cannot be accepted, canceled or altered, except as specifically allowed in the current BMDCA Draft Test Regulations. Make checks payable to BMDCA and mail with entry form to:
Beth Atkinson, Draft Test Secretary, 422 Sugar Road, Bolton, MA 01740-1114. If sending overnight, registered, or certified mail, envelopes must be released without a signature. Signature-required entries MAY NOT be accepted.

These tests are held in accordance with January 2023 BMDCA Draft Regulations



Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley Established 1981

Officers

Mary Durham, President; Susan Mahan, Vice President; Amanda Wescott, Treasurer;
Julie Mott, Secretary, 52 Old Orchard Road, Sherborn, MA 01770-1036

Directors

Cindy Buhner, Allison Harding, Heidi Henderson, Anya Wittenborg, Candace Wright

Saturday, October 17 & Sunday, October 18, 2026

Co-Chairs

Buffy Bell
318 Delano Road
Reading, VT 05062-9770
802-359-3686
bellsvt@gmail.com

Cindy Buhner
345 Stow Road
Harvard, MA 01451-1916
978-501-4964
cbuhner@yahoo.com

Co-Secretaries

Beth Atkinson
422 Sugar Road
Bolton, MA 01740-1114
978-821-1681
beth@iwindsurf.com

Dorri Poppe
33 Forgotten Lane
Wells, ME 04090-7037
617-548-7739
dcpoppe@ieee.com

Chief Steward

Candace Wright

Committee Members

Sue McEvoy, Julie Mott, Celeste O'Malley

Judges

Karyn Beyer
Mt. Shasta, California

Beth Dennehy
Steamboat Springs, Colorado



Veterinarian

**Westford Veterinary Emergency
Referral Center, LLC
(24 hours)**

11 Cornerstone Square
Westford, MA 01886

978-577-6525

24-Hour Emergency and Critical Care.

*Located off Exit 83, Route 495 north or southbound, in the Cornerstone Square Shopping Plaza
at the corner of Route 110 and Boston Road.*

1.9 miles from test site (6 mins)

Awards

All qualifying teams will receive a rosette, and first-time qualifiers will receive Nashoba Valley's classic, unique wooden contoured silhouette of a Bernese Mountain Dog pulling a cart. Teams that have previously received a wooden silhouette in the same class in which they qualify at this event will receive a handmade pottery mug. There will be a special award given to the oldest Bernese Mountain Dog and the youngest Bernese Mountain Dog qualifying on each day.

Hospitality and Refreshments

Coffee and snacks will be available Saturday and Sunday morning.

Lunch details will be made available to stewards and exhibitors after the close of entries.

A post-trial dinner will be held onsite Saturday evening. All judges, entrants, stewards, club members and their guests are welcome to attend. Details will be available closer to that date.

Schedule

Schedule for each day to be determined after the close of entries.

Entrants will be notified of Arrival Time and Equipment Check.

Judging will begin shortly following Course Familiarization. A lunch break will be taken at the judges' discretion.

Weather

Check the forecast frequently and come prepared for yourself and your dog(s).

Late October temperatures in Westford historically average a high of 62 degrees and a low of 38 degrees.

Average monthly rainfall total for October is 3.9 inches.

Sunrise and sunset: around 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM each day.

We Welcome Spectators

Spectators are welcome and are encouraged to applaud and cheer for the working dog.

Please remain away from ringside, and away from the freight haul route.

Dogs who are not entered may be present but must be leashed or crated at all times, and must not interfere with the test in any way. Stewards may ask that dogs be moved if they feel there is the possibility of interference with a working team.

Please remember to always pick up after your dog and do not exercise your dog on or near the freight haul route!

Waiver of Rights

Animals in Distress: The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc. reserves the right to remove any animal in distress from a parked vehicle or crate, and all persons attending these dog events hereby waive any claim for damages against the clubs for such removal. The Club regards the health, safety and life of any dog on the show grounds to be paramount to other property or privacy rights. We will attempt to reach the responsible party but cannot guarantee contact will be made before action is taken.

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America Draft Test Purpose

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America Draft Tests are a series of exercises designed to develop and demonstrate the natural abilities of purebred Bernese Mountain Dogs in a working capacity involving hauling. The Bernese Mountain Dog has historically functioned as a draft dog in various capacities, and performance of these exercises is intended to demonstrate skills resulting from both inherent ability and training which are applicable to realistic work situations. Efficiency in accomplishment of tasks is essential. It is also desirable that the dog evidence willingness and enjoyment of his work in a combination of controlled teamwork with his handler and natural independence.

Class Entry Details

Entry is limited to 24 teams per day.

Entry fees: \$35 for each single dog team and \$35 for a brace team

A separate entry form must be filled out for each dog of a brace team and then submitted together. Even though two entry forms are required for each brace team, each brace team will be counted as one entry in the Draft Test entry limit.

If more than 24 entries for each day are received, entries will be prioritized in the following order:

1. Untitled BMDs in the entered class
2. Titled BMDs without Advanced/Master titles in the entered class
3. Titled BMDs with Advanced/Master titles in the entered class
4. Untitled other dogs in the entered class
5. Titled other dogs without Advanced/Master titles in the entered class
6. Titled other dogs with Advanced/Master titles in the entered class

Note: For brace teams:

The dog with the lowest-level title in the entered class determines the team's priority.

If a brace has a BMD and a non-BMD, it is considered a "BMD team" for the above purposes.

Note that "titled" means titled in the entered class.

Running order: A separate random draw to determine the running order for each class for each test.

Entrants must notify the Draft Test Secretary if a dog has earned a title in the entered class, including if the title is earned after the entry has been submitted.

Attention Exhibitors

The following classes are offered: Novice, Brace Novice, Open, and Brace Open.

Handlers must provide their own rigs, harnesses, and tie-downs or other means of securing a load on their particular draft rig.

There will be a single equipment check for each test.

Handlers must bring their own weight. Weight will be verified via scale at the test site.

Each Open or Brace Open entry (or possible "move-up" to Open or Brace Open) must include the DWC Weight Certificate as specified below.

Entered dogs must be 24 months old or older on the day of the Draft Test.

Bitches in season are not permitted to compete.

Refunds will be given for bitches in season or injured dogs.

The two dogs of a brace team need not be owned by the same person or by the handler.

Un-entered dogs may be present but, like entered dogs that are not in the ring, must be leashed or crated and under control at all times.

Please remember to be responsible dog owners and pick up after your dog(s).

Weight Certificates

Each Open or Brace Open entry shall include the DWC Weight Certificate (included in this Premium List, and also available on the BMDCA website); or a certificate that includes the same information that is contained in the DWC Weight Certificate; and be signed and dated within 60 days prior to each Draft Test date. The handler is solely responsible for having a valid Weight Certificate. An incorrect Weight Certificate may result in the loss of any qualifying runs.

Regulations

Draft Test Regulations: Entrants are responsible for obtaining the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations and being familiar with them. Regulations may be downloaded from bmdca.org at no charge and, if available, may be ordered from BMDCA Ways and Means (fee applies).

Test Site

The Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds is owned, operated and maintained by the 4-H Clubs of Westford, Massachusetts. It has been the site of the Middlesex County 4-H Fair since 1956, held annually in August. On its serene 27 acres, there are stands of pine trees, flat, open grassy areas, covered open-air pavilions, a sandy paddock, and various gravel roads that wind the property over level and hilly areas.

The first-ever BMDCA Draft Test, hosted by the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley, was held at this site in September 1991.

Directions

Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds
55 South Chelmsford Road
Westford, Massachusetts 01886

Route 495 is a major beltway skirting Metrowest Boston. It is easily accessible from the Mass Turnpike or Route 290 from the west; Route I-93 from the north; and I-95 from the north and south.

From Route 495 Northbound:

EXIT 83, Boston Road Westford. At the end of the ramp take a RIGHT onto Boston Road. At the light take a LEFT onto Route 110 (Littleton Road). After approximately one-half mile, take a RIGHT onto South Chelmsford Road. The fairgrounds will be approximately one mile on your RIGHT.

Parking on the grounds is free.

From Route 495 Southbound:

EXIT 83, Boston Road Westford. At the end of the ramp take a LEFT onto Boston Road. At the light take a LEFT onto Route 110 (Littleton Road). After approximately one-half mile, take a RIGHT onto South Chelmsford Road. The fairgrounds will be approximately one mile on your RIGHT.

Parking on the grounds is free.

Nearby Accommodations

Please call to check for specific rates and pet policies:

Boxboro Regency

242 Adams Place
Boxborough, MA 01719
1-978-263-8701
www.boxbororegency.com

BMDCNV has a 10-room block at a reduced rate:

\$129. + taxes + \$35/night/dog fee.
Reservations MUST be made by October 2, 2026. The code for the better rate is "Draft Test BMDCA".

10 miles (15 minutes) from test site

Motel 6 Nashua South

77 Spit Brook Road
Nashua, NH 03060
1-603-888-1893
www.motel6.com
Dogs free

14 miles from test site

Holiday Inn Express Chelmsford

8 Independence Drive
Chelmsford, MA 01824
1-978-710-3151

4 miles from test site

Nashoba Valley Inn & Suites

18 Fitchburg Road
Ayer, MA 01432
1-978-772-0797
www.nashobavalleyinn.com
11 miles from test site

Bring Fido

Searching at this link may be helpful for locating hotels and Airbnb property rentals:
www.bringfido.com/lodging/city/westford_ma_us/

Campers, RVs, and Vans

Campers, RVs, and Vans will be permitted on grounds after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 16, and must park in designated areas, observing fire lanes and no parking areas.

No hookups on site.

Vehicles must be off the property by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 18.

Bathroom facilities available on site.

Overnight RV and van parking is permitted by the site owner as a courtesy. We request that guests return the courtesy by:

- (a) cleaning up after yourself and your dogs, (b) taking your trash with you when you leave, and
- (c) refraining from use of generators after 10 p.m.

Please contact Buffy Bell if interested in bringing your RV: bellsvt@gmail.com

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley

Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds
55 South Chelmsford Road
Westford, MA 01886

Saturday, October 17, 2026 & Sunday, October 18, 2026

Entry fee: \$35 per entry. Make checks payable to BMDCNV and mail fee with entry form (1 page) to the Test Secretary. Use one form per dog/class entered. Multiple days for the same class can be marked on one entry form. Please write a separate check for each entry. Include weight certificate if applicable. **Entries will not be processed until all forms and payment are submitted.**

Close of Entries

Entries close at Test Secretary's address at 6:00 PM EDT on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, after which time entries cannot be accepted, canceled, or altered, except as specifically allowed in the current BMDCA Draft Test Regulations.

Please note: If sending by overnight, registered or certified mail, envelopes *must* be released without a signature.

Entrants will receive confirmation of entry via email.

Mail Completed Entries (one page each) & Fees to:

**Beth Atkinson
422 Sugar Road
Bolton, MA 01740-1114**

Please type or print clearly. Use one form per dog per class entered.

Breed		Sex  Male  Female
Class ☐ Novice ☐ Brace Novice ☐ Open ☐ Brace Open		☐ Open Weight Certificate Enclosed
☐ Dog is titled in entered class		☐ Dog has Advanced/Master Title in entered class
☐ Saturday October 17 Test 57		☐ Sunday October 18 Test 58
Registered Name (Please include titles)		
Call Name	Berner-Garde # (BMDs only)	
Date of Birth	DNA # (Nationals only)	
Registration #	☐ American Kennel Club ☐ Canadian Kennel Club	
Breeder		
Sire		
Dam		
Actual Owner(s)		
Owners Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email	
I have read, understand, and agree to the Entry Agreement. Check Box: ☐		Date

Submitting this form constitutes your agreement to the terms of the Entry Agreement

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ENTRY AGREEMENT

I understand that the club holding this event has the right to refuse this entry. I agree that I am solely responsible for the actions of myself and the dog ("the dog") that accompanies me in relationship to this entry.

In consideration of the acceptance of my entry and the opportunity to participate in this event, I agree to **HOLD HARMLESS and INDEMNIFY** the following listed parties from any claim for loss, damage or injury alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly by my actions or by the actions of the dog in relationship to this event : the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) and the event-giving club, their members, officers, and agents; the owner and/or leaser of the premises; any provider of services at this event; any employees or volunteers of the parties listed here, and any BMDCA Draft Judge judging at this event. I personally assume **all responsibility and liability** for any such claim. I agree to be responsible for any loss and expense (including legal fees) incurred by any of the listed parties based on claims related in any way to my participation or the actions of the dog in relationship to this event, whether the claims are made by third parties or by myself.

Additionally, I agree to assume the sole responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury (including death) to myself or to the dog in relationship to this event. I agree to **RELEASE, INDEMNIFY and promise not to sue** the parties listed above for any such loss, damage or injury to myself or the dog, regardless of the cause, and whether or not the loss, damage or injury may have been caused by the negligence of the listed parties.

I AGREE THAT ANY CAUSE OF ACTION, CONTROVERSY OR CLAIM ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THE ENTRY, EXHIBITION OR ATTENDANCE AT THE EVENT SHALL BE SETTLED BY ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO THE APPLICABLE RULES OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO ARBITRATION ALL APPLICABLE BMDCA BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES MUST FIRST BE FOLLOWED AS SET FORTH IN THE BMDCA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS, PUBLISHED POLICIES AND GUIDELINES.

In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I agree to abide by rules and Draft Regulations of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) in effect at the time of this BMDCA Draft Test and by any additional rules appearing in the premium list for this event. I certify and represent that the dog entered is not a hazard to persons or other dogs. **I also certify that all the information I provide with this entry is true and correct.** This entry is submitted for acceptance on the foregoing representation and Entry Agreement. I agree to conduct myself in accordance with all such Rules and Regulations (including all provisions applying to discipline) and to abide by any decisions made in accord with them.

NAME OF VET CLINIC: _____

OWNER/HANDLER NAME: _____

DOG'S CALL NAME: _____

I verify on _____: _____: Weighed _____ lbs.
(date) (dog's call name) (insert weight)

(Position of Vet Clinician)

(Clinic Phone #)

Rev 10-15-2023