



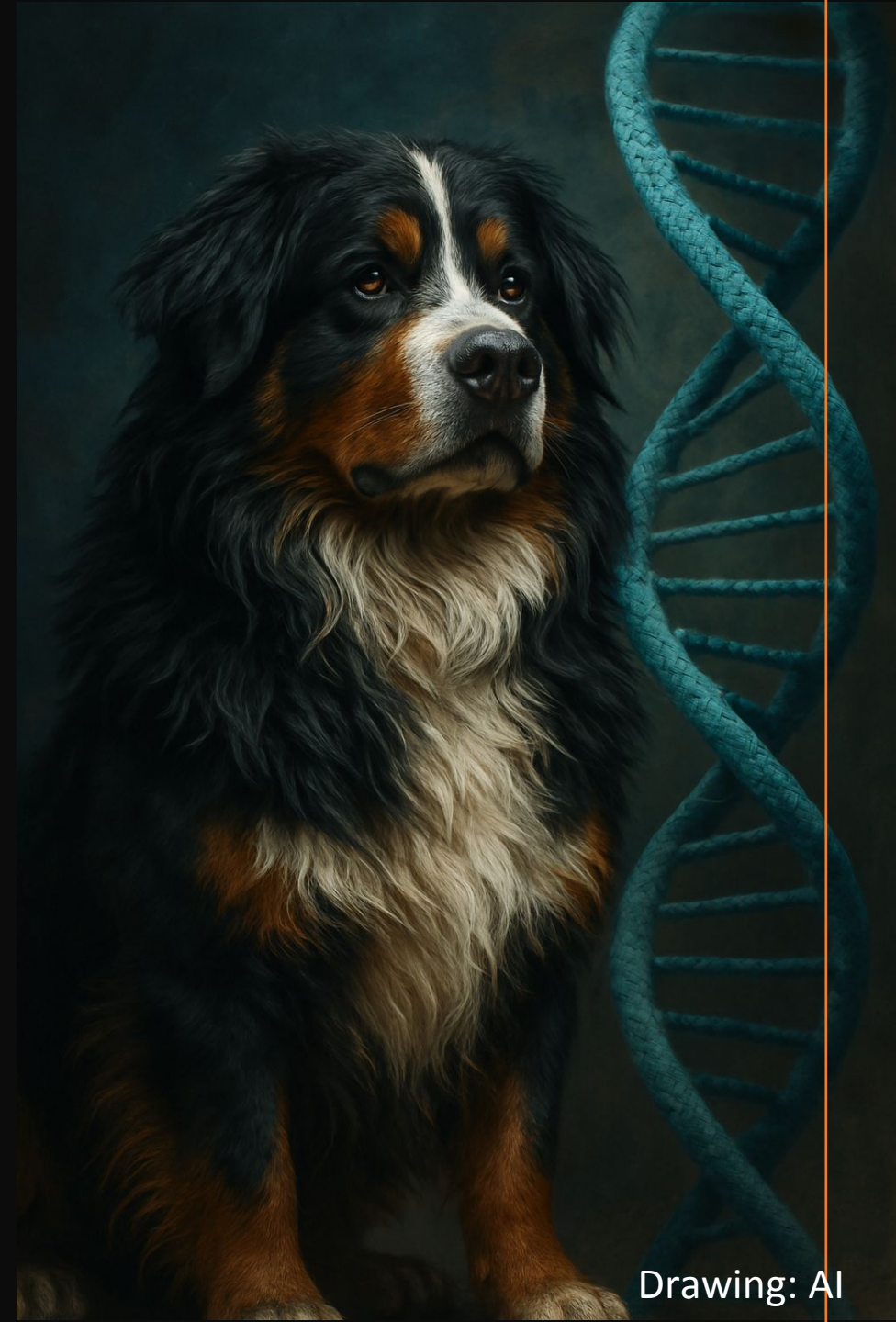
Bernese for the Future (BFF)

Kjersti Olsen
Helsinki, August 6, 2025

Photo: Tuomo Tulokas

Why Are We Here?

- Many years with health issues, low lifespan and fertility-problems
- Genetic COI 2023, 33 Bernese (whole-genome sequencing WGS): 39.5%
- Large identical DNA segments in all Bernese tested
- Low genetic variation
- Genetic COI Norway 2025, 32 Bernese (Embark 230,000 genetic markers): 31%



Drawing: AI

Measures Taken So Far

Relaxed HD/AD/show requirements

Exterior evaluations

Encourage the use of foreign sires

Information, education and webinars

Lowered inbreeding targets for 6 generations (but the inbreeding done many years ago is a bigger problem)

We have always had restrictions for usage of stud dogs (to avoid matador breeding/genetic bottle-necks)

HS-testing

Why is this NOT enough?

- Selection by traits and tests is ineffective with **so little genetic variation**
- There is breed-wide disease predisposition
- Everyone has a mother/father/brother/sister/cousin/uncle who died young in cancer
- Further **genetic loss** with every generation



Why We Must Crossbreed



NKK: Now in charge of the breeding programs of pure breeds: Launch of crossbreeding programs



Ethics and Law



NKK ethical guidelines: breed healthy, functional dogs



Inspired by 2023 Supreme Court ruling

Goals of Controlled Crossbreeding

Club: Revitalize the breed, but not change the essence of Bernese Mountain Dog

- Increase genetic diversity
- Preserve temperament and function
- Reduce health issues, increase life-span
- Mitigate inbreeding depression (fertility etc.)

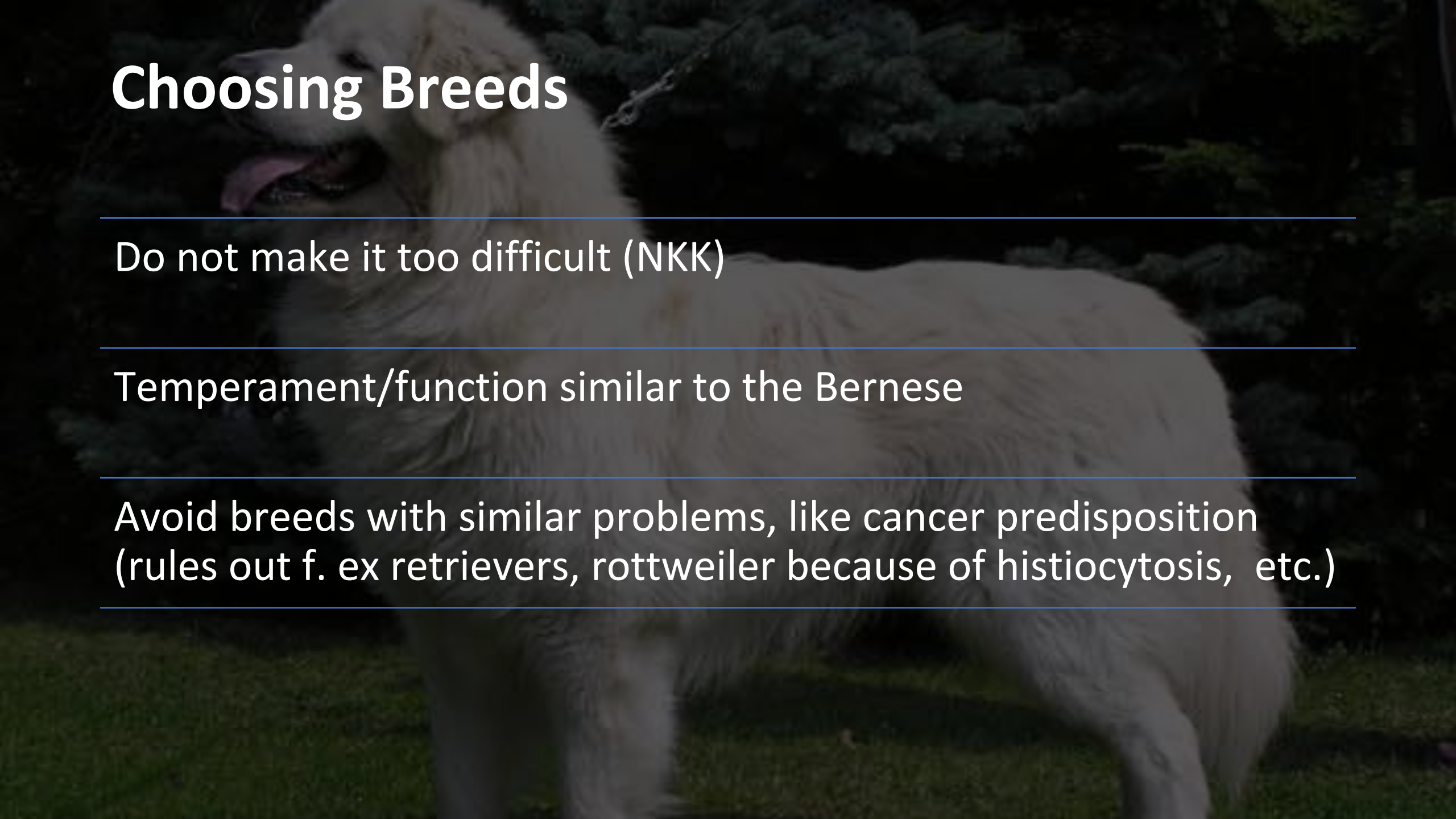
Carol Beuchat, PhD:

“Crossbreeding does not threaten breed preservation. In fact, crossbreeding is one of the most powerful tools available to **protect a breed’s genetic health** and long-term viability.”



Drawing: AI

Choosing Breeds

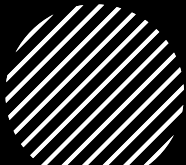
A large, fluffy white dog, likely a Great Pyrenees, is standing in a grassy field. The dog has long, thick fur and its tongue is hanging out. In the background, there are dark green trees and foliage. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a park or a similar natural setting.

Do not make it too difficult (NKK)

Temperament/function similar to the Bernese

Avoid breeds with similar problems, like cancer predisposition (rules out f. ex retrievers, rottweiler because of histiocytosis, etc.)

Registration System



ett

anna Av Milkcreek - NO42262/10

Oppdrett
Navn :
Postnr/st
Land :

Far : INT VDH N SE UCH WW-11
Cafridas Kinetic Kentucky
King
[07876/08](#)

Mor : Zealous Mind Av Milkcreek
[10380/03](#)

Tittel 1 :
Tittel 2 :
Rase : Berner Sennenhund
Født : 06.05.2010 **Død : 25.08.2020**
Fargevar :
Fargebeskri : Tricolor
Hårlag :
Kjønn : T
HD : A HD-Index: 98.00 ES:0.71 MS: 0.47 [Klikk for info](#)
AD : 0
Antall kull : 2
ID nr : ID merket

Stamtavle Avkom Sosken Utstilling/LP/AG Prøver Helse

naviskoeffisient 3,125% [Utvidet stamtavle](#) [Fiktiv stamtavle](#)

Far
INT VDH N SE UCH WW-11
Cafridas Kinetic Kentucky King
07876/08 HD:B AD:0
Tricolor

Farfar
INT NORD FIN VDH SLO NL UK
Sargas Av Milkcreek
13937/03 HD:B AD:1
Tricolor

Farmor
INT NORD VDH UCH DKV-12
Cafridas Frolic Friendly Fannie
18360/04 HD:A AD:0

ANO register starts Sept 1, 2025

- All crossbred puppies registered in ANO
- Same rights as NO dogs (except CACIB)
- Eligible for shows and breeding

Breeding Model

- Cross with ca. 3 breeds (keep it open for individual assessment)
- Backcross 3 times in order to be registered into FCI register (NO)
- Parallel breeding in ANO and NO

Collaboration is the Key

International Cooperation

- Need for cross-border collaboration
- Collaboration in Nordic countries

Cooperation of breeders

- You can crossbreed (Norway needs ca. 5 crossings per year for sustainability)
- You can participate by buying/administering F1/F2 puppies
- You can lend your dog or lease your bitch to use in crossbreeding
- You can use ANO dogs in breeding
- You can promote and support the crossbreeding



Contact for BFF - Norway



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- Join our facebook page:

Berner for framtida – NBSK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/679656917719449>

