The BARC
BEACON
Shining the Light of Hope and Freedom

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BARC FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Introducing Allison, Greg, BARC 's Maybe, Bam Bam, LuluBelle and Woodstock

How many times have you heard the question, "Do you remember one specific event that really changed your life?" It's a question that makes you think about the diversity of choices we have & their associated outcomes.

Saying YES to fostering a dog was definitely an event that, for myself, I would classify as life changing.

Some background first . . . I've had cats my whole life & have always been a cat person . . . not exactly the way you'd expect an article about Bernese Mountain Dogs to start, is it? Well it's important to note, because my kitty, Rusty, was the reason we ended up with our first BMD. In 1997, Rusty was considered a "senior" kitty at 11 years old, so we knew that a super hyper dog wasn't going to be a good fit. Even though Rusty got along with everyone, we wanted his later years to be mellow. After exhaustive research, we found that we loved what we read about BMDs. Plus we had met a couple of them in the neighborhood & thought they were so gorgeous. We were hoping to find one we could rescue, but at the time there were no BMD rescue groups ~ the breed wasn't as prevalent & popular back then as it is now. Our first BMD was Bingo, & we got her from a breeder in Wisconsin in 1998. I can still remember the car ride home (8 hours!) with her crying the entire trip. Once home, she quickly stopped crying & settled in. She developed into a sweet & lovely girl. But mostly, she was without a doubt a total "daddy's girl." It broke our hearts when we lost her on New Year's Eve 2002/2003 to malignant histiocytosis. She was only 4½ years old.

Maybe (l) with Bam Bam …
On her first day at her foster home



It took us well over two years to even consider another dog, but we finally made the decision to pursue it. I was having a long chat with a friend of mine (I stood up at her wedding almost 20 years ago,) and, after a strange "a-ha" moment, she told me her cousin breeds BMDs. When we finally got in touch with one another, we realized that we had both stood up at the wedding together.

By this time Rusty was 19 & now considered "geriatric." So we thought, at the very least, "Let's get another kitty to keep him company & continue to pursue the dog adoption as well." In 2005, we got LuluBelle (the kitty), and then shortly after that Bam Bam, our little BMD puppy, joined the household. LuluBelle & Bam Bam became fast friends. Bam Bam would use LuluBelle's head for teething purposes.

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Now our family was pretty well situated. Rusty "tolerated" LuluBelle & got along nicely with Bam Bam.

Then, as we were making plans, life decided to get in the way. Between September 2007 & May 2008, I experienced several life changes. After 15 years at the same company, I left my corporate job. Then I lost my beloved Rusty. He was almost 22 years old. Three months later, my mom passed away.

Even though Rusty weighed in at a whole 5-6 pounds in his final days, his presence was totally known, so now the house felt very empty. I started volunteering at a local animal shelter to get some additional animal & kitty love when Kayle Luthey (who started as our dog walker & is now someone I'm happy to call a good friend) suggested we consider fostering a BMD from BARC. The timing was good since we had already figured out that Bam Bam was a good candidate to become a "big brother" to someone. I filled out all the paperwork & thought, "Oh, I won't hear from them for months," but within a month or so I was contacted & asked if I was ready.

In June 2008, a total of 15 dogs were purchased from an Amish farmer in Coalgate, Oklahoma. Twelve of those dogs became a part of a transport to foster homes across the US, & our foster dog was among them.

A quick assessment of the dogs' demeanors was made, & it was determined that this dog seemed "somewhat adjusted." Since I was the new foster of the group, they were hoping to give me a dog that I could manage. Julie Greco dropped "Abbey" off on June 30, 2008.

Maybe, with LuluBelle (front) and Woodstock



The first thing we did was give her a new name ~ I figured, at the very least, new life = new name. After a couple of ideas, we landed on "Maybelline," but within about 2 minutes we shortened that to "Maybe," which turned out to be completely applicable to the question we started asking ourselves, "Maybe we'll keep her; Maybe we won't?!?"

This dog, sad to say, was not very pretty when she came to us. Her hair had been shorn pretty close to 1" in length, so she didn't even look like a BMD. Her paws were brown from all the licking she did to them. Her face was large & jowly ~ not a characteristic I was used to in a BMD. She had these incredibly wild & crazy dewclaws on her hind legs. In fact, one of her dewclaws was growing a dewclaw ~ she had a double dewclaw! And her feet, well, they looked like they belonged to a T-Rex! Ask anyone who knows her & they will tell you ~ Maybe has enormous feet.

After a few days we figured out several things: she didn't know what a doorway was; she didn't know what the second bowl of dog food was about, let alone that she didn't need to pace past the bowl after each bite; she didn't know that outside was where you do your business; she didn't know what stairs were; she didn't know what a bark was; she didn't know how to drink water like it wasn't a race; she didn't know what a walk was; she didn't know that it wasn't o.k. to sit in the middle of the street; she didn't know what any sounds were; she didn't know what a hug was; and she definitely didn't know what love was.



Maybe, wondering why Woodstock continues to try to share her couch!

The first 3-4 weeks Maybe was with us I slept with her in our kitchen. She positioned herself into a

corner & basically wouldn't leave. Then one day she discovered a space she found to be "safe" in our living room. She claimed one of the couches as her own & that hasn't changed.



Even though she & Bam Bam quickly connected ~ he showed her how to go up & down the stairs and how to bark (thanks a lot Bam Bam!) ~ I knew that Maybe's quality of life was suffering, so I had a dog behaviorist come to meet her. She explained that rescued dogs have a long range of issues, & it's important to establish who the boss is in the home. She recommended that we crate her & try to supply her with some structure.

The crating started out o.k., but after a few days she decided she didn't like it, so she simply lifted the pin lock from its slot & let herself out. I was like, "What the . . .?" when I found her roaming around the house when I came home. So the next day I put an actual lock on the crate door. When I came home, imagine my surprise when I found her roaming around the house again. As far as we could tell, she pushed/pulled herself out of the crate between the top & side of the crate. Oh, I forgot to mention, she did this with her spay stitches in. Incredibly, she didn't bust one stitch. She did, however, cut up her little nose, but she "escaped" & that's all that mattered to her.

So instead of the crate, we thought maybe we could block off an area. Long story short . . . she figured her way out of that as well. So that was the end of the "let's show her who's boss" experiment because it was obvious that she was winning on that score, & I just couldn't bring myself to put this poor dog through any more stressful situations.

As it turns out, Maybe never really needed to be crated (as long as you're not counting the endless accidents she's had in the house & the multiple rugs she's ruined). Let's just say we now have wood floors throughout the house. I've had her in some training sessions which she immediately took to. I call her my math-lete ~ she's super smart. She does have the help of an anti-anxiety medication, & I can see how that has made a tremendously positive difference in her quality of life.

After some time it was determined that Maybe was ready to be placed in the adoption area of the BARC website. There was an interested family, & I got on the phone with them pretty quickly. After a lengthy conversation with the potential adoptee mom, she said to me, "Gosh, it really sounds like Maybe has already found her forever home." And that's when I realized I was about to become a foster failure.

Then in August 2009, about 1½ years after Rusty left me, another kitty found its way into my heart. His name is Woodstock & he's a love. I think if it were up to him, he'd sleep & cuddle with Maybe all day long.



As many of our BMD friends know, Kayle hosts the "Berner Birthday Bash" at her home over the summer. It started in 2008 when Maybe had been with us about 3 weeks. We were excited to have everyone meet her, but she wouldn't go into the house. She hid in some bushes for about 20 minutes until Julie Greco came out & helped me get her into the house. (OK, full disclosure ~ Julie did all the work ~ I wasn't ready to be "firm" with her.) Now, fast forward to 2009. The people who were at the party in 2008 couldn't believe that Maybe was the same dog. And now ~ well, Maybe has definitely turned into a "social butterfly." Kayle points out to us how

far Maybe has come, but it's hard for me to really see it since I live with her on a daily basis. But it's sure nice to hear & know that it's noticeable.

And I do realize that she does continue to "grow." The plateaus between are longer, but after almost four years, we still see her reach new milestones. For example, as I mentioned before, Maybe has her "couch", and she can always be found there because she doesn't go anywhere else.

Recently though, she's been coming into the kitchen about 2 hours before dinner time & lying down. Also we've noticed if Maybe has met you before, each following visit becomes better. That usually means she'll come right up to you, sniff your face, & if you're one of the blessed few, she'll give you one her special baby kisses.

Maybe was somewhat of a mess when she arrived. I thought to myself, "Who is ever going to love this mess of a dog?" Well it turns out that the answer to that question was: ME ~ I'm the one that loves that mess of a dog! And she's no longer a mess; she's developed into this wonderful, huge hearted dog. Occasionally, when I allow myself to think about her previous life & that she'll never have the opportunity to reach her full BMD temperament potential, that makes me incredibly sad. But I quickly squash that thought because, in her own special way, she's reached far beyond what anyone could have hoped for or expected. She's our crazy, big-footed, loud-barking Maybe, & we wouldn't trade her for the world.

I fully appreciate my decision to foster & then subsequently adopt & how it changed my life. Maybe's presence was literally a life-saver for me. Having Maybe arrive when she did required me to focus my attention on her needs, & while I was doing that, she was filling my sad heart with love & devotion. It's been said that when you adopt an animal you're rescuing/saving it. In my case, I know the exact opposite happened.

My name is Allison J Bauman & I live with Greg Cascio (the only other human in our household.) Our fur kids include: LuluBelle (our 6 year old grey kitty recently diagnosed with Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy ☹); Woodstock (our 2 year old DSH orange tabby kitty); Bam Bam (our handsome 6 year old BMD); and then there's Maybe (our 5 year old BMD rescue) the girl that made all the difference & saved me.



BFF

Best Friends Forever … Bam Bam (l) and Maybe



The Bauman-Cascio Family … Bam Bam, Allison, Maybe (center stage of course!) and Greg

A special shout out & thank you to ~ Kayle Luthey, Mary Ann Monte, Karen Thompson & Julie Greco. You have no idea how your patience & kind words helped me navigate this road.

To all of you at BARC ~ I can't express my appreciation for your endless efforts in saving these beautiful creatures.

And lastly, to Patti Johnson ~ who devoted herself & her life to saving & improving the lives of these special dogs, I humbly give my gratitude & indebtedness. She will always be remembered in our hearts, & we will all carry her spirit with us.

Allison J Bauman

Chicago, Illinois

EDITOR'S COMMENTS



Lisa Hawes, with Bosley (l) and Tonka

Greetings, one and all, and welcome to the spring edition of The BARC Beacon. We're so glad you're taking time to peruse the pages of our newest edition. We feel confident it won't disappoint!

We have most all your favorites including *Funny Bones* that will surely have you laughing out loud! We also have our second Book Review, written by Lori Simidian, giving us an amazing glimpse into the Berner-centered read *Bad Dog (A Love Story)*. We're also happy to announce that our beloved Helen Hollander, behaviorist extraordinaire, is back with a column to fill us in on what's been happening in her life recently. Unfortunately, just after sending in her article, Helen was involved in a serious skiing accident which left her unable to bear any weight on her leg for 8 weeks after surgery to repair a displaced tibial plateau fracture. So keep Helen in your thoughts and prayers.

If you have even given thought to attending the BMDCA National Specialty in Gettysburg, PA later this spring – and plan to take your Berners – please pay special attention to the announcement on page 12 regarding the Fan Award that will be awarded to some special Bernese this year! Your Berner might qualify! We also have a new little *Trivia* activity we hope you'll find interesting.

We have a bit of a theme emerging in the way of the Berner-Garde Foundation in this issue! Please take time to read Mie Kingsley's terrific update on the B-G Database and some of its most recent innovations. If you're newer to our group and have not read the article that Mie references, by Nancy Melone, feel free to go to the BARC website (**www.barcinc.net**) to view/read/print that article in the Sept. '07 newsletter that can be accessed from the "current BARC newsletter" page. Also, note the Berner-Garde ad which depicts our very own handsome BARC boy, Arthur Samuels, the consummate California "dude" as well as take time to read up on (and participate in!!) the current Berner-Garde fundraising endeavor that Joye tells us all about in her *Fundraising FAQs* column!

Now, I've saved what I believe to be the best for last! We have a couple of truly endearing stories of two very special BARC babies and their equally amazing families. We feel confident that these loving tributes will touch your heart, inspire you, and help you to, once again, realize the astonishing bond we all share as "extended BARC family". So we trust you'll enjoy this issue's *Family Spotlight* and the *BARC Baby Feature Story*.

Finally, I have a very special announcement to make. I told you in our last issue about Beth McNeal, who needed a break from her responsibilities to the newsletter after being my dedicated sidekick for 4 years. But did you notice a bit of a change in the format/overall look of the winter 2011 issue? I suspect that you did as it had bright colors splashed across many of its pages and all kinds of fun lettering and graphics throughout. Well, the mastermind behind that issue and my NEW "right hand man"- who isn't really a *man* at all - is none other than one of our very favorite BARC foster moms, Kayle Luthey! I am proud to announce that when I sent out an SOS for help, she answered the call in record time, offering her services. Kayle, who recently sold her prospering Chicago dog walking service and retired, offered to take up right where Beth left off and has already put in countless hours of labor and love…but she made me promise to not mention her in the last issue as she wanted Beth to receive proper acknowledgement/ accolades for all her time and efforts on the newsletter's behalf. So Kayle kind of snuck in the back door, so to speak! Kayle brings lots to the table as our new layout/ design manager. She even did a newsletter for her own thriving business, so she's a veteran newsletter person, and we've already figured out that we work wonderfully together! So I hope you'll enthusiastically welcome Kayle to her new position and let her know what a FABULOUS job she is already doing. Each layout/design manager has brought different gifts and talents to the table that have helped the newsletter evolve into what it is today. I am excited to see what other signature "Kayle" things this wonderful woman will bring to this newsletter. So WELCOME, Kayle…and thanks a million!

Berner hugs,

Lisa Hawes, editor

With BARC's Bosley & Lionheart's Tonka

~forever holding our beloved BARC's Bernie close in heart (11/7/04 ~ 7/25/09)



Bosley

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BARC BUSINESS UPDATE

	2011*	2012
Dogs Rescued	19	0
Adoptions Completed	27	1
Re-homes Completed	2	0
Donations/Adoption Fees	29,336	125
Expenses	29,025	319

*2011 figures subject to final review/change by accountant

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

CORRECTIONS

- On page 15 of the Winter 2011 issue, in Nell Ward's Book Review, she had originally used the term "histio" in paragraph 2 under "Background - what we learned when CJ died" to say what CJ's diagnosis was. I knew some of our readers might not be familiar with that term, so I edited it to say "histiocytic sarcoma". That was an incorrect diagnosis. It should have read, "She had cancer; specifically, histiocytosis in her bone marrow." My apologies to Nell for this mistake. -Lisa Hawes, editor

- In the BARC Beacon Winter 2011 edition, Hagar Caldwell's birthday was listed as 1/1/09. Hagar's birthday is actually January 21, 2009. So sorry for the error, but Hagar, did you get to celebrate twice in January?

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for submissions for the Summer issue of the BARC Beacon is April 30, 2012

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

BARC OFFICERS:

- **President:** Amy Kessler—amykessler@barcinc.net
- **Vice President:** Linda Palma—lindapalma@barcinc.net
- **Secretary:** Marietta Ehrich—ehrichma@mtco.com
- **Treasurer:** Karen Thompson—karenthompson@barcinc.net

BARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Gary Turner—kcberner@sbcglobal.net
- Cheryl Thornton —cheryl.thornton@cox.net
- Karen Aufdemorte—kaufdemorte@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

- Newsletter Editor: Lisa Hawes—lkhawes@yahoo.com
- Assistant Proofing: Mary Ann Monte
- Layout & Technical Production: Kayle Luthey

ADVISORY STAFF

- Health & Wellness Articles: Andrea Brin
- Behavioral Issues: Helen Hollander
- Funny Bones: Janice Parky

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BOOK REVIEW

By Lori Simidian

In May of 2011, members of my local Bernese Mountain Dog social group were invited to attend a "Meet the Author" event. I had not heard of the book, but when I learned the title, I knew I had to go. Bad Dog (A Love Story) by Martin Kihn is the story of the evolution of the author's relationship with his Bernese Mountain Dog, Hola. Members of the group were encouraged to bring their dogs to meet Martin, so Murphy and I headed off to Brooklyn to hear the author speak and read excerpts from the book. He was funny, engaging, and honest about his shortcomings as a dog owner early on in Hola's life.

Hola came into Marty's life as a puppy with a job: to help save his failing marriage. He was a functional alcoholic working as a writer and not really making it as a husband, so getting a puppy was a great idea....NOT!!! Unfortunately for all concerned, Hola grew up with little, if any, training and quickly became a problem. The day she cornered Gloria, Marty's wife, snarling and charging at her, was the last straw for Gloria, and she left Marty and Hola. Marty was devastated and determined to turn things around and win Gloria back. He joined Alcoholics Anonymous and set about on a mission to have Hola pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen obedience test.

What follows is a very funny account of the path to that seemingly unattainable goal. Before they could actually start training for the CGC, Hola had to pass the "Family Manners Skills" class. As Marty recounts the early days of training, it seems that Hola's goal was to teach Marty how much he didn't know. Embarrassing him was a bonus. For anyone who has done obedience training, this book will ring true while making you laugh until you cry. His observations about "dog people" are spot on and hilarious.

It is also a testament to how being responsible for a dog can help someone who is struggling with their own demons within. Hola gave Marty a reason to "crawl out of the bottle", so to speak, and work toward something that was basically unselfish. The fact that Hola was acutely attuned to Marty's state of mind and mood came as quite a revelation to him - it made him pay attention to his own emotions; not something that he was used to doing. Once he made a conscious effort to relax and be upbeat, Marty found that Hola did the same and training took on a whole new flavor. Her intelligence was never the issue, although Marty didn't realize that until it was pointed out to him by more than one person.

Not only was this book very entertaining, but I also appreciate that the author seeks to educate the reader about positive training methods and the evils of pet stores and puppy mills.

One of my favorite quotes in the book is, "There is a well-established law in the unwritten annals of canine-human psychology that it is impossible to maintain a conviction of universal despair for a significant length of time when you are in proximity to a Bernese Mountain Dog." He totally gets it!!!

BOSLEY'S CULINARY CORNER



CINCO de MAYO Dog Treats

(Bizcochitos for dogs!)

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp. anise seed
- 1 tsp. baking powder

Preheat oven to 350°

Mix all ingredients together. Pinch off pieces the size of a large marble and roll between fingers. Place on a non-stick cookie sheet. Bake for 15 minutes.



WINTER PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE RESULTS



Top 5 captions in order of votes

1. Not a creature was stirring, not even a Berner. -Beth McNeal
2. Whew! Being a Santa's elf is HARD work! -Lisa Hawes
3. Whoa, I shoulda passed on that second egg nog… -Karen Aufdemorte
4. Boy, I don't know how Santa does it...I made one trip around the block, and I'm exhausted! - Karen Aufdemorte
5. I'm going to lay right here and wait for Santa to bring my new bone! -Kim Clark



ONE PUP, ONE VAN, THREE FIREMEN

Normally I seatbelt my dogs in the back of my van, but last week I decided to just let Alsa, the pup, sit free because I was making a quick trip to the store. Returning from the store, she put her head between the two front seats. I pushed her back and corrected her. A few moments later, she decided she still wanted to be in the front, so she must have taken a running leap and tried to go between the driver's seat and the door frame. Halfway through, she stopped her forward momentum and managed to high centre herself. I pulled over and tried to shove her to the back seat, but that didn't work, so I opened the sliding door on the van and tried to push her to the front; but that didn't work either. This pup was wedged solid. I drove to a friend's house - she wasn't home. Here I am with a pup stuck solid with no way to get her out!

My next thought: the fire hall across the road! So over we went. I pulled into the driveway and rang the bell. I asked if there was any way they could help me to free my pup from the van, at which point they looked at me in a very curious way, that is, until they came out and saw her. Like me, they started to laugh. It took one supervisor, one fireman on the front end and one fireman on the back end to lift her up high enough to clear the seat and be pushed to the front.



Through this whole episode the pup was having a great time! She totally washed the face of the fireman on the front end and kept hitting the fireman at her back end with her tail. Never once did it appear that she was in any distress – this girl was having a grand time!

That is one story that will go down in the annals of the fire department.

-Adeline Maxim

Berner-Garde – Doing Your Part

By Mie Kingsley

Nancy Melone's September 2007 BARC Beacon article, *Information is Power,* did a terrific job of explaining the importance of Berner-Garde (B-G, bernergarde.org) and the basics of how to submit information to the database. With 786 BARC dogs currently entered, BARC owners have clearly been doing an admirable job sharing their dogs' information. For those of you who are new to BARC dog ownership or who have not yet had a chance to enter your dog, I offer this brief explanation, highlighting the importance of submitting information. For those who are familiar with B-G, new tools such as the COI calculator can provide a fascinating way to view your dog's genetic background.

New feature

One of the most exciting new features of Berner-Garde is the Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI) generator. The COI is (very) roughly, a calculation of the degree of inbreeding within the pedigree of a specific dog. Increased inbreeding has been associated with decreased immune function, decreased fertility and decreased longevity (see Bert Klei's recent article *Inbreeding Calculators* in the October 2011 Alpenhorn for more information). In order for B-G to calculate the COI, at least 4 complete generations must be on file, including birth dates. More complete generations within the pedigree will allow for a more accurate COI calculation, although 10 complete generations is generally considered the minimum necessary for accurate results. For berners, the average COI for a pedigree from 8 or more complete generations is 8.2. To see your dog's COI, go to your dog's B-G page and click 'COI', listed on the far right on the gray horizontal menu bar.

If you are interested in learning more about COI calculations or other new (and future) features of Berner-Garde, check out Bert Klei's seminar *Understanding the COI* and Gary Galunas's seminar *New Features of the Berner-Garde Database*, featured at Berner-U at the BMDCA National Specialty in Gettysburg, PA on May 8-9, 2012. More information can be found here: http://www.berneru.org/

What is the most valuable information you can enter?

Although any and all information is important to B-G, there are a few basics that are paramount:

- Pedigree and date of birth
- Major health issues (especially genetic-based conditions) and any health certifications
- And, when the time comes, cause and date of death

So please take a moment and check your dog's B-G record to see if you can fill in any of these details for your berner.

Why enter your dog's info into Berner-Garde?

Berners of Eastern European descent were the foundation of a number of commercial kennels in the United States, and many of these dogs had littermates, parents, grandparents, half siblings, or offspring that were rescued by BARC. Bruno Z Gemerskej Polomy alone sired at least 14 litters that we know of in the early 2000's. Many of these early imported and auctioned dogs or their offspring ended up spread throughout the U.S., some as breeding stock and others as beloved pets. The genetic population of the early BARC and BARC-related dogs was not one that had been previously seen in this country, and much was unknown about the health, temperament and conformation of their ancestors.

In some ways, documenting and sharing information in B-G is even more important to BARC dog owners, since they do not have responsible breeders to turn to for answers if their dogs experience health issues. For an owner searching for data, B-G can be vitally important. I recall one owner whose dog was having neurological symptoms. She found it informative (if not ultimately comforting) to discover that a close relative had idiopathic seizures. Even if your dog is spayed or neutered and was never bred, they have parents and siblings who may have been. The altruistic act of sharing your dog's health information may be of crucial benefit to you some day if your dog experiences an unusual medical issue.

Not all uses for B-G are doom and gloom. It can be fascinating to see pictures of related dogs by clicking the 'Photo' tab on the dog's B-G page. Another fun aspect is researching and contacting the owners of dogs that are related to your dog. You may find that you have local relatives or long-lost cousins! The BARCINC Yahoo! group and The BARC Beacon are a great way to stay in contact with your doggy 'relatives,' and you can even arrange to meet up with them at club events, specialties, or BARC Bashes!

How to enter your information

There are a few ways to enter data into Berner-Garde. If you go to www.berner-garde.org, there is a tab for 'Submit Data.' This will take you to the Individual Dog Submission Form, which can be filled in with the many details that B-G is able to record for your dog (including a photograph).

For those who are technophobic or would prefer to deal directly with a Berner-Garde data operator, a listing of all the operators can be found here: http://www.bernergarde.org/home/dataoperators.aspx. Any operator can assist you or answer questions via email or phone.

On a personal note, I have entered numerous BARC and BARC-related dogs into B-G and have become familiar with many of the Eastern European and commercial breeder pedigrees. I welcome any BARC dog owners to contact me if you need help entering your dog or researching health or pedigrees. I can be reached at: mkingsley@cloud9.net or (802) 293-2931 EST.

RECENT ADOPTIONS

Andrea & Pierre Badet	Newmarket, NH	Sunny
Robert Bensh	Houston, TX	Danny
Lisa & Josh Blumert	Chatham, NJ	Suzie
Jean Kull	Peru, NY	Bernie
Richard Paloma	Tracy, CA	Gino, formerly Mosby

WILL YOU BE ATTENDING THE BMDCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY THIS YEAR?

ANNOUNCING THE 2012 FAN AWARD

Given to the Oldest Dogs (Male and Female) Entered in ANY event (including the Veteran's Parade) at the National Specialty.

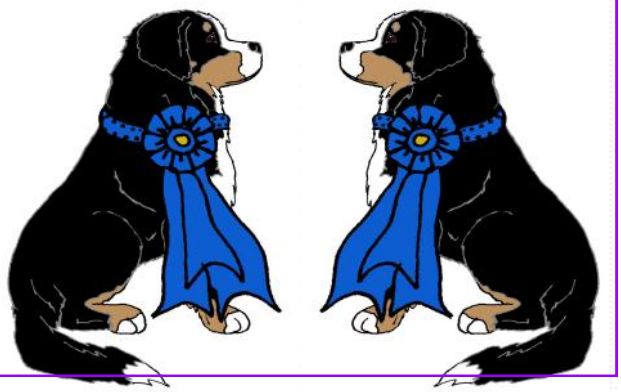
Offered by Meg Auger since the 2003 BMDCA National Specialty, The Fan Award honors the memory of her Bernese Mountain Dog soul mate, Fan, who lived to nearly 14 years of age. The Fan Award celebrates longevity in the breed and is given to the oldest Bernese Mountain Dog, male and female, attending this year's Specialty. The presentation is made at the BMDCA Judges' Dinner at which the honored senior dogs are guests.

If you wish to obtain more information about The Fan Award or own a senior dog who will be attending the Specialty and may be eligible for this award, please contact The Fan Award chairwoman.

Meg Auger

Fan Award Chairwoman

Email: hera11208@yahoo.com



BARC BABY FEATURE STORY

A VERY SPECIAL STORY .... SUNNY CRUM

On Good Friday of 2006, our lives were forever changed by the arrival of a scared, sad, and untrusting Bernese mountain dog named Sunny of High Caliber.

We were seasoned dog owners and had adopted a Bernese Mountain Dog puppy the year before. After one year with this spectacular breed, we were in love, and quickly knew that one was just not enough. After much searching and debating we decided on adopting a dog through BARC. We looked at photos for months before falling head-over-heels for a freckle-faced girl named Sunny. We did our best to prepare for her arrival, but none of us could have guessed what the next year would bring.

On the day of her arrival, we all anxiously piled into our van and drove the hour and a half to the airport carrying a fancy new pink plaid harness and leash to pick up our new girl. As soon as we saw Sunny at the airport, we knew that this was not going to be a walk in the park – there were no excited kisses, tail wags, or hugs. The look on her face as she peered at us through her crate is one that I will never forget; she was so pitiful! There was no light in her eyes, her coat was dull and matted, and she stunk of years of filth. She also arrived with medical issues including a bladder infection, whipworms, severe hip dysplasia, and was recovering from pyometra. Despite all of this, she never showed any signs of pain or discomfort.

At home, Sunny was fearful and nervous. For the first several months, she had to carry a drag line attached to her collar as there was no way we could even approach her. She was afraid of bowls and would only eat her food off of the floor. She couldn't walk upstairs and was terrified of loud noises, closed spaces, and quick movements. She ate anything and everything that she could reach including rugs, couches, and curtains. It took nearly 4 baths to completely rid her of the smell and dirt. She never wagged her tail and would not lie down in front of us. She was nearly impossible to house train as we could not use a crate due to her anxiety. It took us nearly a year and a half and a trip to a veterinary behaviorist to fully house break her. Despite her intense fear and lack of socialization, Sunny never displayed any aggression.



Sunny (l) with her best Berner buddy, Buck

Luckily, Sunny quickly fell in love with our male Bernese, Buck. They quickly became the best of friends, and I often thought that there was no way that I could have handled her without his help. One evening, he even grabbed Sunny's leash and walked her home when I was unable to get her to come back in the house.

There were many times when we thought that Sunny would never grow to trust us, and we began to accept her and adapt to her special needs - learning to love her for what she was and not for what

we thought she should be.

Through the years, Sunny began to come out of her shell. The first time I saw her tail wag, I cried. It was the most ridiculous tail wag I had ever seen. It wagged in large lopsided circles as if she had no control over it. Her eyes began to show signs of life. She no longer looked fearful and lost, but happy.


Dad, Sunny and Buck

I had all but given up hope of training her due to her fear and distrust. However, it took me 15 minutes and one training session to train her to sit and lay down. It was an event that brought tears to the entire family. She continued to improve every year that we were blessed with her companionship.

In August of 2008, I began veterinary school in Minnesota and, of course, Sunny and Buck came with me. She helped me work through home sickness, stressful exams, and many snow storms. It was amazing how much my girl had changed! She went from timid and anxious to demanding of attention. You couldn't even sit on the couch without her constantly nudging and pawing you to rub her belly or scratch her head. She began barking when we came home in the evening and running to greet us at the door. Her transformation was amazing and unbelievably rewarding. Looking back now, it is hard to believe that she was the same dog that I picked up at the airport nearly 5 years ago.

Through the years, Sunny was diagnosed with chronic bronchitis, had a foreign body surgery for eating a corn cob, and had multiple teeth extracted. It became obvious that although her spirit was overcoming the years she'd spent in the puppy mill, her body was failing. She began to limp and refused to go on walks. She hated to go outside and preferred to stay in the house and lie on her couch.


SUNNY

In May of 2011, she was diagnosed with congenital renal dysplasia. Congenital renal dysplasia is a heritable disorder in Bernese Mountain Dogs in which the kidneys fail to develop properly. Over time, the kidneys begin to dysfunction, and the dog will develop kidney failure. The time frame for this process is highly variable but typically claims dogs at a young age. Sunny was fortunate to have lived 7 years without any symptoms of this terrible disease. As a veterinary student, I knew what was coming for my dear Sunny.

I had helped to treat numerous dogs with kidney disease and dreaded having to see her go through this process. During the last several months, we managed her kidney disease with drugs and a specialized diet. In the end we were even giving her daily fluids under her skin, which she politely sat

for. In September, I knew that her condition was deteriorating. I had seen it so many times before in some of my patients at school. She refused to eat; she no longer wanted to play with our cockapoo, and the sadness in her eyes had returned. Her breath began to smell due to the build up of materials that were not being filtered properly by her kidneys. Despite how terrible we knew she must feel, she continued to climb a flight of stairs just to be with us in the evenings, and she continued to greet us at the door with that goofy tail wag and even began to lay on her side for belly rubs.

On October 18, 2011, we, as a family, decided to end Sunny's suffering. In the last hours of her life she got to go on a car ride and feel the wind in her face while smelling all that the world had to offer. She ate part of her favorite peanut butter bone and laid on the couch in the sun as my mother, father, and I sat rubbing her where ever she desired. My father and I whispered our goodbyes while holding her as she passed on to bigger and better things. Sunny went peacefully at home surrounded by her family in the only place on earth that she truly felt safe and comfortable. She is now running and playing in a better place and, for the first time, she knows no pain, fear, or anxiety.

She was 8 years old when she passed on, 5 of which she'd spent in our care. Although 5 years is not nearly enough time, we feel blessed that she allowed us into her life. We have already begun looking for another BARC rescue as we know that these dogs are so unbelievably special. We can no longer help our Sunny girl, but there are so many other dogs out there that we can still help. Adopting a dog from BARC is a very difficult commitment, but it is repaid a thousand fold. I am certain that this heartbreaking experience of Sunny's story will make me a more compassionate and understanding veterinarian, and for that I am forever grateful.

Since her death, friends have tried to ease my pain by saying that we showed her love that she would have never otherwise have known, but I believe the opposite is true. Our love for her was unlike any that we had experienced with our other pets. She was so very special, and the hole she has left in our family is immeasurable. None of us would have guessed how deeply we would miss her. How a home with 2 other dogs can feel so empty is indescribable. She was a kind and lovable soul that wiggled her way into our hearts. The lessons she taught me on patience, kindness, and forgiveness are invaluable and will never be forgotten. If only we could all live up to her example, this world would be a kinder, gentler place for humans and our four-legged companions. To quote my grandfather, "Sunny will be around me in everything that I love forever. She will be the wind, the sun, the rain, and the sky ." Rest in peace, my Sunny girl; we will meet again.



Tiffani Crum

Pictured at left, Sunny, with Buck and Skippy, ready to go for a ride.

In Loving Memory ... Carly O'Connell

Carly -- our beloved sweetheart of a girl passed away January 8th, 2012--at what we estimate was the ripe old age of twelve. She joined our family in the Fall of 2008 and blessed us with endless love and affection. This dog truly smiled! She was so happy to have found us, but truly we are the ones who were lucky enough to have had her as a part of our family. Thank you so much, BARC, for letting us adopt her. She was our first family dog, and we couldn't have been luckier.

Love, Dan, Page, Scotty, Daniel and Susannah O'Connell



HEAVEN'S DOGGY-DOOR

My best friend closed his eyes last night,
As his head was in my hand.
The Doctors said he was in pain,
And it was hard for him to stand.

The thoughts that scurried through my head,
As I cradled him in my arms.
Were of his younger, puppy years,
And OH...his many charms.

Today, there was no gentle nudge
With an intense "I love you gaze",
Only a heart thats filled with tears
Remembering our joy filled days.

But an Angel just appeared to me,
And he said, "You should cry no more,
GOD also loves our canine friends,
HE's installed a 'doggy-door"!

jan cooper '95



LEARNING PROPER ETIQUETTE!



Taking Treats Gently

It can be so frustrating... you want to reinforce your puppy's good behavior with a little treat, yet the little bugger about rips your fingers open with those needle sharp puppy teeth of his! What to do?

Until you can teach him to take his treats gently, simply toss any that he earns on the floor for him to get. You can also spread peanut butter or soft cheese on a metal spoon and give him a lick of that for a treat (use metal rather than wooden so he is uncomfortable if he bites the spoon).

Now you need to teach him that snapping at your fingers no longer works to get him a treat! From now on he will need to accept that goody gently... or not get it at all.



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



1. Set aside the time to actually teach gentle treat-taking. If you try to teach it in conjunction with reinforcing another behavior, you will confuse your puppy.

2. Okay, now realize that up until now, snatching that treat out of your hand probably worked really well for your puppy. You likely started holding it at the very tips of your fingers (trying to keep them out of harm's way), which meant that it was released very quickly if he snapped at all. So... you have to make that behavior STOP WORKING for him.

3. Take a tasty treat and have it in the palm of your hand, then make a soft fist with that hand. Offer that hand to your puppy, and grin & bear it at first if he bites at your hand (perhaps wear gloves). But, be sure to NOT open your hand while that is going on! Simply wait him out. When he stops touching you with his teeth, and perhaps nibbles or licks instead, tell him "Gentle" and slowly open your hand to reveal the treat & let him have it.

4. Continue, keeping the treats hidden in your hand. That way if he does bite at your hand, you will be able to resist dropping the treat. Remember... we don't want that behavior to work any more! Instead, we want your puppy to learn that gentle nibbling and/or licking is what works now to release that treat!



5. If you continue to say "Gentle" or "Easy" while working on this, he will begin to associate that word with the behavior. Then you can start to expect that gentle treat-taking whenever he earns one. If he slips up and starts to get rough, say "Ah ah!" and pull your hand away. Then offer the treat again, reminding him to be "Gentle".



Every Berner can make a difference



And we need YOUR help to make that difference

Every dog has a story to tell. Have you shared your dog's story?

With the Berner-Garde Foundation, sharing your dog's story has never been easier. Throughout your dog's life, you can add and update health records and other important information to ensure that your dog's legacy lives on and impacts the future of the breed. Berner-Garde will be happy to assist you with getting started. Please visit our website at www.BernerGarde.org for more information.

Berner-Garde Foundation Incorporated 1995



FOOD (TRIVIA) FOR THOUGHT

If the name of a pet food includes the phrase "with beef" (or chicken, lamb, turkey, etc.) what is the minimum percent of that ingredient which must be in the food, according to the AFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials)?

A) 3% B) 17% C) 35% D) 76%

Was your answer 3%? If so, you are CORRECT! Somewhat scary that it's only 3%, wouldn't you agree?

Current Berner Lovers' Fundraiser – Berner-Garde Foundation

FAQs—FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

A: The current fundraiser is the 2012 Berner-Garde Fundraiser, and the money we raise will support the DNA, Blood and Tissue Repository at Michigan State University. I am asking that everyone send a donation to support Berner-Garde. You don't get any tickets to win prizes, but you do get the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping both the Berners of today and the Berners of the future! The fundraiser started on February 3, 2012 and runs until March 31, 2012.

Running concurrently with the Berner-Garde Fundraiser is the FREE TICKET GIVEAWAY! Yes, folks, you heard it right - this is the time when you can NOT buy tickets for the 130 plus fantabulous prizes that I have assembled for everyone to try to win. The ONLY WAY to get tickets for the prizes is for you to just ASK ME for FREE TICKETS! You can also ask for tickets for your friends, family members, mentors, etc. If you ask me for tickets for yourself and for others, please send me your and/or the other recipients' names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses so I can contact them to tell them they have tickets from you…and for them to tell me how to distribute their FREE tickets. This is Berner-Garde's way of saying THANK YOU for your support, for submitting your Berners' information to the Berner-Garde Database and for contributing your Berners' DNA, tissue, and blood to the BGF DNA and Tissue Repository at Michigan State University! Here is the website so you can see the prizes that you can try to win:

http://bernese.biz/BGF2012/index.html

Q: Why should I, as a Bernese Mountain Dog owner, participate, and how does it benefit our breed?

A: Berner-Garde Foundation (BGF) and Michigan State University (MSU), with support from the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, have established a repository that collects, stores, and maintains DNA and tissue samples from a large population of BMDs, whether affected with a disorder or not, along with pedigree and medical history information. MSU stores and catalogs DNA and tissue samples for future health research purposes, and uses state of the art diagnostic evaluation of submitted specimens as well. The samples that are stored for future research purposes include blood samples, cheek swabs, preserved tissue biopsy samples, and fresh frozen tumor tissue. To encourage submission of samples to the Repository, the cost of submission of blood, swabs and biopsy samples is covered by funds from Berner-Garde and the BMDCA. The owner pays the cost of shipping and veterinary costs to obtain the sample.

Q: Is there a website that tells me more about this cause?

A: **www.bernergarde.org** The Berner-Garde Foundation was established to collect, maintain and disseminate information about genetic diseases observed in the Bernese Mountain Dog. The BGF is comprised of a voluntary Board of Directors, several committees and, at its core, a computerized database. The database contains information which has been compiled over many years from voluntary submissions of data from owners and from other public sources of information. The information in the BGF database is available online to owners, breeders, veterinarians, and researchers

who are working to reduce genetic disease in the Bernese Mountain Dog. Be sure to check out the new Coefficient of Inbreeding for your own Berners.

Q: How does this fundraiser work?
The fundraiser is simple. I am just asking for donations to Berner-Garde. Make your checks payable to: Berner-Garde Foundation. If you are sending a cheque from a foreign bank, then please make your cheques payable to: Joye M. Neff. My bank does not charge any fees to convert foreign cheques to US dollars. Mail all checks and cheques to: Joye Neff, 1182 Firwood Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243-1881.

Q: How do I participate to win items?
We have assembled over 130 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 FREE and easy to obtain! Just send me an e-mail and ask for tickets: **joye.neff@gmail.com**. Tell me how many and how to distribute the tickets you are requesting. For example, say: "Joye, please give me 20 FREE Tickets. I'd like you to place the FREE Tickets into the following envelopes: 2 each in items number 2, 8, 14, 22, 33, 34, 45, 63, 77 & 89." That's it! Just ask for tickets. People may also request to send FREE Tickets to friends, mentors, and people they admire—its fun!!! We are running the fundraising drive for Berner-Garde during this same time period.

I look forward to getting a LOT of checks/cheques to support Berner-Garde, AND I also look forward to giving away a LOT of FREE TICKETS for the great prizes that I have on the website that Jean Cheesman made for the FREE TICKET GIFT BONANZA!

Berner-Garde is a not for profit 501 c 3 organization, which means that your donation is tax deductible. Your contributions to Berner-Garde are so important in order to help maintain the Berner-Garde Database and the DNA and Tissue Repository. Berner-Garde needs your donations to continue this magnificent work. THANK YOU for your generous support.



Joye and Breeze Neff
1182 Firwood Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15243-1881
Phone: (412) 561-8539
E-mail: joye.neff@gmail.com

Joye Neff is a fundraiser for Bernese Mountain Dogs, both nationally and internationally. Since 1999, she has raised $766,126.29 doing fundraisers on the Berner lists for Berner health, rescue, and education. The generosity of the Berner Lovers on the lists have made this total possible, and she is thankful to everyone for their support!

BARC SPECIAL DAYS

Carly Taylor	3/1/02	Anniversary
Sig Monte	3/1/08	Anniversary
Holiday West	3/2/11	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
Nancy Greco	3/13/11	Anniversary
Demi Monte	3/15/04	Birthday
Jack Palma	3/16/08	Anniversary
Dreyfus Patrick-Baudet	3/20/05	Birthday
Janet Bellone	3/21/06	Birthday
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
Lainey Meslinsky	3/28/05	Anniversary
Bruiser Bradley	3/28/08	Birthday
Kilroy Aufdemorte	3/28/09	Birthday



Jake Simidian	4/1/05	Anniversary
Missy Meisner	4/2/02	Birthday
Natalie Hester	4/2/03	Birthday
Holly Hipolito	4/3/11	Anniversary
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
Bubba Galbraith	4/8/11	Anniversary
Rufus La Montagne	4/8/11	Anniversary
Bruno Hughes	4/9/08	Birthday
Dante Paige	4/12/03	Birthday
Mario Reddout	4/13/06	Anniversary
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
Oscar Wiegand	4/24/01	Birthday
Samson Kenady	4/24/08	Birthday
Murphy Simidian	4/24/09	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
Rosie Hannon	4/30/01	Birthday
Joye Hartung	4/30/04	Birthday

Max Ledoux	5/4/04	Birthday
Angus Leforest	5/4/10	Birthday
Alfie Palma	5/5/01	Birthday
Molly Roszkowsky	5/6/11	Anniversary
Sophia Borgstadt	5/7/09	Anniversary
Gretel Hutchins	5/15/04	Birthday
Daisy Wilker	5/16/02	Birthday
Jojo McQueen	5/16/08	Birthday
Diego Donovan	5/17/02	Birthday
Ruby Baker	5/18/08	Birthday
Star Blake	5/19/01	Birthday
Rosie Zarinskyi	5/19/05	Birthday
Tucker Pelletier	5/20/05	Birthday
Bruno Fagan	5/21/00	Birthday
Moose Hartman	5/22/04	Anniversary
Ben Shaw	5/24/03	Birthday

Lily Comber	5/24/08	Birthday
Barney Herbst	5/24/08	Birthday
Ted Quillemette	5/24/08	Birthday
Gracie Tingley	5/24/08	Birthday
Tiffany Barela	5/25/01	Birthday
Joy Westby	5/25/01	Birthday
Donovan Klein	5/25/07	Birthday
Carson McCracken	5/25/07	Birthday
Darcy McCracken	5/25/07	Birthday
Eli Woznicki	5/25/07	Birthday
Barney Herbst	5/25/08	Birthday
Pocket Burhmaster	5/25/10	Anniversary
Wally Boehm	5/27/08	Anniversary
Jesse Neilsen	5/28/01	Birthday
Bo Thompson	5/28/02	Birthday
Rosie Webb	5/28/08	Anniversary
Miss Emma Berg	5/29/02	Anniversary

ASK HELEN HOLLANDER ...

Have you missed Helen Hollander's wonderfully informative articles in the last several issues? Well, you're not alone! Read further to find out just what has been keeping Helen so busy during her hiatus...and know that she'll be returning with her typical insight/wisdom in future issues. -Lisa Hawes, editor

The Evolution of Elton

It has been an interesting 10 months for me, personally. Last March, I was lucky enough to bring home a most gorgeous, loving, OUT GOING little boy whom we call Elton. Those of you on Facebook no doubt have seen his pictures.

Elton joined my family as a prospective show dog. At the time, I had my sweet 10 year old Harley, Paxil, a retired Champion, and, of course, Dusty, my Iraqi rescue from Baghdad.

Elton was incredible...nothing fazed him; he loved the world and everything in it. Not only that, but he was a show stopper to boot.

When Elton turned 5 months old, OVER NIGHT, he became fearful of people. OMG! What did I do wrong? He comes from impeccable lines with regard to temperament among other attributes, and I am a behavior specialist by profession. What the heck did I do, or what the heck happened to turn this boy into a scared little boy????

Devastated, I began at square one...ruling out ANY possible physiological/pathological reasons to cause this behavior swing in my once most sociable little man.

At first I attributed it to his hormone swings, now that he was getting toward that "age". I also decided to have Elton tested for any and all pathological reasons for his change in behavior. Elton tested positive for Lyme; he was suffering from Pano; he also had a severe - very severe - case of Follicular Conjunctivitis. Could his discomfort be the cause for him not wanting strangers coming close to him? Good chance.

Then I began to think about his learning from my other dogs. Elton bonded so closely to my sweet Harley. Unbeknown to me, Harley was suffering from Osteosarcoma and died a month later. Elton did feel the absence and quickly bonded to my rescue dog Dusty...who, by the way, is totally reactive and fear aggressive toward strangers. Why couldn't he bond with my Paxil who is so loving, easy going, and trusting? <Sigh!>

Months passed as I diligently worked with Elton to help him overcome his cautious behavior. The odd thing was, Elton was so daring and so courageous in general; so it was just people. Great...some show dog! At this point I really didn't care if I ever showed him. I wanted him to be comfortable in his skin and to enjoy life...not worrying about this or that or spooking over a dropped spoon or a bag of kibble.

By the time Elton was nine months, there was no substantial improvement in his cautious behavior. Now, being well versed in behavior and the sensitive/impact periods of a dog's life, I became quite concerned. I was most concerned with his shy behavior flipping into aggressive behavior. 9 months is a most critical period.

I went to see my vet who, like me, is well versed on behavior as well as Berners. We both decided that this was the optimum time to put Elton on an anti-anxiety medication while I worked him through his behavior modification.

We started Elton on Clomicalm and continued with our daily walks and interactions. Little by little, I began to see a change in Elton. He was not as jumpy and more resilient. What made it difficult with Elton was that there was not "one specific incident" or lack of socialization that I could attribute to his quirky behavior swing. Again, it was OVER NIGHT!

Elton just turned one year old. We have continued handling classes regardless of his nutty behavior and, with each passing week, he's seemed more relaxed with the judge/instructor. He has never been a problem with other dogs...just people approaching him.

Let's fast forward to last week. I decided to take Elton on a Berner walk with my other really solid boy Paxil. Elton had the best time. Was it because Paxil was there, and he got good calming vibes from him? I think so, in part. While on the walk, we learned of a Match show the next day. What the heck....I decided to take Elton for socialization and for the mere experience of being in the ring. WHOA!!!!!!! Elton did incredibly! Long story short, he was relaxed, loved seeing all the other dogs, approached people and ....drum roll....TOOK A GROUP ONE in the working group finals. WOW!



Elton is presently being weaned off his meds. Time will tell if he has learned people are good and nothing bad is going to happen to him.

OK...my point is...it takes time, it takes patience, and it does no good to say, "WHY?" Deal with what you are observing at this very moment. Most dogs CAN change, can adjust, and can be comfortable in their skin.

Don't give up on trying to help your dog be the best that he/she can be. It takes TIME, it takes patience on your part, and some times, it warrants the help of pharmaceutical intervention, short term.

Today, Elton is a pistol. He loves life. He will still run for the hills if I drop a pot, but he recovers quickly. He still remains cautious of strangers but will warm up to them on his terms. Bless his heart...he is beginning to REALLY love life.

Hugs to all your furries~ Helen
Helen Hollander, CPDT-KA
Brookville, NY



HELEN AND ELTON

HELEN HOLLANDER

Helen graduated from Hofstra University with a degree in Psychology and later worked in the field of Special Education. Always interested in Canine behavior, Helen switched professions to that of working with dogs on a professional level and furthering her education in Canine Behavior. In addition to being a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and member of the Certification Council of Pet Dog Trainers, Helen is also a Professional member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT), and a Certified Behavior Counselor through the Animal Behavior Center of New York. Helen also 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. Being a proactive advocate of dog-friendly, reward based training, Helen is the owner of THE EDUCATED PUP, LLC, a private training and behavior counseling practice located on Long Island , NY . Because of her dedication to helping dogs achieve all they can be, Helen owns/moderates an E-List that offers help for those people who own Shy/Aggressive Bernese Mt. Dogs. To join, email:
BerneseAggressiveandShy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Helen presently shares her life with her well trained and understanding husband, two Bernese Mt. Dogs, and an Anatolian Shepherd rescued from Iraq. When not counseling other peoples' pets, you can find Helen ringside, handling one of her Bernese in conformation.

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 world-wide

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, including this issue.**

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 SPRING PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE!



A new Photo Caption Challenge for Spring! 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 April 30, 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!!