

# ***Janče 2007***

*First official gathering of swiss mountain dogs and Saint bernard, organized by the slovenian club for molosser SKVPM and with the colaboration of the slovenian club for bernese mountain dogs SKBPP*



**Great swiss mountain dog**



**Appenzell cattle dog**



**Saint Bernard**



**Bernese mountain dog**

The number of Great swiss mountain dogs in our country is growing rapidly. Every year we have more litters. This is why we thought we should start to have some gatherings- to get to know each other and our beautiful dogs. In our country the number of Appenzells and S. Bernards is quite low and we do not have Entlebuchers at all. And how it is supposed to be a gathering of swiss mountain dogs without the Bernese? So we kindly asked members of the club for Bernese mountain dogs to join us. Together we organized this event, the first official gathering of this kind in Slovenia.

We selected an idyllic location away from the city buzz, but still well in reach from the capital of Ljubljana. Between green hills and woods, at the mountain hut Janče.

We tried to organize activities that could introduce our wonderful breeds: their character, their looks and what they can do as companions in our lives. Of course we organized the eating and drinking part of the party too.

## **Activities:**

### **1. Lecture »Breed standards of swiss mountain dogs and S.Bernards«**

We invited two slovenian international judges and breed standard experts: maddam Cvetka Bogovčič and mister Janes Plestenjak. We kindly asked them to interpret the different standards on the dogs present at the gathering: what are the structure particularities, how does a typical representative of each breed look for them and what are the most obvious characteristics of each breed. Most of the people were not afraid of the judgement and many of us volunteered our dogs for the explanations. Maddam Bogovčič explained for us the standard for the Appenzels and S. Bernards, mister Plestenjak spooke about the Bernese mountain dogs and Great swiss mountain dogs.

We were really happy both the judges were keen to collaborate with us. I am sure many of the novice at showing dogs can understand better what happens in the ring, how the dogs are judged and what the judges look for. Maybe they will understand how a typical representative of the breed should be and recognize the faults of their dogs by them-selves.

Both the lectures were very interesting and not too long. Which was a good thing, because in the heat you easily lose focus. I could see people were interested right till the end and that means we all learned something.

## 2. Dog show to conquer the tittle Miss and Mister janče 2007 + junior handling for our youngest participants

The show was open for all the dogs present: swiss mounitian dogs, other breeds and mixes. Maddam Bogovčič judged the females and mister Plestenjak the males.

The desired title and lovely gifts were given to:

*Dionis*, bernese mounitian dog- **Mister Janče 2007**

*Nuba (Nera)*, great swiss mountain dog- **Miss Janče 2007**

Sometimes our children and their need to communicate with animals are the reason why we take a dog in the household and sometimes children come after we already have a dog. That is why it is important that we teach our children how to behave with dogs and how to interact with them. This way of thinking was the reason we decided to have the junior handling competition: as motivation for the children and younger ones and to let other people know how great of a combo a child and his beloved dog can be. The children present took the competition with enthusiasm and a little bit of »butterflies in the stomach«. They showed their dogs beautifully and were rewarded for that- everyone of them! The judge was our lovely apprentice judge Katja Rožman.



Unfortunately we started with our training sessions a little bit late, because we wanted to escape the heat of the day. But we did not expect people would leave so soon.

### 3. Course and competition in Rally obedience

The right person for this job was our instructor Neca Jerkovič. She competes in Rally with her swissy female Nuba, achieving great results.

People did not take this course with great affection. Maybe the word »obedience« has a bad conotation to it. But Rally obedience it is not your typical obedience- it is far more dinamic and allows you to interact more freely with your dog.

In the competition we had only two competitors- both of them we can find in the states official Rally obedience competitions:

- 1.place Bongo (BMD)
- 2.place Klark (GSMD)



### 4. Course and competition in agility

Demonstrating agility was my job and I was pleasantly surprised by both the people and their dogs. The dogs did not need more than two or three repetitions and were already happily jumping over obstacles, going thru the tunels, searching for their owners and following given instructions.

Unfortunately we did not have all the gear I would have liked- no slalom and no swing.

Quite a good number of dogs took part in the competitions. For the judging we asked a long time competitor and agility instructor Urška Medvedšek.

1. place Luka (husky)
2. place Klark (GSMD)
3. place Nuba (GSMD)



## 5. Course and demonstration of cart pulling



Members of the club for Bernese mountain dogs brought with them some gorgeously painted carts. With their help anyone had the possibility to try to pull the cart. Well, our dogs tried to pull the carts and most of them having no problems mastering this art. Some of us were quite excited by the carts and I bet soon more people will have them at home.

My Klark took for a short ride a swiisy girl- Nuba and she liked to be in the cart and be pulled by »gentledog«.

The first thing we did in the morning was to take a short walk with all the dogs present. Firstly because we did not want to litter around the hut and secondly because Uroš and Irena Karlin invited us to their home. They are breeders of Bernese mountain dogs and they showed us how a breeders home should be: with a lot of free space for the dogs-space to live comfortable and space to rise the puppies, and all the infrastructure you need. Their last aquirement was a trully all-dog bathroom! I believe many of us will still bath our dogs in the garden or in our bathrooms, but it was nice to see how the proffs do it. The owners offerred us drinks and food, and the dogs could rest in the cold shadows around the grounds.

Despite many activities, most of the day we ate, drank and talked. The atmosphere was really nice- the warm sun was shining on us and we were all in a relaxed mood. I guess the dogs felt the same- we had 40-50 dogs present and many roomed freely around. But we had none confrontation between them, none at all! Maybe it was the warm day, maybe all the new smells or the unknown quadrupets- but our dogs behave at their best. It was a perfect set-up for socialize young dogs and many people took advantage of that.

We were really happy that friends from Croatia came to our gathering and we were able to meet their berneses. Maybe we could organize something together in the future? The idea seems brilliant and more than doable. Isn't it nice when dogs give us the opportunity to brake state and language barriers? We should love them even more for that. The day ended as it should be! The organizers were the last remaining. Looking at the sun set and seeping the last coffe we thought about the day and how it went. I am sure it was something to remember for many. See you next year!

