The BARC
BEACON
Shining the Light of Hope and Freedom



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SPRINGTIME TIPS & REMINDERS

S Shedding will begin as the days get longer and temperatures grow warmer. Be sure to get ahead of it by brushing your dogs more often. Regular brushing can help remove undercoats and prevent irritated skin and hot spots from occurring.

P Plant-life is back. New growth is breaking through the soil, flowers are beginning to bloom and trees are beginning to bud. All of these bring fresh new smells and things your dog may want to investigate—and eat! So you need to be aware of the plants in your yard and where you take your dogs to walk. Many Spring-time flowers can cause allergies too.

R Rain, rain go away! Spring is also known as "mud season" with puddles, mud, and wet dogs. You want to be sure to keep your dog's coat clean and dry after being outside during the Spring. Mud can irritate the skin and extra moisture in between toes and pads can be problematic. Plus it makes for a messy home.

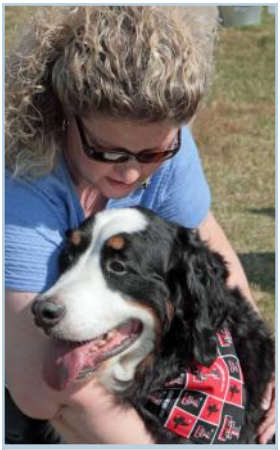
I Insects are coming! Cocoons are opening and eggs are hatching….the time has come to be sure to protect your dogs from fleas and ticks. You also need to be aware of the flying and crawling bugs that get your dog's curiosity going! Bees, flies, and spiders all sting or bite and can upset your dog's stomach.

N Nutrients! Your dogs will be more active now that the weather has cleared and they can get outside and start to exercise again. Be sure that you are feeding your dog enough to meet their caloric needs. You should also consider adding supplements and vitamins to help keep them active and healthy.

G Get off the couch! Most of all, Spring means that the sun is out and shining brightly—so should you and your dog. If you cuddled up this winter to keep warm and dry, then it's time to get moving. Be sure to take steps to gradually get back into an exercise routine that fits you and your dog. Don't head out on day one for a 5 mile hike...start slow and build back up to where you were.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Lisa with Bosley

Welcome, spring... and welcome, BARC families, to the spring edition of our newsletter! For some of us, spring has sprung a little earlier than it has for others, but honestly, I'm a lil' envious of the chill that some of you up north still have lingering in the air. Down south, in Texas, where I am, we've already had a few days in the mid 80s, and that's just too darned hot already for March!! But I will admit that my beloved BARC boy BernieBob's lovely commemorative *Julia Child's* rose bush is looking glorious with so many tiny buds coming up on it that I couldn't count them all! I cannot wait to see the myriads of gorgeous yellow blossoms this lovely bush will bless us with soon in my precious boy's memory! Perhaps I'll be able to get some photos for the next issue!

Now, on to this *fabulous* newsletter issue! I have had some very trying personal issues taking place in my life this last month or two which have pretty well knocked my legs right out from under me. I can honestly say that I do not know what I'd have done without my *incredible* BARC family who has stepped up to demonstrate the most incredible love and support I've ever seen from any group of people. It has been their caring and concern that has seen my boyz and me through this ordeal. I will never be the same.

Just to give you an idea...when all this erupted, Beth McNeal, my most noble friend and trusted right-hand in the production of this newsletter, insisted that I send everything to her and then just sit back and let it go, not giving it another thought. She and Mary Ann Monte, another amazing BARC mom, assistant BARC Yahoo! list moderator, and keeper of the BARC Database...as well as newsletter proofreader extraordinaire... have joined forces and created this incredible issue for YOU... and for ME! My heart will be forever grateful to these two wonderful ladies/friends for taking on this task and doing such an amazing job! I will never be able to repay their love and kindness. THANK YOU!

To all those who know what's been going on and who have reached out via telephone calls, emails, cards, etc., please know that you have ALL played a huge role in changing this girl's life and touching me in ways that I will never be fully able to express. I was feeling like I was being kicked while I was down (it's been a rough last 2 years!), then this wonderful BARC family reached out to me and picked me up, bandaged my heart, and made me feel more loved and treasured than I have felt in a long, long time—even while I'm still walking this difficult road. Guys, *this* is what the "BARC family" is all about! I can only pray you'll grab hold of the gift that is BARC and is this "BARC family", and that you won't let it go! For if you will, then in your hour of need, there will be a host of precious souls who will fly to your side to lift you up when you need it most. I know this to be true; it's happening, even now, to me. That is what BARC means to me. Thank you Beth, Mary Ann, Lori, Cheryl, Pat, Karen, Ellie, Julie, Catharine, Patti, Patty, Amy...and sooo many others all over this country and beyond who have not only loved my Berner boyz, but have also loved ME when I most needed it. I am truly humbled...yet grateful.

Also, a huge thank you goes out for those of you who wrote articles for this edition. Patti Grijalva, YOU are amazing!! I LOVE your heart, girl! I KNEW you were the right person for our Family Spotlight!! Many thanks as well to Adeline Maxim, Janet Hughes, Helen Hollander, and Joye Neff. My heartfelt love and prayers to each of you who shared your loss with us in the "Memorials" section; I know how hard it is to lose those you love so dearly.

I pray you will be blessed as you read this truly special edition of the BARC newsletter, ever so lovingly created for YOU, our BARC family, by the valiant and tireless Beth and Mary Ann. I know I'm blessed by the love that has been poured into it. I hope you will be as well.



Tonka

Love and Berner hugs,
Lisa Hawes, editor,
with my beloved Bosley & Tonka

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BARC BUSINESS UPDATE

	2010	2011
Dogs Rescued	31	3
Adoptions Completed	19	8
Re-homes Completed	3	0
Donations/Adoption Fees	30,050	4,014
Expenses	33,855	5,167

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Karen Thompson at karenthompson@barcinc.net.

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Janna McDuffie	Euless, TX	Zuni
Kathleen Galbraith	Los Ojos, NM	Mitsi
Melissa & Kevin Murphy	Juneau, AK	Holly
Nikole Neidlinger & Anne Marsh	Berkley, CA	Cosmo
Aimee Rastedt	Fargo, ND	Cora
Karen West	Boerne, TX	Holiday

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for submissions for the June issue of the BARC Beacon is May 15, 2011.

All submissions to be sent to the Editor, Lisa Hawes by email at lkhawes@yahoo.com.

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BOSLEY'S CULINARY CORNER



HOMEMADE PARTY CAKE

FROM *TIPS, TALES & TASTY TREATS COOKBOOK* FROM THERAPET FOUNDATION, ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY ***WWW.THERAPET.ORG***

INGREDIENTS

Cake:

2/3 c. ripe mashed bananas
1/2 c. softened butter
3 large eggs
3/4 c. water
2 c. millet or oat flour
2 t. baking powder
1 t. baking soda
2 t. cinnamon
1/2 c. chopped pecans or walnuts

Frosting:

2 c. mashed bananas
1 T. butter
6 T. carob flour
2 t. vanilla
3 T. millet or oat flour
1 t. cinnamon

DIRECTIONS

CAKE: In mixing bowl, beat together mashed banana and butter until creamy. Add eggs and water; beat well. Stir in dry ingredients. Beat until smooth. Add nuts. Spoon batter evenly into oiled and floured Bundt pan. Bake at 350 degrees for about 35 minutes. Cool on wire rack 5 minutes, remove from pan, replace on rack to complete cooling.

FROSTING: Blend thoroughly and spread on cooled cake. Sprinkle with chopped nuts. The frosting contains carob, which is a safe chocolate-tasting substance.

**If you have a recipe that you'd like to share for yummy homemade dog treats, please send it to lkhawes@yahoo.com.

DECEMBER'S PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE RESULTS



Top 5 captions in order of votes

(1) Why can't we get this type of air conditioning in the summer? — Kerry Batting
(2) I didn't say I wanted to live IN the snow globe! — Kerry Batting
(3) Now, THIS is the life!! — Lisa Hawes
(4) It just doesn't get any better than this! — Travis White (Lisa's dad)
(5) Like icing on a cake! — Rain Longson

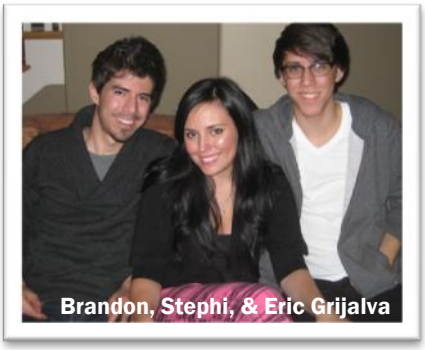
BARC FAMILY SPOTLIGHT- THE GRIJALVA FAMILY


Manny & Patti Grijalva

When we were asked to be the "Family Spotlight" for the BARC Beacon I immediately panicked about what I was going to write. Surely there were many families out there more worthy and much more interesting. After all, we had only been involved with BARC for 2 ½ years and with the Berner breed for a little over 4 years. But…here goes.

We are a family of 5 humans and 4 "fur" kids. By way of introduction, the humans include my husband Manny, our daughter Stephanie (23), son Brandon (21), son Eric (18), and I am Patti. On to the "fur" kids… there is Boomer (4), BARC's Jasmine (5), and our foster Baxter (5) that make up the Berners and we also have a cat — Sneakers (12).

Manny and I are high school sweethearts from California. While we both grew up with dogs, we never had a four-legged family pet until we moved to Illinois (we owned a snake but no "fur" kids). We moved every 3 years with his job and had 3 kids in 5 years. In fact, we had a child every time we moved to another state. I lived by the motto, "God will only give you what you can handle" and this was all I could handle. So a family pet never entered the picture.


Brandon, Stephi, & Eric Grijalva

Fifteen years ago we decided to leave the big corporate world and work for a smaller private company. This would ultimately end the ongoing moving and allow us to "plant some family roots". I can say with confidence Chicago was not on the "if you could move anywhere, where would it be?" list. That being said, Chicago proved to be a wonderful place to live and raise our children.

As time moved on, our kids started to ask about getting a dog. I mentioned earlier that we started with a corn snake but did add a cat a few years later. Our kids were so involved in traveling sports, Manny was coaching, and I was volunteering so I never thought it was fair to have a dog. I knew that dogs required as much time as children and I knew we couldn't give a dog what I felt it needed.

Skip forward 10 years and my daughter Stephanie is leaving for college. Manny thought it might be a good time to consider getting a dog now that we were down one child in the house and with our son Brandon leaving for college within the next year or two.

So after countless hours of research we decided a Bernese Mountain Dog was the perfect breed for our family. We welcomed a big Berner puppy in the summer of 2006 and named him Boomer…our lives would never be the same. After a couple years of loving this furry bundle of joy our BMD Club emailed me looking for foster families for an organization called BARC. I wasn't sure what the next chapter of my life would be but I felt a calling to foster these needy pups.


Jasmine & Boomer

It was July 22, 2008 and Julie Greco brought us a small and scared Berner named Jasmine. She was nothing like Boomer, but you know what they say about how opposites attract…they became a perfect match. He helped her learn what a dog should be and helped her overcome her insecurities. It was only about a week later that Karen Thompson asked me when I could send a bio and picture of Jasmine for the website. This website would open a world of eyes to consider our rapidly developing beauty. I was in tears when I told Manny about this email and quickly told him that I couldn't let her go as she needed us and we needed her. Can you say "Foster Failure"? Jasmine had so many issues and working through each of these issues would ultimately help us help future fosters.

We have had many fosters over the last 2 years and I can honestly say that a bit of my heart leaves with each one that finds a "forever home". I always ask Manny if we can adopt each foster and, since he is the level headed one of our family, he reminds me that if we adopt another foster that we couldn't foster another needy "fur" friend.

After Jasmine, our next foster was a boy named Teddy. He is now enjoying his forever home with some friends of ours and gets to visit when they take family vacations. He is a fun loving Berner and has earned the nickname "Party

Continued

Teddy."

Then came Tucker. He was only with us a short time before he went to live with a wonderful family in Colorado. Even better, he was able to move into his new forever home with his brother Mason. Sadly, Tucker passed away last year due to bloat. Even though he lived with Kevin and Jessica just a short time, his new humans were able to show him the true meaning of love.

Emme came to us next and I thought she might be with us forever as she was 6 years old…everybody wants a puppy right? Wrong, very special people want older dogs with modest issues and one of these very special people is named Ann. Ann was looking for a female "fur" friend for her bachelor Berner boy Toby. In addition, she creatively asked Emme if she would accept "The Final Rose" to make her bachelor Toby a committed pup. Emme is now living a great life in Pennsylvania.

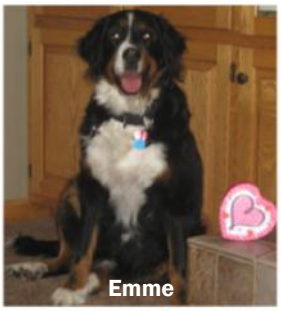
After Emme came Gracie. She was only with us for a week while she waited for her forever mom to come from Canada to bring her home. She was a sweet girl and is now living a great life with a family who loves her.

This brings me to our current foster, Baxter. This passive boy came to live with us about 5 months ago. He has had several inquiries but none of these ever developed into a forever home. That is until we received a call from what we thought would be his perfect forever home in the country. I'm not quite sure why, but ultimately it didn't work out. We knew the difficult ,but correct decision, had been made to take him back when we picked up Baxter and saw his emotions turn positive virtually immediately. Several BARC friends have commented that he has found his forever home with us. I have to say his sweet soulful eyes have captured my heart but no decisions have been made about making our home his forever home.

People always ask me how I am able to handle letting any of our foster dogs go. "Don't you become attached to them?" is the question I get asked the most. Of course, we all know the answer to this question. I cry every time one of our fosters leave. Fostering



Manny & Tucker



Emme



Gracie



Teddy & Jasmine



Baxter & Boomer

is one of the most rewarding things I have done and has become an activity our entire family can enjoy. I know I was called to foster and help get these pups ready for their forever homes. Luckily, I have a family that feels the same way and will do whatever it takes to help our fosters.

This summer we will be moving back to California to be closer to our family. While I am excited to live near family again I know I will not be able to foster as much. Most puppy mills are located in the South and Midwest. However, I know if there is ever a need for fosters in California, BARC can count on me and my family.

We follow a saying in our home, "I saved a dog and it didn't change the world, but the world surely changed for that one dog". If you would have asked me 5 years ago what I would be doing with my life at fifty years old I would have never guessed it would be fostering and transporting dogs. But this is what I do; this is what my family does. This is what gives us the opportunity to meet wonderful people from all over the world who have the same passion for rescuing as I do.

The interesting thing about fostering and rescuing dogs is that it involves needy souls that have a thirst for kindness and gentleness. The funny thing is that most of us involved in this type of volunteer work understand that these traits are just as common for us humans as they are for our "fur" friends.

Love in fostering,

Manny, Patti, Stephanie, Brandon and Eric Grijalva



BARC Fosters in Iowa



Our newest feature called "Funny Bones," is an opportunity to share those hilarious moments that most all Berners, but especially our BARC babies, seem to create. Have a story, but don't consider yourself to be a writer?.... I will happily help you. I am also collecting short anecdotes for a future column compilation. So start sending those stories to me j.parky@comcast.net. and let's get the side splitting laughter going!!

—Bernerly, Janice Parky (editor of all things humorous)

THE COVER UP

Bruno is now 2 and a half. Perhaps he is at the age to learn something new, or his new interest might have been precipitated by a recent event. My kind neighbor offered to share some venison bones with me, courtesy of a local hunter. They were much larger than I expected and rather bloody. Fortunately the local constable didn't stop me as I was walking home with my leaking box. The Berners were delighted with the bones. Heidi took off with a large leg and Bruno claimed the entire ribcage. He chewed on it a bit but mostly play bowed to it, barked at it, and sat down on the grass adoring it. We went off for a long romp at the lake, leaving the bones in the back yard. When we came home, we were greeted by unexpected visitors. Three enormous vultures were in the back yard. We all stared at each other then Bruno ran towards them. They had scattered the ribs all over the lawn. It took Bruno ages to round them all up into a nice heap. The vultures casually hopped onto the fence and glared at him.





Whatever the reason, Bruno decided it was definitely time to secure his bones. He dug a lovely big hole in the back yard, laid his favorite beef knuckle in it, and settled down next to it in the grass to admire his handiwork. He was amazed and miffed when his sister, Heidi, ran by and swiped the bone. I told him that he had to cover it up. I retrieved a small brush and showed him how to push the dirt over his bone to cover it.

Next morning I looked out in the back yard and saw something odd protruding from a flower bed. Bruno had dug another beautiful hole, placed his bone in it and covered it up with my BRA!!! Gotta love it! And to top it all off, he seems to prefer those expensive Victoria's Secret ones since they flap so delightfully when he runs with them in his mouth. ;o)

Janet Hughes, BARC's Bruno and Heidi

BARCINC BUZZ



Why Join The BARC List?

I felt privileged when asked to write for this group. The BARC family has been a wealth of information and support for me and my Berner crew. I found out about BARC after I received my first rescue boy (Mister Tobias) from the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Canada. He was a small little fellow at 8 weeks that had been in 5 homes before he came to me for fostering. We bonded immediately, and he became my first failed foster. Tobi remains the main man in my life and watches his harem of sisters with a careful eye.

I applied and was accepted as a BARC foster – just in case there was a need, but because of my location in Canada I can mostly offer support. I was very excited when they wanted to implement a mentoring system for new fosters and forever homes and immediately put my name on the list.

When BARC was able to go in and shut down a large puppy mill in Missouri 18 months ago I was so excited. Then I heard about this little boy who had the spunk to stand up to even the BARC rescue people and fell in love with him. I just knew Fritz (Scout) was meant to be with me – even before I saw a picture of him. I immediately put in my application and was accepted and then came the long wait for his health clearances, shots, neuter, and then arrival. I was devastated when I found out that he didn't make the plane on the Sunday and was so anxious on Monday that I almost waited the whole day at the airport for him to arrive. At my first view of this little boy I started to cry. I knew if I opened the crate to hold him I would never want to put him back in for the trip home so I had to just make myself get in the van and drive. The moment I was first able to hold this little boy my life changed.

Fritz had the funniest, curled whip of a tail, a narrow face, and a personality that wouldn't take no for an answer. The bonding between us was instant. I held him in my arms as I introduced him to the rest of my crew and they instantly became a family.

Fritz taught me so much in his short life. He had been abused so badly that he was slow learning to trust outsiders; he seldom wanted to leave my side. You could see he wanted to run and play with the others, but didn't want to be away from me. He eventually grew to trust that I wouldn't leave him and he felt comfortable in running and playing with the other dogs even if he ended up out of sight for short periods of time. He had more spunk than any dog I ever had and sometimes this caused problems, but we both worked hard on getting around the problems it caused.

When my girl had her first litter of pups he was just a year old and he was the best parent those pups could have had. Fritz would lay and sit by the whelping box for hours and watch, clean, and play with the pups. Mom felt comfortable right from the second day in leaving her little ones in his care. He loved those pups so much, he taught them how to play and be the pups he never had a chance to be. When I took the two girls I kept to the puppy park for the first time he had a terrible time trying keep track of them as they never went the same direction and he was tossed as to which one to corral first. He taught them about the creek and would play with them for hours in the water then lay cuddled in a ball around them for nap time.

When Fritz passed away at 20 months he was cuddled beside me with his head on my lap. I have lost dogs in the past but I don't think I ever cried as hard as this, he was far too young and had brought such happiness to my life. The hours I spent writing his diaries and later *The World According to Fritz* stories were great and now when I look back and re-read those stories it brings him back beside me.

The support during the first couple of weeks after his passing from the BARC family was amazing. I cried so much with every email that came back from people that had never met him, but felt they knew him because of those stories. These e-mails encouraged and supported me through that tough time.

I would encourage anyone that has a rescue to join the BARC group. They are an amazing support group, provide a wealth of information, and are truly the greatest bunch of caring and loving people out there.

-Adeline Maxim

YAHOO! GROUPS

**To join the BARCINC Yahoo! group list, simply send an email to: BARCINC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com telling us a bit about you and your BARC baby.

You can also find BARC on Facebook Causes

http://apps.facebook.com/causes/199903

Stay tuned for great stories and updates from the 2011 BMDCA National Specialty!





TEACHING TOUCH OR TARGET



Helen & Paxil

Touch or Target is teaching your dog to touch a target. This can be the palm of your open hand, your finger, or any other object such as the end of a stick or even a bell.

Most dogs catch on quickly because teaching it can be made into a game and it is very rewarding for your dog. Think of the chicken that pecks at the correct button and gets a kernel of corn. It is the same principle. Dogs learn "touching" dispenses a reward.

The benefits of teaching your dog to touch or target are endless. It is a wonderful way to help your dog focus on you and a means of keeping his attention on you. This is most helpful when a dog may feel anxious in a new situation or even when you are out on a walk and want to divert his/her attention from something you believe will make your dog uneasy. In addition, it teaches a dog that the "hand" is a good thing. I have also used targeting when teaching a recall. You can even use "touch" as a way of redirecting your dog from performing an undesirable behavior. The list is endless.

Teaching your dog to touch or target your hand is the easiest way to begin. Dogs usually love to sniff your hand, especially if it is "scented" with something enticing.

To begin, SAY NOTHING. Sit or stand in front of your dog with your palm open, fingers pointing down. Your hand is the target. Have treats in your other hand. You may want to rub some of the scent of a "smelly" treat on your palm to encourage your dog to approach and sniff it. Do not move your hand toward the dog. The dog must move toward your hand. Be patient. TOUCH HAPPENS!

At first, you will reward 'any' movement toward your hand. Once your dog is showing an interest in your hand, which should happen quickly, it is time to "raise the bar". At this point you want to reward only when your dog touches your hand. Be patient. Your dog may appear a little confused at first but hang in there. When your dog sniffs, pokes, or licks your "target hand" quickly say YES! (or click with your clicker) and give him/her a treat with your other hand. Do several repetitions. When you know your dog will touch your hand, now is the time to add a cue to this behavior. Begin to say "touch" as he/she is beginning to touch your hand, and when he/she does, quickly reward.

Do several repetitions several times a day offering the "touch" request and before long, your dog will become a "touch" junkie.

When your dog becomes reliable, begin to add some distractions. Once he/she is proficient in touching your hand, move to a new location and begin from square one. This is called *proofing* your dog. You want your dog to become reliable in different environments and locations, with and without distractions.

Don't stop there! Become creative and try using a different object. For example, I have trained my dogs to "touch" a bell on the door knob when they want to go out. When they touch the bell, the door opens. Their reward is allowing them to go outside. Follow the same steps when introducing a different object. Most probably, your dog will catch on quickly because it is so rewarding. Additionally, you may try raising your hand (or a target stick) above the dog's head and request him/her to "touch". Remember; do not move your hand toward the dog. Let the dog move toward the target. Be patient. Be creative. Offer your hand a little bit further away and have your dog walk toward it or hold your hand higher up and have your dog hop up to touch it. Most of all, have fun!

So go get some goodies, get your dog ,and begin target practice.

Only good things
- Helen

HELEN HOLLANDER, CPDT—*Helen graduated from Hofstra University with a degree in Psychology and later worked in the field of Special Education. Canine Behavior and training has always been Helen's hobby. Upon her children's graduation from High School, Helen switched professions to that of working with dogs on a professional level and furthering her education in Canine Behavior.*
Helen is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and member of the Certification Council of Pet Dog Trainers, a Professional member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT), a Certified Behavior Counselor through the Animal Behavior Center of New York. In addition, Helen serves as a Board member of the Nassau/Suffolk Owners Handlers Association and is a member of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America. In 2006, she became an AKC certified Evaluator for the CGC. Helen is a proactive advocate of dog-friendly, reward based training and is the owner of THE EDUCATED PUP, LLC, a private training and behavior counseling practice, located on Long Island, NY. In addition, Helen moderates an E-List that offers help for those people who own Shy/Aggressive Bernese Mt. Dogs. Email BerneseAggressiveandShy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to join.
Helen presently shares her life with her well trained and understanding husband and two Bernese Mt. Dogs and one Iraqi rescue pup, Dusty. When not counseling other people's pets, you can find Helen ringside handling one of her Bernese in conformation.

IN MEMORIAM– BECCA DEERING

BARC's Moonlight Dancer Becca CGC

March 23, 2004 – February 22, 2011



Our Princess of the Crossed Paws, Becca passed away in her sleep on Saturday, February 22, 2011, after several months of illness, most likely of cancer. (While we did get a frozen tissue sample sent to the MSU Bernese Mountain Dog Repository, there was a mix up and the other sample was not sent to the pathologist.)

Becca was rescued by BARC in 2005, the sweetest, gentlest dog I have ever met. One by one she overcame the fears that many mill rescues have. At first at home she was very timid, and kept mostly to herself, under the bed. Bit by bit, she came to trust and love us and eventually others who visited. Her place became ON our bed. Once she broke down that trust barrier she became a true Berner girl. She loved to schmooze with dogs and people, and was the consummate foot-sitter.

From her brothers, at first Socrates, then her BIG brother Xaro, and other brother Bruno, she learned how to be a real dog. From Socrates she began to learn about going through doors. From Bruno she learned to play with stuffed toys. For a long time she would watch as he took a stuffy in his mouth, squeaked it, and shook it. Then one day she shyly, gently picked up the smallest, about 6" star, BY THE TAG! She was always so very gentle with them, carrying them softly outside. Holding one in her mouth seemed to give her added confidence going through the door. She and Xaro always shared the best shady places in the yard…close to us.

In May 2008 Becca survived having a fist-sized thyroid carcinoma surgically removed.

The highlight of the past year or so has been Becca becoming her dad's buddy. For a long time she was fearful of men, but his patience and caring won her over.

Her gentle spirit lasted up to the very end. On the afternoon of her last Saturday we took Becca and Bruno walking along the river near home where we met a family with two sweet girls, pre/early teens. The younger girl just hunkered down and held Becca the whole time we visited with her parents. It was so beautiful! They both looked so happy. Walking back to the car, when we stopped to rest, she lay there on the river bank with her paws crossed watching the birds. So beautiful and content. Even that last evening Becca was still able to come upstairs to be with me by my desk. Around midnight we went out to say goodnight to the moon and went to bed. Within two hours she was peacefully, unexpectedly gone.

Beautiful travels, our sweet Princess

EJ and Suzanne Deering
High Point, NC



IN MEMORIAM–GINA THOMPSON

Gina Cseploov Dvor

02/06/1999 - 01/27/2011





Gina was our first BARC dog and our first Berner. Little did I know when we adopted her how she would change our lives! The night after we brought her home we got a LOT of snow. She was terrified of it and wouldn't go outside until it melted about a week later. What??? A Bernese Mountain Dog who was afraid of snow??? Thankfully, she used the extra large puppy pads we put down for her and once the snow melted she was willing to go outside.

Gina was a very fearful girl after spending her first seven years in various puppy mills. Four months after we adopted her we decided to add a BARC brother to the family in the hopes it would help her gain confidence and did it ever! She and Bo were a match made in heaven. He gave her the confidence to go on walks, go to National Specialties and even to walk in three Veteran Parades.

Gina was euthanized ten days short of her 12th birthday. We were so looking forward to celebrating that day with her, but it wasn't meant to be. She was diagnosed with osteosarcoma and her pain was too severe to manage with medication. We let our sweet girl go on January 27th. She will be missed terribly but leaves us with many wonderful memories. We consider ourselves so lucky to have had her for nearly five years and will be forever grateful to BARC for rescuing her.

–Karen Thompson



IN MEMORIAM– FRITZ MAXIM

BARC's Happy to be Free Fritz CGN

April 12, 2009 – December 30, 2010



Fritz was born in a Missouri puppy mill and was kept in a small wire crate until he was rescued at 4 months. He wasn't allowed to see daylight, to play on the ground ,or even visit with other puppies. He had to eat, sleep, and go to the bathroom in this same cage day after day. When the rescue people came he was so happy to see them that he barked and barked at them.

I taught him how to cuddle, and he loved to sit for hours in my arms and later on the floor beside my chair. He would watch over me all night long and sometimes in the morning he would crawl into bed with me and get snuggled in between my other Berners and me. He went to birthday parties and one day he had his own party and invited all his Berner friends – Fritz was one year old. He worked really hard on his rally training and manners. He passed his CGN test with flying colours and got one leg towards his rally title.

Fritz loved life. He was strong willed, stubborn as a mule, independent, and loving. He started life under the worst of conditions and he had the strength to survive. This strength sometimes caused him problems, but nothing we weren't willing to work on. He was happiest when he was with me and enjoyed our long walks together or just riding in the van. He worked hard to overcome his fears and was loved by all that knew him for his spunk and caring. He will be most remembered for his attention to the litter of pups born this past spring. He would sit by the box for hours, leaning over the box and allowing the pups to play with his face, washing them and as they grew, teaching them how to play. The mother felt totally confident in turning her newborns over to him, something we humans were not sure of at first but she knew. He would spend hours outside trying to keep track of the pups when we turned them loose to play. Some of his favorite times had to be on the Berner walks when he could socialize with other Berners and he was able to attend the Berner Christmas Party just before he passed on. He ran and played games, played with the pups that were there and had a fun filled tiring day in the deep snow.

I can only wish him peace and joy over the rainbow bridge and I want him to know that we all loved him so much and miss him dearly. I thank BARC daily for the time I had with him.

BARC's Happy to be Free Fritz CGN

Berner Garde # 66966

Adeline Maxim

Calgary, Alberta

www.alpinemist.net



IN MEMORIAM– SPECIAL BARC SIBLING — GOLD SAMUELS

Superfoot Heart of Gold

May 12, 2002 — March 1, 2011



Gold was a gem born in Japan after her breeder sent her mom there from California to mate with a famous stud from Belgium. She lived there almost 5 years and we don't know what her life there was like, but she was sent back to her mom's breeder in California in April 2005. That year she hit the road as a show dog and won Miss Missoula!

We met because Marco and I chatted with some Berner rescue people at a Berner Pumpkin Patch festival in 2007 about how Arthur needed a confident girl to draw him out. A few days later her breeder called me to say she wanted to give us Gold as a gift. She said she was healthy, had good hips, and they weren't breeding her anymore. We went up to apple country to pick her up. She was scruffy like a brillo pad and had smelly ears and a bad bunny hop up stairs belying her "good" OFA rating.

She and Arthur were beyond indifferent when they first met; they actually urinated on each other and then moved off in different directions as if to say "next?" Gold had to be forced into the van and as I drove off with Marco in the back comforting her, his role from the first as he could not at that time get near Arthur, I asked him why this dog and he said well if it doesn't work out she'll have the best 2 weeks of her life and that's when I knew we would keep her forever so we could give her the best years of her life and see her shine and cry with broken hearts when she left us.

She was Arthur's most effective rescuer! She taught Arthur to bark, helicopter wag, run to the door, eat more than one breakfast, and cuddle. She showed him the virtues of waiting in the condo/minivan (you get treats) and waiting out a thunderstorm (you get treats and classical music). He slept best when she snored nearby....we all did.

She was Marco's long lost little girl. She was the only morning person in the house and bounced before breakfast even though she was crippled by osteoarthritis (her x-rays look like a Stephen King movie) and by immune mediated polyarthropathy. She developed cancer, we found it in January all over her lungs, and generously gave us 3 months to say goodbye. She had such a rough road, but loved us unstintingly.....and shone like Gold!

—Sheira & Marco



FUNDRAISER FAQ'S — WILLEM WIJNBERG AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION



Joye Neff with Breeze

Joye Neff is a fundraiser for Bernese Mountain Dogs, both nationally and internationally. Since 1999, she has raised $645,762 doing fundraisers on the Berner lists for Berner health, rescue, and education. The generosity of the Berner Lovers on the list made this total possible and she is thankful to everyone for their support!

Joye Neff

1182 Firwood Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243-1881
(412) 561-8539 — joye.neff@gmail.com

Q: Which fundraiser is currently running or will run during this quarter, and where do I go to find it?

A: The next fundraiser will be the 2011 Willem Wijnberg AKC Canine Health Foundation Cancer Fundraiser. The start date will be mid-April and will run until the mid-June, 2011. We will be raising money to support a malignant histiocytosis (MH) study by Dr. Matthew Breen at North Caroline State University. Dr. Breen has developed a means to rapidly screen dogs for the expression of key genes that he has identified that he thinks are playing a role in the initiation and progression of MH in Berners. We need to raise a minimum of $20,000 to support this very important research study. For more information and to see all of the great items visit http://bernese.biz/CancerFundraiser2011.htm.

Q: How do I participate to donate items?

A: The prizes this year will be a combination of items painted by artist Willem Wijnberg from The Netherlands and prizes that people donate for this fundraiser to fight cancer. If you have a special item to donate for the cancer fundraiser, e-mail Joye right away at: joye.neff@gmail.com.

Q: How do I participate to win items?

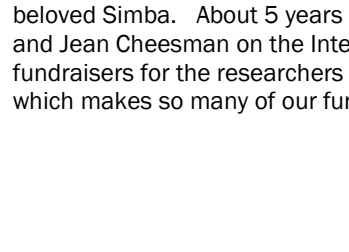
We have assembled many lovely Berner items to give to those who have Berners in their lives or who wish they had a Berner in their life.

Tickets to win these wonderful Berner items are $1 each, or 6 tickets for $5, or 30 tickets for $20. You can get tickets by mailing a check made payable to: Joye M. Neff. On the Memo Line, write: Matthew Breen Grant. Please include your name, address, phone number and email. Most important, tell me how many tickets and how to distribute the tickets you are requesting.

EXAMPLE: "Joye, please give me 20 tickets. I'd like you to place the tickets into the following envelopes: 2 each in items number 2, 8, 14, 22, 33. 34, 45, 63, 77 and 89."

That's it! . People may also request to send tickets to friends, mentors, and people they admire—it's fun!!!

You may also see www.BMDfundraiser.org for information on all Berner charities and fundraising links.



I have had Berners and Newfoundlands for more then 50 years. I have never been able to make a choice between the two breeds and therefore I keep them both. The reason I started the cancer fundraiser is because in the past years I have lost 7 of my dogs to different types of cancer. When my Newfy, Simba, died from bone cancer in my arms, I made a holy promise to her to fight the rest of my life against that terrible cancer. I am not a rich man who can make big donations of money to the researchers of cancer, and making paintings is my only way to keep my promise to my beloved Simba. About 5 years ago, I met Joye Neff , Pat Long, and Jean Cheesman on the Internet and they told my about the fundraisers for the researchers of cancer to find the genome which makes so many of our furry friends die from cancer. When I learned about those fundraisers I said to myself, "that is what I am looking for, I can make dog paintings for those fundraisers". I think that my beloved Simba, now at the Rainbow Bridge, brings me in contact with those three angels Joye Neff , Pat Long, and Jean Cheesman to keep my holy promise to her. I also will tell you my biggest wish is that before I also go to the Rainbow Bridge I can say cancer is no longer the biggest murder of our furry friends.

—Willem Wijnberg



THE RECALL

Clicker Training Lessons
gentle & effective obedience training for your dog

The Recall

The Recall is one of the most important behaviors, yet, it is the one that is often the most unreliable. Many puppy owners notice happily that their puppy always (or almost always) seems to come when called, so they think they have that one covered and train no further for it. However, just about every young puppy naturally hangs about the leader and comes easily - it's a survival thing. But when they hit adolescence? Suddenly, the rest of the world is a whole lot more interesting than you are!

You might be surprised to learn that you have already begun training for the recall when you did all of that attention work. Now, the second step is the most fun of all. You simply play recall games with your dog! We call the first one "Puppy in the Middle." You'll need another person for this, a buckle collar (which means a regular one, not a prong or choke of any kind) on the dog, and a bag of treats for each person.

Person 'A' kneels and holds the dog gently by the collar and pets him. Person 'B' kneels down about 6' away and calls the dog. He should say his name first and then the command (use whatever you have been using at this point, perhaps "C'mon".) If the dog comes, then Person B takes hold of his collar and makes a big fuss over him - praise, treats, and pats. If the pup is too interested in Person A to respond to Person B, then Person B gets up, walks over to pup, shows him the terrific treat he had, and essentially lures him over to where he called him from. After the pup is with Person B, Person A calls him. Then Person B calls him. Back and forth, back and forth. This is a game - so keep it fun!! Be sure to hold onto his collar until the other person calls but it's okay (in fact, desired) if he is straining to go! Keep the game sessions short and fun but play it frequently! Several times a day if possible. When the pup has the concept, begin moving farther apart. Stay in his sight for quite awhile, but eventually this game turns into Hide and Seek. At that point you should also add all other family members, each with a bag of treats (just work out something so 2 people don't call the pup at once!). A really good idea is to give your dog his dinner this way. Simply divide his food amongst yourselves and play the game until it is gone.

Troubleshooting - don't have anyone else to help out with the games? You can play them by yourself - just drop a few small treats on the floor and when your dog is busy gobbling them up walk 6' away then call him. Then put more treats on the floor and walk away again, etc.

As well as playing this game, start calling your dog lots in the house (or anywhere where he isn't faced with much distraction. You don't want to overstrain that new muscle and damage it, do you?) **Always call when you are sure he will respond** - like at dinnertime! Call him for no reason other than to give him a treat and then let him go. You want to instill in him the belief that Coming When Called is always a WONDERFUL THING!! Many people make the mistake of, without thinking about it, turning the Come command into a negative thing for the dog. If you use it mostly to bring him inside when he was playing, or when you are ready to leave the park and go home, then that word, to the dog, means The End of Fun. You want them to think it is the best possible word he could possibly hear in his day. So...never, never, never call your dog over for anything unpleasant (like bath time) or to end anything really fun (like playtime in the park.) Eventually you will be able to use the command in the park, as needed, (because by then he will think that coming over to you IS a pleasant thing) but don't ever go back to calling him for a negative thing. Go get him for bath time!

Play the Puppy in the Middle games for a week or two before beginning the next steps. However, you need to continue playing those games for quite a while - in a variety of places - as the game is what is really doing the training.

So far, you have been playing the games using your "Informal" recall signal. Now your dog is going to learn a "Formal" signal. The difference? The informal one (let's say.... "C'mon") is used when the response doesn't have to be immediate. Maybe the dog is in the backyard and it's dinnertime. It's okay with you if he takes another sniff or piddle on his way in. That's when you use the informal signal. You may also repeat this one since it is no big deal. But now, you will need to choose a formal signal. I like COME ("Sugar Bear - Come!") but if that is already your informal one then you'll need to choose another. COME NOW is good, or TO ME, or FRONT... whatever you like!

I highly recommend also teaching a whistle signal as well - this is more likely to work in an extremely distracting situation.

Continued

Practice the Recall with your formal command at this point ONLY when you are totally sure of the correct response. Good opportunities are at dinner time and when playing the games (start out with the informal command to warm him up, then switch to the formal one once he's really going). Bad times would be anytime when there are distracting things around such as in the backyard or in the park. You really need to wait until the behavior is strong enough for those. Otherwise, every time you call him and do not get the correct response, you are actually diminishing the strength of the command.

Also important is prolonging your dog's pleasure in having responded to you. So don't just toss him and treat and walk away. Sit down with him and break that treat into many little pieces and give them one by one. Save something absolutely wonderful for this exercise - leftover steak, perhaps? Or have his favorite toy instead (perhaps a ball or rope toy or a Frisbee) and spend several minutes (at least) playing with him.

While working at home, it's important to start being very variable with the treats/reinforcements, but still keeping them amazing. And although you initially let the dog know that you had a treat before calling him, you need to phase that out. Call him often in the house, then RUN to get a treat (or toy) from another location! This will prevent him looking to see if you have a treat before responding. You want the response to be instant!

In higher level classes we really up the distraction level to include another person kneeling on the ground about halfway between the dog and the owner. As the dog races by, this person distracts (either by just being there, by calling "puppy, puppy", or by holding out a treat - all depends on what each dog is ready for). Then we include the rest of the class as everyone lines up about 10' across from each other (dogs included) and one person and her dog practice the recall running down the middle, first with just the distraction of the other dogs and people, then with the people calling, "Puppy, puppy!", then with the people offering treats and calling as the dog races by. Of course, if the dog were ever to try to take a treat from one of the distracters, she must be sure to not ever let him have one!

You can also really strengthen your dog's Recall by practicing it at the park, even around the rest of the dog pack that he might be playing with. First, be prepared with incredible treats and/or toys. Then when he is playing, walk right up to him, stick your treat/toy right under his nose and call him "Max, COME!" while you move backwards 6' or so, luring him along while praising the whole time, then giving him the treat. Do this frequently! Eventually you will be able to start farther and farther away from him. But do be sure to practice it often so he associates the word "COME!" with terrific things, even at the dog park. Many dogs will start to "check in" on their own which should of course be encouraged with a treat! When you are finally ready to go home, he won't be sorry to hear that word since he won't think it means leaving his friends.

Now, a bit more detail about the two different signals. The formal signal is used when the dog must come straight to you right away! Eventually it is also helpful to have him sit upon reaching you but only after the recall is 100%. You may NOT repeat this signal! Therefore, don't ever use it until you are sure of it. Practice it inside or on a long leash outside. Use the formal signal when playing the games from now on if he is reliable with them. Use it at dinner time! Any other time, use the informal signal. It's freezing rain outside and you are not inclined to go get him if he doesn't respond? Then don't use the formal signal. Of course, over time and with practice the formal signal should become very solid. THIS is the signal you will then use in an emergency... dog takes off after a squirrel and is heading for the street... "Max, COME!". And if you spent enough time strengthening his response with the distraction training, Max will indeed spin around and come to you! Be sure to practice plenty of fun recalls - both formal and informal.

Happy Recalling!!





Mary Woodward & Susan Greenholt

Greenwood Dog Training School

Wilmington, DE

*using positive methods to teach





2012 BARC Calendar Contest!

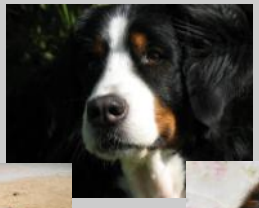
Get your cameras ready! We want to see your wonderful BARC kids and their siblings featured in the 2012 BARC calendar!

While we all know that ALL photos of our dogs are beautiful, what we're really looking for is those particularly high resolution (minimum 200-300 dpi), once-in-a-lifetime shots - the crème de la crème, if you will - those shots that *belong* on a calendar. No offense to our BARC parents....but we prefer dogs only...face it they're cuter! If you have those great shots, then please send them electronically *in jpg format only* to Beth McNeal at smedette13@yahoo.com to be entered in the contest.













Rain Longson
Phone: 604-727-8062
www.rainlongson.com
artist@rainlongson.com

Contact Correction

I do paintings of pets, mostly dogs. This would be a great gift idea for the holidays. If you reference this ad in the BARC newsletter when contacting me about a portrait, I would be willing to donate 15% of the sales to BARC.

I charge my paintings by the inch $2.50. As a holiday special through BARC, I'll charge $2.00 per square inch, so a 10 x 10 painting would cost $200.00, plus shipping and handling (taxes only applied in Canada). $30.00 from that sale would be sent to BARC.

Go to my website to see some samples of my work. I work in acrylic on stretched canvas and in water color also stretched on a wood frame. I am working on a special portrait of my BARC baby Maggie now.

BARC's Freckles





BARC SPECIAL DAYS

March 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sig Monte	3/1/08	Anniversary
Wally Boehm	3/7/08	Birthday
Lacey Gadd	3/7/08	Birthday
Jack Palma	3/7/08	Birthday
Charlie Fagan	3/8/08	Anniversary
Maeve Murphy	3/8/08	Anniversary
Maggie Hannon	3/10/03	Birthday
Ted Quillemette	3/13/09	Anniversary
Demi Monte	3/15/04	Birthday
Jack Palma	3/16/08	Anniversary
Hagar Caldwell	3/23/09	Anniversary
Sophie Wait	3/24/08	Anniversary
Murphy Simidian	3/27/08	Birthday
Remington Stainecker	3/27/08	Birthday
Patty Miksich	3/28/04	Birthday
Bruiser Bradley	3/28/08	Birthday



Missy Meisner	4/2/02	Birthday
Natalie Hester	4/2/03	Birthday
Peaches Pavlicek	4/7/04	Birthday
Teddy Bear Szudarski	4/7/09	Anniversary
Graci Kennedy	4/8/06	Birthday
Molly Prato	4/8/06	Birthday
Bruno Hughes	4/9/08	Birthday
Dante Paige	4/12/03	Birthday
Junie B Fowler	4/17/08	Birthday
Riley Christen	4/20/08	Birthday
India Eaton	4/23/04	Birthday
Bosley Hawes	4/23/04	Anniversary
Bea Stringfellow	4/23/08	Birthday
Samson Kenady	4/24/08	Birthday
Oscar Wiegand	4/24/01	Birthday
Dulce Barrett	4/24/08	Anniversary
Dolly Johnson	4/27/06	Birthday
Izzy Thornton	4/27/06	Birthday
Leo Freeman	4/27/08	Anniversary
Carly Taylor	4/29/01	Birthday
Mollie Zaloudeh	4/29/10	Anniversary

April 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



We would like to commemorate your BARC dog's special dates! Please help us start the BARC Database by sending information about your dogs. Send your information to: maryannmonte@bellsouth.net.

BARC SPECIAL DAYS





Max Ledoux	5/4/04	Birthday	Barney Herbst	5/24/08	Birthday
Alfie Palma	5/5/01	Birthday	Ted Quillemette	5/24/08	Birthday
Sophia Borgstadt	5/7/09	Anniversary	Gracie Tingley	5/24/08	Birthday
Murphy Simidian	5/12/09	Anniversary	Joy Westby	5/25/01	Birthday
Gretel Hutchins	5/15/04	Birthday	Donovan Klein	5/25/07	Birthday
Jojo McQueen	5/16/08	Birthday	Carson McCracken	5/25/07	Birthday
Daisy Wilker	5/16/02	Birthday	Darcy McCracken	5/25/07	Birthday
Maisy Wilker	5/16/02	Birthday	Eli Woznicki	5/25/07	Birthday
Diego Donovan	5/17/02	Birthday	Barney Herbst	5/25/08	Birthday
Ruby Baker	5/18/08	Birthday	Halley Parky	5/27/01	Birthday
Lacey Hunt	5/18/08	Anniversary	Wally Boehm	5/27/08	Anniversary
Tucker Pelletier	5/20/05	Birthday	Jesse Neilsen	5/28/01	Birthday
Moose Hartman	5/24/04	Anniversary	Rosie Webb	5/28/08	Anniversary
Lily Comber	5/24/08	Birthday	Bo Thompson	5/28/02	Birthday

THE LAST BARC — MARCH PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE



A new Photo Caption Challenge for March! The picture is randomly chosen out of the BARC Photobucket.

So all you creative, witty people out there, here's your chance to have some fun.

Email your photo caption to Lisa Hawes, Newsletter Editor (lkhawes@yahoo.com) by May 15, 2011.

The top 5 captions as chosen by the Newsletter Staff will be published in the next issue, along with a new challenge.

Enjoy!! Have fun!!