The BARC BEACON
Shining the Light of Hope and Freedom

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MEET ROSCOE WEST! OUR FEATURED BARC BABY



I was recently reading through my fall 2011 BARC newsletter and then going through and organizing dog paperwork. We have rescued clumber spaniels. Our girl, Cissey, who came out of a horrid mill at 2 years old and lived to 15 yrs. and 2 months (to the amazement of all!), was done last January. I then ran across BARC's Gavin's (we changed his name to Roscoe) paperwork. So I decided that I really needed to finally be organized enough to tell you about how he is doing.



He came from you to us through a foster home in Akron, maybe Toledo, (I can't remember where I went to get him) in 2005. It was a major deal to get him in the car! He was terrified! I brought him home to Columbus where we had 2 clumber spaniels, Cissey and Elwood. Roscoe's life began here in the craziness. He would not come near us. We had to open the back door and go into a different room as he tore out the door to go to the bathroom. We then had to corral him back into the house or he would have stayed out forever no matter the weather. When I would corner him to dry him off if it was raining, he would shake so hard that he would nearly fall down. After a month of that, we decided to corner him, put a leash on him and walk him out the door and then release him to do his thing. Four months later, a couple that we do business with gave us their well-bred socialized Bernese Mountain Dog. They just decided that they did not want him any longer. He was six months younger than Roscoe. Roscoe's socialization process developed by leaps and bounds at that point. He and Barley are inseparable. It was a long slow process, but now Roscoe LOVES to go for car rides, LOVES to go for walks and does very well on a leash. And the greatest improvement – Roscoe snuggles with me every morning as soon as I get up! This month (it took 6 years), he started sitting on command for his morning biscuit. In our house, every one (of the dogs) gets up and goes outside for their morning routine of relieving themselves and then comes back inside for their doggie biscuit. Everyone would sit except Roscoe- but he got his cookie anyway. And then one morning, he sat!! We were so excited that he got 2 cookies. I think it took him about 3 months to wag his tail, and now he wags his tail all the time. We talk - and he dances in the kitchen when he gets excited. "He is my boy and we just have the best time!" I attached pictures of him as I was looking at the website again and saw pics of all the happy berners that are now in safe homes with families who love them as they should be loved. I thought you would like to know and see that he is safe, doing very well, and is well loved. Thank you for what you do.



From L-R: Libby (foster clumber who went to Colorado); our son, Ryan; Elwood, a rescue; me, Lisa with Roscoe (Gavin); Cissey, our girl that was done last January; My husband, Steven; and Barley

Lisa West

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Lisa & Bosley

Welcome, one and all, to the final 2011 edition of The BARC Beacon! Can you believe we're already at the end of 2011…and our 5th year of publication??? We hope, as the holidays are already upon us, that you'll be able to carve some time out of your busy schedules to peruse the pages of this holiday issue of our newsletter. Take some time away from the hustle and bustle and curl up with some hot chocolate and your favorite BARC baby and enjoy a bit of down time! There are things for pretty much anyone and everyone in here! We have a wonderful Family Spotlight as well as a special featured BARC baby story that was shared with us recently. These are heartwarming stories full of "warm fuzzies" to make you feel so good this holiday season. We also have a Funny Bones article that is sure to have you giggling if not downright laughing out loud! And if the story doesn't do it, the graphics will!! ;o)

From an educational standpoint, we have a wonderful, yet lengthy, article on seizures that is important for all our families to be aware of. I always say it's better to be safe than sorry!! We also have a great article by our friends Mary and Susan at greenwooddogs.com on how to play tug-of-war with your pet in a way that is safe and fun for both canines and humans.

Nell Ward, bless her heart, pulled double duty for us this go-round! She wrote the Rescue Gallery article - don't let the time get away from you and be too late to get your BARC baby(s) entered into the Rescue Gallery at the BMDCA National Specialty in 2012 – as well as a wonderful book review on a great read that deals with a sobering, yet very important subject for all who love and are committed to animals. We continue to have some of our usual favorites like Bosley's Culinary Corner, the BARC birthday/anniversary calendar, and the Last BARC Photo Caption Contest as well as 2 sweet memorials for BARC babies who touched their families' hearts in special ways. Sharing these special memories, I believe, can touch hearts and perhaps help bring some closure/ healing for the families.

Finally, I want to say a HUGE "THANK YOU" to my dear friend and co-laborer in this newsletter endeavor, Beth McNeal. Beth has labored selflessly for 3 ½ years doing the layout & design of each and every issue. During that time, she has become a dear personal friend, and I have come to greatly respect her and prize her friendship. Even after she lost her precious BARC baby, Isabelle, she continued to produce these incredible issues every quarter without fail… and when my marriage fell apart last spring and I was feeling completely overwhelmed, she and Mary Ann Monte rose to the occasion and took the lead to ensure that the March (spring) issue got taken care of in a timely manner for all you terrific BARC families. I owe a HUGE debt that I'll never be able to repay to this dear lady…in fact, we all do…for without her, the newsletter would not have been able to be published because, quite frankly, I don't have the knowledge of Publisher, etc. to do the layout & design. The time has now come, however, when Beth feels the need to pass the torch on to another. So, Beth, our hats are off to you, dear friend. Your years of selfless service, on behalf of our lil' newsletter, have touched many families. You have truly made a difference and will never be forgotten. THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart, and blessings to you and yours in whatever you put your hand to in the future.

Big Berner hugs,

Lisa Hawes, editor

with BARC's Bosley & Lionheart's Tonka

~forever holding our beloved BARC's BernieBob close in heart…



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BERNESE AUCTION RESCUE COALITION

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Lending a paw to those in need

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BARC BUSINESS UPDATE

	2010	2011
Dogs Rescued	31	19
Adoptions Completed	19	24
Re-homes Completed	3	2
Donations/Adoption Fees	30,050	21,475
Expenses	33,855	28,113

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



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for submissions for the Spring issue of The BARC Beacon is February 12, 2012

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

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Family Spotlight—The Deering Family … a Most Endearing Family!

E J and I have been married for 44 years. He has a couple of degrees in architecture and has worked in construction administration for most of those years, retiring in 2007. It involved quite a bit of moving around the country until we settled in North Carolina. I taught school, everything from third grade to eighth grade math, for twenty-five years, retiring in 2004. We have one daughter, Lydia, 39, and one grandson, Zachary, 3 ½.

We met our first Bernese Mountain Dogs while living in East Blue Hill, Maine about 1978. We were out exploring one Saturday afternoon and spied a sign for a craft show, or something, going on at a community center and decided to stop. There was a lady outside with a litter of Berner puppies. Now, I wish we knew who that was. We were enthralled. We couldn't get one then because we had a very elderly mixed breed, Pooh, who just would not have understood. But we pretty much decided that a Berner was in our future.

Fast forward thirteen years, moves to MN, FL, SC, two in NC and we had bought a house out in the country near Greensboro, NC in 1991. Our daughter was in college, and we were finally ready!! So off we went to the dog show in Winston-Salem to look for Berners and a breeder. One of the first breeders we spoke to was planning a litter in the near future.

We didn't know much about the breed or even getting a puppy back then. That breeding didn't take, and she suggested another breeder who had a litter on the way. We ended up driving to PA to get our Gwydion from what turned out to be a responsible breeder.

We had just purchased a new Chevy Caprice that we loved. By the time we got home with the pup we knew that the car would not work for a big dog. We found an Oldsmobile Silhouette van that became the BRNRMOBL. After 250,000 miles on that one, we are 180,000 miles into our second one bearing the same license tag.

Gwydion and Socrates



Gwydion was our learning Berner. Fortunately for us, he was very forgiving of all of our mistakes. He was everything we had hoped for and more. Every morning before I left for school, I would take him on the path down through the woods. Many mornings I would go to school with spider webs in my hair from those walks.

Bagley, the half-bassett joined our household shortly after Gwydion. As the T-shirt says, Berners are like potato chips; you can't have just one, and in 1993 we got a two for the price of one, Berner siblings Socrates and Lady Cosmo. It was a full house, and lots of fun. Sadly, we lost Cosmo to bloat following a sockectomy at an early age. Gwydion lived to almost nine.

For several years the family consisted of Socrates and Bagley. In 2002 we attended our first all-week BMDCA Specialty at Oglebay, WV. What a fun adventure that was! In 2005 Socrates was the oldest (almost twelve) in the veterans parade in Gettysburg. We had lost Bagley the day before we left for Gettysburg, leaving a hole in the heart of our family. So we decided to adopt a rescue. I had heard of BARC on the Berner-l, so I called Amy to see who she had that was ready for a furever home. She sent me a picture of Becca. What a sweet face! We were smitten.

Transportation was arranged and we went to Nashville, TN in July to meet up with Alison to get her. What a special girl she was! She and Socrates charmed everyone at every rest area on the way home.

I think we stopped at every one of them to let her know that she was coming home with US. Becca was pretty uncomfortable in the house at first and spent a lot of time under our bed. Coaxing didn't work at first, but getting down on my tummy and holding out my hand to her did. She would gladly come to my hand and get the leash on. Then she'd go anywhere with me. Gradually she gained confidence and learned the ropes from Socrates, things like going in and out of doors.

Sadly, we lost Socrates the day before we left for Frankenmuth in 2006, and Becca had to deal with automatic doors and elevators for the first time all by herself. We frequently had to wait for someone else with a dog to go in or out with.



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She needed a pal, so I called Amy again. All the BARC dogs she had at that time came with as much baggage as Becca, but she did have a very sweet, big, four year old from Switzerland who she felt deserved a special home.

Enter Xaro. And enter, he did! All 135 pounds of ever lovin' Velcro. Goodness, what a dear sweet dog. He had the most devoted 'old soul' I've ever met. He continued Becca's education and encouragement.

That fall we heard about a young male that was being offered on Craig's List, and our Blue Ridge BMDC went into high gear.



Xaro and Becca with E J

We said we would foster him. We failed as fosters and Becca had an 'other brother,' Bruno. Bruno was a 'very active' 1 ½ year old who continued Becca's education; teaching her about playing with stuffed animals, and picking your own fruits and vegetables from the garden.



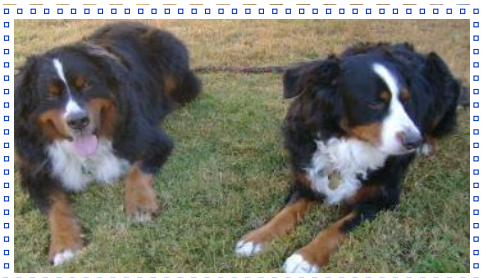
Xaro, Bruno, Becca & Suzanne on the dock in Portland

For the next four years we traveled by BRNRMOBL to the Specialties with the three of them, including all the way to Portland in 2009.

In December 2010 Xaro passed away, and then two months later we lost lovely Becca. The trip to DelMar specialty was bittersweet as we again traveled with just one dog.

Just recently we became parents of Stanley (5), whose owner had just died. He has fit right in almost as if he had been here all along.

Through most these twenty years of Berners we have been a part of the Blue Ridge BMDC of North Carolina. I have served as president for the past four years. Our circle of Berner friends grows with each gathering of the club and each specialty. This has been one of the most rewarding benefits of having Berners…their people.



Stanley and Bruno

Suzanne Deering

GOING GOING GONE

2012 BARC CALENDARS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Announcing the 3rd annual BARC Babies Calendar for 2012 composed entirely of our beloved rescued Berners. Every dog is portrayed doing something they love—be it playing in the snow, lounging on the beach, etc. Oh, I don't want to give too much away! These calendars are very important for raising funds to rescue Bernese from horrible situations such as puppy mills, auctions, and/or owner surrenders. We do not have a facility for these dogs once they have been rescued--they stay in foster homes. They are all vet-checked and oftentimes need medical treatment, which we all know can be very expensive.





Please help BARC by purchasing one or more calendars for yourselves, and, due to the quality of these lovely calendars and the beauty of their subject matter, consider them for gift giving as well.

The price is $25 per calendar, which includes shipping. I will even gift wrap them for you! You may contact me to reserve calendars via email: thetrumancollar@yahoo.com

We have ordered 150 calendars this year, and many are already spoken for. Order fast before we run out! All present and future BARC dogs thank you very much!

Bernerly,

Debby Fitch

BARC Ways-n-Means

2012 RESCUE GALLERY

YOUR RESCUE DESERVES TO BE A STAR!
(READ FURTHER TO FIND OUT HOW)

The Rescue Gallery will once again appear at the BMDCA National Specialty in Gettysburg, PA in early May 2012. For seven years, we have celebrated rescued Berners and their forever families.

The Rescue Gallery displays hard copies of the pictures and stories of rescued dogs. In addition, they are printed in a booklet and appear on-line long-term.

Your dog is welcomed whether you attend the Specialty or not, whether your dog was rescued by BARC or a regional club or someone else. Your dog is even welcomed if it has passed away and is no longer with you.

The deadline for entries will be March 1, 2012. Entry forms will be available in early January. However, you can get ready now! You will need a story of no more than 500 words (saved as RTF or WORD docs) and a picture (portrait orientation). Go to: http://www.berner.org/rescue/rescueblogs/wordpress/?page_id=429 for examples from previous years.

Rescue Gallery Booklet



Rescue Gallery Exhibit at the 2011 BMDCA Specialty in Del Mar, California



To enter your rescued Bernese, the full package costs $25. You receive an adorable personalized pin (shown at right) with your dog's call name, which will show everyone that your dog is in the Rescue Gallery; your dog gets a bright yellow bandana to wear so that others will know he/she is a rescue; you get a copy of the booklet; and your story & picture will be on display all week at the Gettysburg Specialty and on-line.



If you already have a pin, you might want the "display only" option for $15. You get a copy of the booklet and your story and picture will be displayed in Gettysburg and on-line.

You will need a Berner-Garde number for your dog. Any questions, including how to obtain a Berner-Garde number, multiple dog discounts, or submission guidelines contact me at nell@jnward.org or 252-671-6687.

If you are not coming to the Specialty you can mail it to me, then afterwards I will gladly ship your package back to you. Add $5 for return mailing costs.

The Rescue Gallery has helped bring attention to the rescue needs within this breed. In 2012, I will be speaking at Berner-U on Monday afternoon about the history of the Rescue Gallery and a bit about what rescue is. I hope to see some of you there with your rescued dogs.

You are already heroes with your rescued dogs, but you can be a hero again by getting your entry in promptly and not making me nuts at the deadline.

Thank you. I look forward to your entries.

Nell Ward
nell@jnward.org



Nell with, from L—R, Harmony and Hobo Herpel and Summer Ward

BOSLEY'S CULINARY CORNER



BERNER BIRTHDAY BASH CAKE



INGREDIENTS

1—12 oz. can of chopped turkey

4 eggs

1 cup flour

1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 cup oatmeal

1/2 cup Canola oil

Finely chopped parsley (optional)

1/2 cup grated carrot

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°, spray cake pan (we use a bone shaped pan) with Non-Stick cooking spray. Puree the turkey in a blender, or food processor, with the eggs and oil. Grate the Carrot. Finely chop the parsley (Optional). Add the vegetables to the meat mixture and blend together until completely mixed. Sift flour and baking powder together in a large mixing bowl and stir in oatmeal. Make a well in the center of the flour and gradually stir in the blended mixture. Pour mixture into the cake pan. Bake for about 50-60 minutes. Remove the cake from the oven. Let cool for 30 minutes.

Spread the top of the cake with 'Icing' - Yogurt or cream cheese.

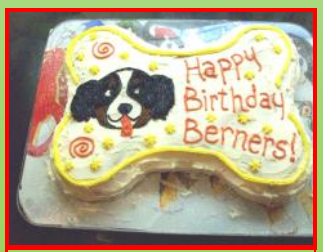
This cake will keep in the refrigerator for 3-5 days.



Bertha, 8 weeks, Bucky, 4 years



2010 BBB cake



2009 BBB cake



Enjoying the BEST part of the party ... THE CAKE!

Submitted by Kayle Luthey, on behalf of Bucky, Bertha and all the Berners that attend the Annual Berner Birthday Bash.

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

EMERGENCY CARE FOR CANINE SEIZURES

BY JOANNE CARSON, PH. D.


Doctor's Assistant

Cluster seizures is more than one seizure in a 24 hour period. Two seizures in a 24 hour period are "cluster seizures" according to Dr. William Thomas, a board certified neurologist.

Because cluster seizures are so dangerous and can cause brain damage, or worse, there is the rectal and oral valium protocol which has the ability of stopping cluster seizures and limiting it to the one original seizure. To be most effective, it is necessary to use both the liquid and oral valium/diazepam.

It is important to give a dose of liquid valium as soon as possible after a seizure. Many people administer the rectal valium while the dog is seizing, and run to get it when they are sure the dog will not harm himself during the seizure. It is important to use both rectal and oral valium so you should have your veterinarian read the published information about the rectal and oral valium protocol.

Email your request for the complete valium protocol which consists of 8 separate e-mails to:
leh1012@hotmail.com

NOTE: If you have NOT received eight (8) separate emails
containing the Valium Protocol within three days of sending your request,
please write again - emails do get lost in "cyberspace" from time to time!!!

If your veterinarian is reluctant to prescribe that, then it may be time to think about finding a veterinarian who is more willing to work with you.

Please ask your veterinarian for rectal and oral valium to have at home just in case your pup clusters or goes into status. Status is life threatening and liquid injectable valium should stop status. It may save you a trip to the ER, and can possibly save your pup's life by not having to wait for the ER to stop the seizures.

CAUTIONS:
If cluster seizures will not stop you need to get emergency attention. Please remember that in the ER, if seizures continue, you could suggest using an IV valium drip (valium given intravenously), or even the mild anesthetic PROPOFOL, which is recommended for epi's to keep them sedated to break the cluster cycle. This anesthetic is the safest for epi's. Pentabarbitol is not recommended as an anesthetic for dogs with epilepsy.

After a severe seizure, you should always check your pup's gums. If they are pale or white you need to get to an ER immediately. This could be pulmonary edema which is liquid filling up the lungs. This is very dangerous and you need to keep them sitting up, even if you have to hold them up, until you get to the ER. And, since seizing raises the body temperature and high body temperatures can lead to brain damage, please be sure to keep your pup cool during a seizure.
You can sponge the dog with a washcloth dipped in lukewarm water, soaking the fur, especially on the tummy, throat and head. If the air temperature is particularly hot, you might want to lightly fan the dog to aid cooling. This will cause the body to cool - but never, ever throw cold water on a dog or submerge a dog in water - doing so can cause a dog or person to go into shock and make a bad situation worse.

Please note that as soon as your pup can safely swallow, a SMALL amount of Hãagen Dazs vanilla ice cream helps to raise the blood sugar level and could stop or slow the pacing and possibly preventing more seizures. The reason for using ice cream is that the fat holds the sugar in suspension so that the sugar doesn't

hit the system all at once and cause a rebound reaction. The reason for Hãagen Dazs is that it has no preservatives (which are not good for dogs with epilepsy) and it is all natural.

The recommendation for ice cream is "Less is More," so for little pups, 1 teaspoon of ice cream is recommended, medium pups can have 2 teaspoons, big pups get 1 tablespoon, and for very large pups, 2 tablespoons is adequate.

If you do not have the Hãagen Dazs ice cream on hand, there is a good substitute. Please mix, very well, 1 tablespoon of honey with 1 tablespoon of unsalted butter (1/2 and 1/2) and put it into a small container that you can also carry where ever you go, if need be. For small dogs under 15 - 20 lb, make sure you don't give them more than 1 teaspoon of the mixture after a seizure, and for large dogs, not more than 2 tablespoons. You can always give another 1 teaspoon in 20 minutes if you think it is helping, but use caution in giving more.

A seizure to your pup is equal to your running the Boston Marathon. It is exhausting and s/he needs to replace lost energy. Again, after your pup can safely swallow, feed him/her a full meal being careful to only give a few pieces of kibble or small amounts of home cooking at a time. Please give your pup foods that are higher in carbohydrates.

The reason for giving only very small amounts in one bite is that after a seizure, pups are starving and can inhale their food. This can cause aspiration pneumonia, which needs immediate Emergency Room attention. If your pup is coughing constantly and you suspect aspiration pneumonia, you need to get him or her medical attention immediately as aspiration pneumonia can be life threatening.

Sometimes you can feed small amounts by hand but if your pup cannot distinguish between your fingers and the food, put little amounts in a bowl at a time. Then you will want to give small amounts every hour or two to keep the blood sugar level up. Do not worry about weight gain; seizures burn up a lot of calories. Also, some people add Rescue Remedy (RR) to the ice cream, or give it alone. Many people have discovered that this flower essence has helped to calm their dogs in situations of panic and hyperactivity, or just before or after a seizure. On a seizing dog, a few drops of Rescue Remedy can be rubbed onto the ear flap and top of the head and also a few drops onto the gums, not into the mouth. When the seizure is over and the dog has recovered enough to stand up a little, ice cream can be offered with RR on it.

When the pup is recuperated enough to eat something solid, many people follow up with some food, as noted above, to keep the blood sugar stable.
RR can be purchased at health food stores, and most GNC stores carry it. You can read more about and purchase RR and Bach Flower essences at the following sites:
http://www.canine-epilepsy-guardian-angels.com/rescue_remedy.htm
and
http://www.rainbowcrystal.com/bach/bfr/rr.html

Also, we have found that some pups get an upset stomach and gas after a seizure and this is easy to spot. They will be lying down and then suddenly get up and possibly dart about. It is the gas pain that causes the sudden movement. If you see this, you could try some Mylanta Gas or Gas-X or BeanO; any kind of gas reliever safe for use in dogs will help. A good selection to try is Mylicon Drops which is a gentle, liquid form of Mylanta that is manufactured for use in infants. If it is in tablet form, crush it up with the back of a spoon in a bowl and then mix it with something your pup will eat.

Most of the time you will have nothing more than cluster seizures to deal with. These cautions are to help you be more knowledgeable since the more information you have, the less you will worry....

Also, here is something that can help snap a dog out of a seizure more quickly - it may help your pup, so please make the necessary preparations to have on hand, so that you can help your pup the next time s/he seizes.

All of us know that helpless feeling when our pup goes into a seizure. Besides protecting our pup from harm during the seizure, and getting post-seizure medications ready, there seems little else we can do but wait for the seizure to end.

There is some exciting news, however, about a new technique that has recently been published in a prestigious veterinary journal. This technique may be able to help you shorten or even abort (stop before it begins) your pup's seizure, and may even help reduce the amount of post-ictal recovery time, and to return your pup to full functioning more quickly.

The technique was tested both in an ER and a regular veterinary hospital as well as by people in their own homes, on 51 epileptic dogs. In all 51 cases, the technique either aborted or shortened the usual duration of the seizure, and in many cases, the post-ictal recovery time was also shortened. These results were published in an article by H. C. Gurney, DVM, and Janice Gurney, B.S., M.A. The article is entitled, "A Simple, Effective Technique for Arresting Canine Epileptic Seizures." It appeared in The Journal of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, in the January-March 2004 issue, pages 17-18.

Probably the most exciting part of this discovery is that the technique is not in any way harmful to your pup, and it does not involve giving extra medications. It is as simple as applying a bag of ice to the lower-midsection of your pup's back, and holding the bag firmly in position until the seizure ends. The exact area on the back is between the 10th thoracic (chest) and 4th lumbar (lower back) vertebrae (bones in the spine); what this means is that the top of the ice bag should rest just above the middle of your pup's back, following along the spine, and drape down to the lower-midsection of the back. To see a very good diagram of where the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae meet on a dog's spine, go to:
http://www.takingthelead.co.uk/3/Anatomy/skelton.htm

Look for numbers 13 and 14 on the diagram. Number 13 on the diagram is the13th thoracic (chest) vertebrae (there are 13 total); count back toward the head to number 10: that is your start point for the ice bag. Number 14 on the diagram is the 1st lumbar (lower back) vertebrae (there are 7 total); count toward the tail to number 4: that is your end point for the ice bag.

With a properly sized ice bag, you should not have to worry about being too exact: aim for the middle of the back, and the correct area will be covered. Application of ice to other areas of the body (head, neck, legs and other areas of the spine) was not found to be effective. Ice bags placed on the middle of the back was the only area found to work.

The article reports that, the sooner the ice is applied, the better the results you get. So you should have the ice ready and prepared: if you have a small dog, fill a small-sized (quart) Ziploc freezer bag with cubed or crushed ice and keep it in a particular spot in your freezer. If you have a large dog, use a large-sized (gallon) bag. You can also freeze water into a block in the bag. When you hear or see a seizure begin, run for the ice or, if you live with another person, have one person run for the ice while the other runs to help the pup. Place the ice bag in the lower midsection of your pup's back and hold it there firmly until the seizure stops. If this technique works as reported, your pup's seizure should not be as long as usual and you may also see an improvement in the duration of the post-ictal period.

The article reports that people who tried using a bag of frozen vegetables instead of ice had less success than those who used ice, so keep a bag of ice at the ready. The article also indicated that dogs with cluster seizures are a special case and may need their usual protocols after the seizure, so if your pup has cluster

seizures, follow your veterinarian's instructions for using valium.

And, the article does not discuss using ice after a seizure, only during the seizure itself and also states that you remove the ice the minute the seizure is over. If you can get to an ice bag during a seizure, you might be able better to assess if this will work for your pup or not. During a seizure, most dogs should not be distracted by the ice.

We are very excited about this discovery, and would be so pleased if it turns out to be as effective as reported. If you decide to use this technique on your pup, please let us know how it turned out: was it successful or not? We are seeking permission to add this article to the information on our website, and we would like at that time to be able to add testimonies from those who have used it, and whether or not they found it effective.

If it is effective, it will be a godsend to many of us who now feel we can do nothing for our pups but comfort them until a seizure ends.

Again, since seizing raises the body temperature, and since high body temperatures can lead to brain damage, please be sure to keep your pup cool during a seizure. You can sponge the dog with a washcloth dipped in lukewarm water, soaking the fur, especially on the tummy, throat and head.

This will cause the body to cool - but never, ever throw cold water on a dog - doing so can cause a dog or person to go into shock and make a bad situation worse.

After a severe seizure, you should always check your pup's gums. If they are light pink or pale or white you need to get to an ER immediately. This could be pulmonary edema which is liquid filling up the lungs. This is very dangerous and you need to keep your dog sitting up, even if you have to hold him or her up, until you get to the ER. You need to keep his/her head well above the chest so the dog does not drown. This is a dangerous situation in which the seizure has disrupted the natural ability to clear the lungs.

After a seizure, you need to feed one-half of a normal-sized meal to raise the dog's blood sugar levels. Put only small amounts (a teaspoon) of food in his or her bowl or feed your dog by hand. The reason for giving only very small amounts in one bite at a time is that after a seizure, dogs may feel as if they are starving and can easily inhale their food which can cause aspiration pneumonia. Aspiration pneumonia is a very dangerous situation and can quickly become life threatening. If your dog begins to cough and seems to be trying to clear his or her throat (airway), you need to get your dog to an animal emergency room immediately!

References:
W. Jean Dodds, DVM
Raymond Peat, Ph.D.



Reprinted, with permission from:

http://canine-epilepsy-guardian-angels.com

In Memoriam – Maisy Wilker

5/16/2002-10/24/2011



We met our first BARC Berners, Maisy and Daisy (formerly Miley and Riley), at Julie Greco's in Chicago in July 2008. They were 6 year-old sisters who had been fostered by Linda Palma. We loved them from the beginning, but that love just grew and grew over the years.

When we met Maisy, she was timid, shy and afraid of <u>everything</u>. If we lifted our hand, she cringed, or if we shut a drawer too hard, she dropped to the floor. And doors! To get her to go out or come in, the door had to be wide open and we had to be 5 to 10 feet away from it. Then she would run full speed through it. If anyone came to the house, she would hide in our bathroom. But her gentle eyes seemed to say, "Just give me time." Slowly, over the next 2 years, she learned that life was different now.



Her transformation into a loving, trusting girl was a joy to behold. The first time she went outside and just twirled in the air with pure happiness, or threw herself on the grass and just rolled and rolled, or snuggled with us in bed at night, were joyful moments for us. We knew she had fully committed to her new life when we had a party with 25 people, and she strolled among them, loving every bit of affection she got. It took some time, and there were setbacks, but she got there - loving life, liking strangers, and loving us. She had a generous and brave heart, and she knew she was loved big in return.

The dreaded Histiocytic Sarcoma took her from us much too soon. But she will be with us forever in our memories and hearts.



Maisy and Daisy

Jill and Larry Wilker

Book Review – The Legacy of Beezer and Boomer

By: Doug Koktavy

I found that I could not talk about Doug's book without weaving in the stories of our own dogs. I hope it is helpful to you.

Background – what we learned when CJ died:

When CJ died in October, 2009, a friend sent me this link: http://www.b-naturals.com/newsletter/pets-terminal-illness/ . It is about dealing with your pet's terminal illness and actually contains a great introduction to Doug's book.

In a story all too familiar to many of us; CJ died two weeks after the appearance of profound symptoms. She had Histiocytic Sarcoma.

The information in the b-naturals newsletter, which came from Doug's book, taught me something important - a new way to look at end-of-life and illness issues. Basically it is this:

If you live in GUILT, you are living in the PAST. If you live in FEAR, you are living in the FUTURE. You need to try to live with your dog and yourself in the PRESENT. It is so true and so hard.

Does this sound familiar? It's easy to think we should have gotten CJ treated sooner or we should have brought her home from the hospital sooner, or fed her differently, or done more with her or less, or .... But every decision we made we thought was the best for her at that time.

My dog-loving friends have expressed many fears. What if my dog gets cancer? What will happen as my dog ages and get less able to walk? What if my dog bites someone? What if I lose my job? I could write many paragraphs about each of these fears/guilts for ALL the dogs in my signature block, but I am trying hard to learn from my experiences, how to live here & now instead of in the past or future.

When Chase got sick – the book review:

In January 2011, our lovely Chase Marie was diagnosed with lymphoma. She looked and acted great. She was almost 10. We learned that the best we could hope for with lymphoma was remission of perhaps 18 months and then maybe another remission.

At her age, we hoped she would die of old age before she came out of remission. I knew it was time to order Doug's book and read it all.

Doug's story is one of loving two black lab brothers, Beezer and Boomer. Beezer developed kidney disease and needed lots of treatment at home. Not long after he died, Boomer was diagnosed with osteosarcoma and you know how that ends.

Doug realized that many books deal with the grief you go through AFTER losing your beloved pet, but there's not much out there about the grief and pain that you experience AS your beloved companion is dying. That's the focus of this book. We have, what Doug calls, anticipatory grief plus all the hard work of dealing with the disease and choosing treatments. Our lives are turned upside down and our plans are changed forever.

One technique that he used was daily points. Each day he and Boomer wanted to earn the day's point – not let the disease win the point.

Chase had chemo and other treatments and supplements from January until late May, when she refused to go in to the oncologist's office. Her lymph glands went into easy remission, but she apparently had lymphoma in her spine, though we never found it. Her ability to walk declined, but her spirit was strong.

We try to live by this statement: "We can't do anything yesterday - only today and maybe tomorrow, if we

are lucky." Our plan for Chase was to go on adventures every possible opportunity – between treatments and when she felt good. Early on, we romped in the woods as long as an hour. As she declined, our adventures were shorter but we took great joy in what we could do. We took pictures every day and stored up memories. Eventually she was confined to the yard and then to the house and then not able to walk even with help. It was as if she was melting away.

We tried very hard to treat her like a dog, not a patient – something Doug's book reminded us to do. When we knew there would be no more chemo, I again gave her a bone to chew every day. She loved it. In fact, she carried a bone on her final trip to the vet and Summer carried it back home.

I have loaned my copies of this book to families in similar circumstances. If you would like to buy a copy for yourselves, go to http://beezerandboomer.com/ where it is currently just over $16 plus shipping. It's not a particularly fun book, but if you and your dog are dealing with a terminal illness, there is lots of helpful advice. It can also help to bring peace to those who struggle with pangs of guilt or second-guessing their decisions.

I believe it is worth reading to help you find peace for both you and your beloved dog as you travel such a difficult road.

Nell and John Ward - New Bern, North Carolina

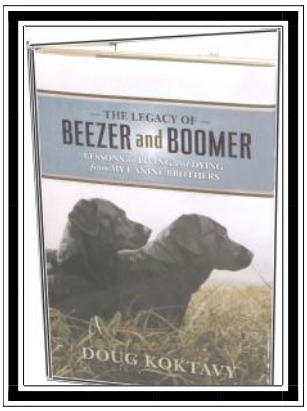
nell@jnward.org ** http://www.johnandnell.org

Summer, CGC - 2 year old female Bernese Mountain Dog; BG - 67758

Remembering - Merlin, Sunny, Pilgrim, CJ, and Chase

Editor's footnote: *I am one of the lucky ones to whom Nell has loaned this book. While there are two specific parts of this book - one that focuses on Beezer and his kidney issues and another that focuses on Boomer and his osteosarcoma – what impacted me the most was the first half – Beezer's story. What Doug and Beezer went through as they fought the kidney disease so valiantly…and Doug had to make so many tough calls for treatments, etc… was reminiscent of my journey with my beloved BARC's Bernie as we battled his neurologic disease back in the spring/summer of 2009.*

Due to many life situations, I'd never been fully able to deal with Bernie's passing and now, almost 2 ½ yrs. later, I have still struggled greatly with his loss at only 4 ½ yrs. of age. This book, and reading about how Doug fought so valiantly on behalf of Beezer…and the special connection the two of them shared…helped me to release some of the pain I still carried and bring more closure to Bernie's passing. I cried bucket loads as I read the section on Beezer and was amazed at the depth of commitment between Doug and his boy. But it was a good cry – a healing cry. It also helped me to realize that my still missing Bernie as I do is okay as he was so unique and special. So whether you've lost a precious companion in the past that still pains you beyond belief or you're in the middle of walking through what you know will be eventual loss (as I am doing with Bosley even now), this book will have something in it that will touch your spirit. While I do not necessarily endorse all of Doug's philosophies, I did connect with his spirit of love and dedication to his boys and to his need to do whatever it took to do what was best for them. This is a worthwhile read.



In Memoriam … Chloe Barrett



I started the adoption process with BARC in the winter of 2008. Chloe caught my eye immediately. She was so pretty and such a little thing. I already had two strapping Berner boys and the idea of adding a girl to our little family struck a chord within me.

Since I had moved to New Mexico the previous summer, I wanted her to have a Spanish name – it was going to be "Dulce" which means sweet. (It would have been so appropriate) Her foster Mom had told me they were calling her Chloe but she didn't recognize it yet. Wouldn't you know it when she got to me she had learned that Chloe was her name, so Chloe it remained!

In April 2009, my journey began to pick her up. I flew to Omaha, and thankfully Chloe's foster Dad drove down from Minnesota to meet me. I didn't want to further traumatize her, so I rented a SUV and drove to Denver. We stayed with friends that had two Berners of their own. She was timid and frightened, but as long as I was near, she calmed down and started to make friends. We drove home to Santa Fe the next morning.

I don't know why, but as soon as she saw her new Berner brothers, I think she sensed she was home. At first she never left my bedroom, but as she became braver she followed her brothers and ventured outdoors through the doggie door. Getting her back in the house was an ordeal since she loved camping out underneath a huge pinion tree in my yard. Thank goodness she was skinny then because I carried her inside all the time. It became her game … as soon as I brought her in she ran to the doggie door and out she went. I'm embarrassed to say it took me a few days to close my bedroom door!!!

With much prodding and lots of patience she began to feel more and more comfortable in the house; it took her a while to learn how to jump on the sofa but once she did, suffice it to say, it was then hers! Next she conquered my bed … she always slept beside me and some mornings I would awaken to her sharing my pillow. She thought I was sharing her bed not vice versa.



It really took her over a year to realize she was a dog. In the summer of 2009, I became a partner in a cabin resort in Durango, Colorado. Chloe and I would take "girls' trips" to Durango so that I could work a couple weeks at a time. She came into her own on our very first trip. When we arrived she was frightened of strangers, loud noises and loads of other things. By the time we left, she was playing in the river, greeting guests upon their arrival, and walking them to the office. Chloe and I would walk the property every morning to make sure everything was in tip-top shape. She ran over and literally hugged some of our guests, and I had to check their cars to make sure they weren't taking her home with them. She loved it there, and I am so glad I was able to take her to Durango the week before she died. She was able to walk in her river one last time.

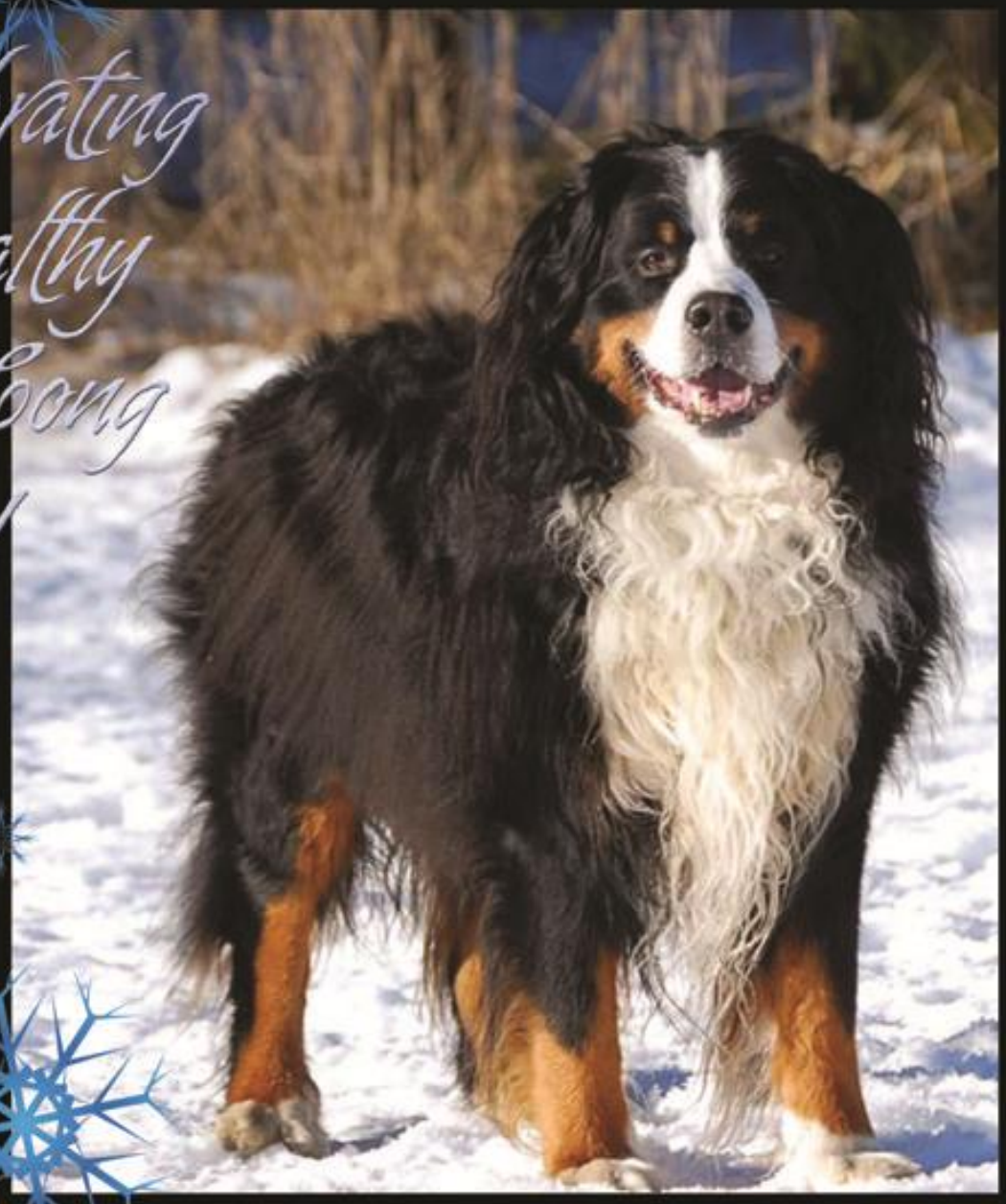
Chloe loved being outdoors. I used to think it was because she would lay on the patio and look out over the arroyo, but actually I think she was so happy at her forever home that she was going to protect it **and me** from Hell and High Water. How dare someone come into her eye sight and believe me - she let them know that this was her house! We loved taking walks in the arroyo especially in the snow. Chloe would chase after her brothers but soon realize I was lagging behind so back she came to make sure I was OK. She was very much her Mama's girl.

I went through a divorce right before Chloe and I found each other and lost my ability to trust; she was so mistreated by humans, and yet she still came to trust me. What an inspiration! She gave me so much more than I could ever give her. I honestly believe we rescued one another.

My little missy was so grateful to be alive that she was always smiling. Miss Chloe went to The Rainbow Bridge on October 24, 2011. I miss her so very much, and she will forever be in my heart. I will always love you Chloe.

Susan Barrett—New Mexico

Celebrating a Healthy and Long Life!



We honor our veterans and hope to see many more of them in years to come

The mission of the Berner-Garde Foundation is to ensure that all Bernese Mountain Dogs have the chance for a long and healthy lifespan. It is our goal to decrease the incidence of hereditary diseases and, over time, eliminate them. You can continue to help by including and updating your dog in the extensive database. For more information and other ways to help the future of the breed, please visit our website, BernerGarde.org.

B G F

Berner-Garde Foundation

Incorporated 1995



KILROY, THE INCREDIBLE!

So, the new BARC boy in the household has demonstrated his smarts already, figuring out how to unroll the toilet paper and surround himself in a big pile to chew on. Now he's adding to his skills, as he's started taking out the trash for me. No, not trash from the waste basket; he is actually sorting the paper items on my desk, deciding which ones are trash, and promptly taking them out to the backyard to shred! Isn't this fantastic?!? How many of you have a self-operating paper shredder? And wait, he doesn't stop with just paper! If you set down a tool, article of clothing, or any other unwanted item, he will promptly remove it to the backyard for shredding! The trick is to be fast enough to get it back before he actually shreds it!! LOL! The best part is that he is forcing me to be a neat freak - I don't dare leave anything laying out for fear of the patrolling shredder!! My house has never been so neat and tidy!



Most recently, though, Kilroy has demonstrated what must surely be his greatest hidden talent. Apparently the boy can drive! When I was ready to walk out the door for work this morning, I was dismayed to realize that my keys were not in their customary spot on the entry table, nor were they in my purse. After searching my bedroom, the pockets of the jacket I had on yesterday, and all other places I thought I could have inadvertently left them, I was suddenly struck with the thought to look out in the backyard. Sure enough, in one of Kilroy's favorite spots, there they were! I can only surmise that there was a late-night poker game somewhere that he just HAD to get to.....or he really wanted me to stay home today. At least he put back whatever gas he used! Kilroy has continued to be crafty with what he will decide needs to be moved to the backyard for possible disposal. What a bucketload of fun this boy is! Never a dull moment!!

-Karen Aufdemorte,

Oklahoma City, OK

BARC SPECIAL DAYS

Rocky Smith	12/1/2001	Birthday
Molly Roszkowsky	12/3/2010	Birthday
Sophia Borgstadt	12/5/2007	Birthday
Mandy Florin	12/5/2007	Birthday
Mandy Florin	12/6/2009	Anniversary
Angus Leforest	12/6/2010	Anniversary
Tabitha Quinn-Leslie	12/7/2008	Birthday
Bosley Kohn	12/7/2009	Birthday
Katie Godar	12/9/2004	Birthday
Mitsi Gilbraith	12/10/2002	Birthday
Bryce Neidlinger	12/15/2008	Birthday
Gracie Tingley	12/17/2008	Anniversary
Joy Westby	12/20/2008	Anniversary
Zack Hutchins	12/21/2001	Birthday
Samson Kenady	12/21/2008	Anniversary
Brett Fitch	12/25/2006	Birthday
Max Webb	12/28/2003	Birthday
Astro Forester	12/28/2003	Birthday
Boomer Turner	12/28/2003	Birthday
Buster Snaveley	12/28/2003	Birthday
Moose Hartman	12/28/2003	Birthday
Bosley Hawes	12/28/2003	Birthday
Chance Blake	12/31/2003	Birthday

Rachel Breaux	2/5/2005	Birthday
Willow Finley	2/7/2006	Birthday
Dani Johnson	2/9/2002	Birthday
Emily Vandemark	2/10/2005	Anniversary
Drake Odjik	2/16/2003	Birthday
Mitsi Gilbraith	2/18/2011	Anniversary
Goliath Hoefinger	2/19/2010	Anniversary
Emme Meckes	2/20/2010	Anniversary
Lewis Fowler	2/22/2003	Anniversary
Maddie Boehm	2/23/2007	Anniversary
Tony Kutsenda	2/24/2003	Birthday
Ben Post	2/24/2010	Anniversary
Sunny Crum	2/27/2004	Birthday
Sunny Lucas	2/27/2004	Birthday
Ben Post	2/27/2010	Birthday
Chief Minor	2/28/2006	Birthday
Holly Murphy	2/28/2011	Anniversary

Demi Monte	1/1/2006	Anniversary
Hagar Caldwell	1/1/2009	Birthday
Lexi Ginsberg	1/2/2000	Birthday
Leah Williams	1/2/2000	Birthday
Maddie Boehm	1/4/2004	Birthday
Lilly Mauger	1/4/2004	Birthday
Frankie Whiteley	1/4/2004	Birthday
Dakota Wesley	1/4/2010	Anniversary
Hope Barr	1/4/2010	Anniversary
Maybe Bauman	1/5/2007	Birthday
Carly O'Connell	1/6/2000	Birthday
Daisy Batting	1/6/2007	Anniversary
Storm Adriaans	1/8/2009	Birthday
Kaiah Cabral	1/8/2009	Birthday
Dallas Goodman	1/8/2009	Birthday
Barney Herbst	1/8/2009	Anniversary
Paxton Kuehn	1/8/2009	Birthday
Bandit Niggli	1/8/2009	Birthday
Keeper Ricci	1/8/2009	Birthday
Sage Miller	1/10/2004	Birthday
Lily Comber	1/10/2009	Anniversary
Emma Berg	1/14/2002	Birthday
Jesse Neilsen	1/15/2002	Anniversary
Goliath Hoefinger	1/16/2009	Birthday
Bryce Neidlinger	1/16/2011	Anniversary
Minnie Thompson	1/17/2006	Birthday
Leah Williams	1/17/2009	Anniversary
Zuni McDuffie	1/17/2011	Anniversary
Arthur Freedman	1/18/2003	Birthday
Buster Dixon	1/19/2002	Birthday
Brenna Donovah	1/19/2006	Birthday
Honey Riddle	1/20/2006	Birthday
Cora Rastedt	1/22/2011	Anniversary
Barbie Woodford	1/23/2002	Birthday
Jack Lowe	1/24/2001	Birthday
Denise Schatz	1/26/2004	Birthday
Moonlight Ginsberg	1/28/2004	Birthday
Owen Kirchhof	1/30/2004	Birthday
Bozo Schwartz	1/30/2005	Birthday
Emma Finn	1/30/2010	Anniversary



RECENT ADOPTIONS ☺

Jill Friedman	Labadie, MO	Charlie
Kathryn Glynn	Palos Heights, IL	Arlo
Bob & Debbie Moore	Abingdon, MD	Rudy
Kathleen Quinn-Leslie	Williamsville, NY	Tabitha
Gary & Penny Turner	Olathe, KS	Ben

CLICKER TRAINING — TUG O' WAR

Tug o' War Rules

For years we have been told not to play tug 'o war with our dogs. We were told it would make them aggressive & we'd end up getting bitten. Yet, many of us played it anyway with no problems. How come? Well, because most of us played by the rules, even if unknowingly. And if you play by the rules, tug games are not only acceptable but should be encouraged as a great way to play with your dog!

Tug games provide great exercise (for both of you) and can be played inside in a small area. Quick games of tug are great rewards for obedience training, too! However, there are some very important rules which MUST be followed. If you don't, you may very well up with a dog that becomes unacceptably aggressive.

Be cautioned, as well, that I still don't recommend tug games for dogs that are already showing aggression toward their owners! But for the average pet who isn't having dominance issues at home, tug games are great.

The Rules

1. Choose a single toy to use for your tug games. Use only it until all of the rules are clearly understood by all involved. Store this toy somewhere out of the dog's reach - just bring it out on those special occasions when you want to play tug!

2. Begin each game with a command such as "Wanna tug?".

3. Teach your dog to release the toy on command. You can teach this command ("Drop" or "Give") by offering a treat or another special toy in exchange for the tug toy. Do again & again until he learns the command. Be patient! After he releases, praise him & give him the treat or toy, but then quickly initiate another game of tug. Your dog is much more likely to give up the toy easily if he knows there is a good chance he will get it right back! Until this is taught, you might be able to get the tug toy by pressing the dog's lips against his teeth - when it gets uncomfortable he will let go! Of course, do NOT try this if you are worried about getting bitten - only you can judge the situation with your own dog.

4. Failing to give the toy causes a recess in the game. Running away or guarding the toy ends the game once the owner has regained possession of the toy. Don't chase your dog to get the toy! That is way too much fun for him. Ignore him for a while, then direct his attention to another activity & remove the tug toy when he leaves it.

5. Take frequent breaks for some basic obedience commands (sit, down, or tricks of some sort). As a reward for the obedience, the tug game continues.

6. Any time the dog grabs the toy without permission ("Wanna tug?"), there is a recess of the game or end of it if the dog becomes really rowdy.

7. Dogs really have very exacting control over their teeth. The dog must NEVER even "accidentally" touch the owner's hand with its teeth while playing. If this should happen, end the game immediately & ignore the dog for a few minutes. You CAN expect the dog to growl quite ferociously while tugging - that's part of the game & perfectly okay as long as those teeth don't touch you!

8. Children of any age who cannot enforce these rules MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY TUG WITH THE DOG!! Dogs and children should always be closely supervised.



Mary Woodward & Susan Greenholt
Greenwood Dog Training School
Wilmington, DE
*using positive methods to teach people how to teach their pets!
www.clickerlessons.com
www.greenwooddogs.com



FALL PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE RESULTS



Top 5 captions in order of votes

1. "I can't believe I was sent over here to get a cold beverage, do I look like a Golden Retriever?" - Kim Clark

2. "They just THINK I can't get this thing open - lunch, here I come!" - Karen Aufdemorte

3. "Okay, so once I get it open, do I want a Coke or a Bud?" - Karen Aufdemorte

4. "OK, the order was one diet, two regulars, and 4 bottled waters..." -Patt Wiegand

5. "My bone is in here. Will someone open this please???" - Mary Ann Monte

ATTENTION ATTENTION

Changes for 2013 BARC calendars ☺

Beginning this January, Debby Fitch, ways-n-means chairman, will be taking photo entries at **ANY** time throughout the year for the 2013 BARC calendar! This is intended to make it easier for families to submit these awesome, one-of-a-kind, high definition photos of their BARC babies as they get them and not have to remember to submit them later on when life gets so busy. Debby will accumulate them in a special file that will then be used to choose the best of the best for the 2013 calendar. So, get those cameras ready and begin getting those extra-special photos, then send them to Debby Fitch at

thetrumancollar@yahoo.com





BMD RESOURCES



(Quick-Reference Guide to Most Online Bernese Resources)

WEBSITES:

www.berner.org — website with links to almost everything Bernese

www.bmdinfo.org — website providing the beginnings of a Bernerpedia including links to regional clubs and rescue

www.bernergarde.org — Berner-Garde Database website, storing health and genetic information about all Berners, please share your Berner's info too!

www.barcinc.net — Bernese Auction Rescue Coalition; source for rescued BMDs

www.behaf.org — financial aid resource for Bernese in need

www.bmdca.org — website for the Bernese Mtn. Dog Club of America

http://bernese.biz/ — fundraisers, memorials, friends, veterans, and cancer information

YAHOO LISTS:

http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/BARCINC/ — discussion/support group for BARC dog owners and special friends

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Berner-l/ — discussion group for all Berner owners and lovers worldwide

http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/shyaggressivebernese/ — providing dog friendly training and behavior modification suggestions; **moderated by Helen Hollander, a regular contributor to The BARC Beacon**

http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/NaturalBerners/ — support group for Berner owners who feed a raw diet or might be interested in doing so

BARC WINTER PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE



A new Photo Caption Challenge for Winter! 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 February 12, 2012.

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!!