The BARC
BEACON
Shining the Light of Hope and Freedom

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BARC FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Introducing the Meckes Family!

Adopting Emme has been a wonderful experience … for Toby, for Emme, for the feline siblings, and, most of all, for me. People are always asking me about her, so I tell them that I placed my order "online", and it still cracks me up to this day. Who would've thought?

My German Shepherd, Lexie, was already 9 years old when I rescued and adopted Toby in October of 2004. Since Toby (formerly known as Bronco) had only known life around other dogs, I didn't give too much thought or anticipate any issues with him getting along with Lexie. Having said that, I wasn't sure how she would take to having another dog around, but she was very responsive to him, and they became fast friends. At that time, Toby was a 20-month old neutered male Bernese who desperately needed some basic training and lots of love. These two dogs were so good together and grew close in no time at all. Lexie was a bit mothering with him and taught him some manners by leading by example.

In August of 2009, it took everything in me to reconcile that it was time to say good-bye to my sweet, loving, gentle girl Lexie. I don't have to tell you the pain and anguish I felt having to make such a heart wrenching decision … but it was time. Over the next few months, Toby showed signs of being lost and lonely without her. I was amazed at how sensitive he was to her loss, and I realized that he was grieving right along with me. I'd look into his eyes and see a reflection of a broken heart.

Before we knew it, the holidays were approaching, and I began to see so many advertisements about puppies and opening our hearts to adopting dogs in need of loving homes. Although I wasn't sure I was in the market for another large dog, I found myself drawn to searching the internet for female dogs … specifically German Shepherds and Bernese Mountain Dogs. I stumbled across BARC, Inc. and found myself reading the profiles of 3 females … Faith, Annie, and Emme. I completed and submitted my application and sent a photo taken in the backyard of Toby, Lexie, my daughter's dog Buddy, and Sam (my cat). Shortly thereafter, Marietta did her due diligence by checking with my veterinarian and several references before she called to tell me that I met their criteria and was approved by BARC. She then indicated that Faith had been adopted and gave me the "go ahead" to reach out to the foster families of Annie and Emme. I called Patti and Manny Grijalva about Emme … I believe it was late on a Saturday afternoon in January of 2010. Patti and I talked for quite a while getting acquainted and sharing berner stories. She spoke very highly of Emme … how sweet she was and how well she got along with



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Jasmine and Boomer. She was a perfect little lady - though a bit shy - with great manners and a loving, gentle spirit. Then, I called Pat Tackett to learn about Annie. Once again, I heard lots of great things about Annie, like how sweet and lovable she was and how well adjusted she was in Pat's care and with Pat's 2 male Bernese, Samson and Ryder.

After speaking with Patti & Manny about Emme...and Pat about Annie, I wanted to adopt both girls!! I spoke with Patti and Pat at length and learned as much as I could. Unfortunately, a decision had to be made. So Toby and I had a discussion about what he was looking for in an ideal female companion. I showed him both of the girls' pictures and read their little bios to him. I told him what each of the foster moms had to say about their girls, and he looked almost as confused as I did when it came to making a choice. So, I prayed, held a good thought, and called Marietta with our decision. When she answered the phone, she immediately told me that Annie had been adopted!! Well ... that made our decision even sweeter!! There was no decision to be made!! Emme belonged with us!! Whoo hoo!! I asked Marietta if she would be able to help me surprise Emme with our decision. I told her that I had been watching the reality show, "The Bachelor" and thought I'd use it as a theme for choosing Emme. I picked up a long-stem, red silk rose, a heart-shaped box ... which we filled with home-made doggie cookies, and a photo of Toby in a 5 x 7 frame. I then crafted a card sporting the "Bachelor" logo on the front. Inside the card was a personal sentiment expressed to Emme from Toby, simply asking that well-known question, "Emme, will you accept this rose?" This, of course, was the FINAL rose, and if Emme accepted, these two would embark on a permanent relationship!!



I was so excited, I could hardly stand it! I put everything in a box and had it shipped to Emme Grijalva at her home in Naperville, Illinois. Once I mailed the package, I called Marietta to let her know it was on its way. Marietta told me that Patti was feeling a little anxious that she hadn't heard anything from me, and she was concerned that I wasn't interested in her little girl after all. I was so grateful that Marietta kept our little secret so that Patti would be just as surprised as Emme was ... although I really think that somehow they knew!!

In a day or so, the package arrived at the Grijalva's house, and when I saw their phone number on my caller ID, I knew it had been received!! Patti & Manny took a great picture of Emme with her goodies and, within a few days, she sent a return package accepting Toby's final rose!! It was such a great story created by timing and opportunity...and born out of love!!



Scheduling a date for delivery during the upcoming winter months was a bit challenging to say the least. Enlisting help from BARC families/friends for transportation from Illinois to Pennsylvania really warmed my heart. The team consisted of Patti Grijalva, Judy Fowler, Jaye & Hannah Carl, and Audrey Donovan. These ladies' spirit of cooperation was positively inspiring as they worked together seamlessly to get Emme home! So everything was arranged for Emme. She'd have a few stops along the way and then an overnight pajama party at Audrey's house in Pittsburgh as she made her final journey home to us!!

Finally, on March 8, 2010, Emme arrived safe and sound at "home", making Toby a very happy boy and


The very happy couple! Emme (l) and Toby!

me a very happy mom!! She was a bit shy at first, but acclimated quickly. Toby doted on her, groomed her, and snuggled on the floor next to her. It wasn't too long after that when I began working with both dogs to test for AKC Good Citizen certification and Therapy Dog certification. They both passed with flying colors and now seem to enjoy visiting folks in convalescent homes and in hospice care. This fall, we'll be visiting schools and local libraries as part of the Roxy Reading Program where children read to the dogs!! Another initiative with Roxy Reading that we hope to participate in is "Courthouse Dogs," which provides canine support to an apprehensive witness who must testify in court relative to a traumatic event or crisis situation. I'm very happy to have both dogs … and I'm grateful that they have allowed me to share their lives!! They rescued me!!

-Ann Meckes in PA

The Dynamic Duo at work !







EDITOR'S COMMENTS



Lisa Hawes, with Bosley (l) and Tonka

Well, here we are entering yet another fall season and nearing the end of our 6th year of publication! Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here before we know it! How quickly time flies these days, wouldn't you agree? But as we enter this fall season, I find myself looking forward to temperatures cooling down and the joy of taking lovely long walks with my boyz (okay, for Bosley, it's ME pulling him in his landscape wagon!). The boyz and I always feel a bit like prisoners in our own home throughout the summer due to the hideous Texas heat (but thank you, God, for air conditioning!!), but with the onset of fall and cooler weather, we're anxiously awaiting outings and play dates with our Berner friends, etc.

I know this is a busy time of year for everyone, but I hope that you'll be able to carve out time in your schedules to enjoy our fall newsletter. I was worried it might be a short issue this time around, but that never seems to wind up being the case, and my worries are all for naught! I think we have another great issue to share with our beloved BARC families and friends. It is full of warm and loving stories about BARC babies, both present and past, who have forever affected the lives of their owners/families. Lori Simidian has written a terrific review for us of a small book that I cannot wait to read now that I've read Lori's review and heard the excitement in her voice when she talks about it! We have a few loving *Memorial* tributes to share that honor our beloved furkids who've left for The Bridge recently. We have our *Funny Bones* article as well as a collage of Specialty photos to share from the 2012 BMDCA National Specialty held in Gettysburg, PA last spring. We have our new column - *Where are they Now?* - with mini-stories of some of our BARC kids…plus a very informative article on Manuka honey submitted by Andrea Brin, our health & wellness expert. If your guys are like my Bosley, they'll lick honey right off a spoon!

We have a pumpkin treat recipe to share in *Bosley's Culinary Corner* that is special for this fall season. Why should it just be us humans who get to enjoy the delight of all kinds of pumpkin treats during the fall holidays of Halloween and Thanksgiving? There are so many health benefits for dogs who eat pumpkin (Just make sure if using canned, that you get the 100% pureed pumpkin, NOT pumpkin pie filling!!), so give it a try and see if your furbabies thank you for it!

Joye Neff also shares information about the new fundraiser coming up soon…the **2012 Cancer Fundraiser**. She shares a letter from Dr. Breen as well as other information on the research being conducted on this topic that is close to most all Berner people's hearts.

So sit back and enjoy some leisurely reading and enjoy your fall. Don't let life get so busy that you don't take time for those relaxing walks with your favorite pooch; it's not only good for them, it's good for YOU!!

Happy fall y'all!

Lisa Hawes, editor, with BARC's Bosley & Tonka
~holding our beloved BARC's Bernie forever close in heart…



Bosley

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BERNESE AUCTION RESCUE COALITION

BARC, INC.

Lending a paw to those in need

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BARC BUSINESS UPDATE

	2011	2012
Dogs Rescued	19	3
Adoptions Completed	27	5
Re-homes Completed	2	0
Donations/Adoption Fees	$29,360	$4,626
Expenses	$32,140	$5,035

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

RECENT ADOPTIONS

Gage was adopted by Karen Fay in Woodland Park, Colorado

AND

Kate Buhrmaster adopted Wrigley (formerly Remi) in Los Angeles, California!

Congratulations Karen & Kate!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for submissions for the Winter issue of the BARC Beacon is October 31, 2012

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

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Facts about Manuka Honey

Manuka Honey Q&A courtesy of Manuka Honey USA (www.Manukahoneyusa.com)

What is Manuka Honey?

Manuka Honey is pure, raw, natural, un-pasteurized, organic honey collected from the flower of the wild, un-cultivated Tea Tree Bush (leptospermum scoparium) in **New Zealand**. Manuka Honey has been cold slung (cold slung = extracted from the comb without heating) is creamy and tastes deliciously unique.

Has Manuka Honey been researched?

Manuka Honey and Active Manuka Honey have been researched by **Dr. Peter Molan**, Senior Lecturer of the **Waikato University**, New Zealand for over 20 years. Dr. Molan has found that Manuka Honey seems to naturally destroy staph and strep. Active Manuka Honey seems to naturally destroy **staphaureus, streptococcus** (even **antibiotic resistant MRSA**, **Golden Staph**), as well as **h. pylori** (**helicobacter pylori**), the bacteria typically associated to **stomach ulcers**. For more information about **Dr. Molan's Research** work, please visit the website of the **Waikato University.**

What is Manuka Honey used for Internally?

Manuka Honey is an all **natural remedy** and is used **internally** to help sooth a **sore throat** and **cold symptoms.** Manuka Honey is also applied to **canker sores** and **fever blisters.** To help **strengthen the immune system**, take manuka honey daily to help prevent getting a cold. Because of the honey's smooth and creamy texture and delicious taste, it is also used in tea, on toast and for cooking and baking. See below for gastritis indications.

What is Manuka Honey used for Externally?

Manuka Honey is used **externally** to help sooth, treat and heal a **fever blister**, **canker sore / cold sore**. Manuka Honey can also be used as a **facial** to help treat **acne, pimples, skin care problems**. Manuka Honey is also applied to **minor cuts, scratches, skin irritations, blemishes, rashes** etc.

Which Manuka Honey strength should I use for internal or external applications?

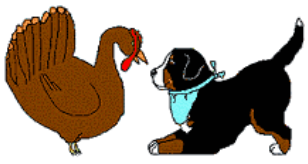
Active Manuka Honey with a UMF range between 16-18:

Internal uses of Active Manuka Honey include: acid reflux, esophaghitis, heartburn, gastritis, up-set stomach (after food poisoning), stomach ulcer, h. pylori (helicobacter pylori = stomach ulcer causing bacteria), duodenal ulcer, ibs (irritable bowel syndrome) and mild forms of diverticulitis and colitis, short, Active Manuka Honey is used to help sooth and heal gastro-intestinal issues naturally.

External uses of Active Manuka Honey include:

First degree burn, second degree burn, third degree burn, chemical burns (after thoroughly washing off chemicals with cool water), wounds, infectious wounds, MRSA and/or VRE staph infected wounds, wounds that just won't heal with traditional medicine such as antibiotic ointments, cortison creams etc. old war wounds, amputation stump wounds, chronic wounds, post-operative scars (after caesarean, shoulder or hip operations, cosmetic surgery, tummy tuck, face lift, any surgery that leaves a scar...) first aid wound treatment, ulcers, decubitus ulcers, skin ulcer, diabetic foot ulcers, diabetic leg ulcers, diabetic wound, sores, bed sores, leg sores, scars, insect stings, insect bites, poison oak, poison ivy, minor cuts, abrasions, scratches, itches, severe adult or teenage acne...

~~Andrea Brin



Remembering those we have recently lost ….

Weep not for me though I am gone
Into that gentle night.
Grieve if you will, but not for long
Upon my soul's sweet flight.
I am at peace, my soul's at rest
There is no need for tears.
For with your love I was so blessed
For all those many years.
There is no pain, I suffer not,
The fear now all is gone.

Put now these things out of your thoughts,
In your memory I live on.
Remember not my fight for breath
Remember not the strife.
Please do not dwell upon my death,
But celebrate my life.

Constance Jenkins



Missing Stella Graham …

April 2, 2004— August 14, 2012



Sweetest Girl Ever,

Who rescued ME!

Sue Graham

In Loving Memory . . . Nellie Helms

March 5, 2001—August 19, 2012



"It was so hard to say goodbye to our dear sweet girl, but we were incredibly grateful that she shared our lives for 11 1/2 years."

Ned and Sally Helms



With heartfelt sympathy .... Jake Simidian



Jake Simidian

Jake

akc reg.: Tujaligeti Bela CGC, TDI, RN

Nov. 18, 2000 - Apr.20, 2012

BernerGarde #21874

On the morning of April 20, 2012, the world became a little less gentle, a little less loving and a little less sweet. I took Jake (aka: the big man) to see his amazing oncologist, Dr. Michael Linderman, for the last time, to be relieved of his suffering. When we arrived at the hospital, Jake got out of the car but was only able to walk as far as the front of it, so I used my cell phone to call inside for them to help me. In what seemed like only seconds, 3 staff members appeared with a gurney, followed a second or two later by 6 more staffers. They lovingly lifted Jake onto the gurney and walked along side him as they wheeled him inside. It was like an honor guard. These wonderful human beings had cared for Jake and seen him through many of his health crises and truly loved him. But then, Jake had that effect on people. Everyone who ever met him fell in love instantly, especially me.

Jake was a quiet guy, rarely barked. His demeanor was sweet and gentle - always, unless he thought another dog was being too rough with his "little" brother, Murphy. Then he stepped in and let them know who was in charge.

He was allowed to do whatever he wanted. He earned that after 4 ½ years of living in puppy mills.

I understood him and his subtle ways of letting me know what he wanted. He had a great sense of humor, and he took great pleasure in teasing me. He loved going to the local state park where people and their dogs would gather in an open field near a pond and just have fun. When it was time to go home he would walk a little ways toward the parking lot then lay down, feigning exhaustion (I knew he faking because if I walked back toward the field he would hop up and trot). So the routine was, he would lay down, and I would drop his leash and continue walking toward the parking lot with Murphy. I was always within his sight, and he in mine. After putting Murphy in the car, I'd walk back to him and, as I got close, his tail would begin to wag, and he would smile as if to say, "Ha! I won," and then get up and come with me to the car. I can't tell you how many people were entertained watching this silly ritual.

It's been four months, and I miss him so much. I look at his picture, and I physically ache to just throw my arms around his big ol' neck and kiss that massive head just once more. He changed who I am - he changed me for the better, and I'll forever be grateful for having him in my life and for the privilege of being in his.

-Lori Simidian on Long Island, NY



Jake and Lori

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



FALL TRIVIA QUESTION!

What Percent of Pet owners say they have more Photos of their Pet(s) than their spouse or significant other?

A) 27% B) 46% C) 65% D) 99%

65% of those surveyed admitted to having more photos of their pet than spouse or significant other ...
I suspect the actual number is 100%, but some were afraid to admit it!



Where are they now?





MAGGIE— She has been with the Minardi family for almost four years! According to Dad Sam and Mom Barbara, she is the best thing that has happened to them. The family recently relocated to Florida and are in the process of building a new home. In the meantime, they are renting and Maggie has made the transition beautifully. She quickly figured out that no matter what home she's in, she is welcome to sleep anywhere that's comfortable, including Sam & Barbara's bedroom. Maggie loves her walks and has, because of Florida's heat, decided early morning or late evening work best for her. Sam and Barbara will always be grateful to BARC for providing them their best friend!



ABBY– Living in Indiana, Abby Prather has seen and heard her share of cows … perhaps this is why her favorite activity is "mooing." When she wants attention, she makes a sound, which Dad Jory and Mom Dee Dee are convinced could be mistaken for a cow! And keeping with her farm animal theme, she's a "bucking bronco" when it's time for dinner. Abby's bed is located next to Mom, ON the big bed. Abby's Berner "brother", Houston, looks out for his sister, however, it's Abby that wears the pants in the relationship. Houston and Abby are very committed to one another and you can often find them holding hands and even smooching!



LILLY- Despite being camera shy, you can see how beautiful this little girl (60 pounds, soaking wet) is! Although Mom Terry is her favorite, Dad Marty is the one that she goes to for belly rubs. Every morning, Lilly goes to the dog park, sometimes with her 3 siblings—Maya, a Berner, Harry, a collie-husky mix and Sullivan, a Chihuahua mix and also the official leader of the pack. Lilly is shy around new people but eventually realizes that being a star and being showered with love is not such a bad thing. The Schlabach family live in Bettendorf, Iowa and sleep with Lilly and Maya on their bed.



SOPHIE– BARC determined Sophie was a special need's baby and Tim and Chris Krocesky did not hesitate to open their hearts and home to her. With four other dogs in their family, Sophie had the mentors to help her along. Her best friend is their Golden Retriever but her boyfriend is the Bouvier/Poodle mix. It wasn't long before Sophie realized the best spot in the house to sleep is with Chris on the bed. As Chris wrote, "She's come a long way from being a broken spirited Berner to the helicopter tail wagging barking Berner we have today."



Elin's Antics

Elin is our "Goofy Girl" with a true sense of humor. Not only is she goofy, but she always looks to us for approval of her antics. She will do something that she thinks is funny, and you can see from her expression that she really does think she is hilarious. She has this particular expression where she will suddenly look up at us with her bright, laughing eyes that say, "Didn't you just see that? Aren't I just great?" Her funny little personality is one of the many reasons we love her so much.



Her bedtime antics, while humorous to her, are not always, at the time, so humorous to us. One night, when she was about a year old, she jumped into our bed at 4 a.m. Now this is not unusual for Elin, nor was it unusual that she jumped across my back, as that is always how she jumps into bed. Not at the foot, mind you, where it would be easier for both Elin and myself, but right across my back. Well this time, I felt her jump over me, but then I was slapped in the back with something heavy. Goofy Elin had dragged our 3' x 4' rug out of the bathroom and decided she just needed to have it in bed with her. She carried it with her as she jumped over me and into our bed. She was so proud of herself! The rug is quite heavy with the rubber backing, but our girl worked hard and managed to get it up there. I just started laughing. Gary, however, was NOT amused at that point because he had to get up in an hour. Thankfully, he does laugh about it now.

Another one of her crazy nighttime antics happens when I'm lying in bed. She sits on my ankles with her back to me. She will then look back at me over her shoulder as if to tell me, "Get ready, here I come!" and, at that point, she falls backwards where she is onto my stomach so I can rub her belly. Yes, she will often wake me up during the night to rub her belly this way. So much for a good night's sleep!

Her skill at manipulating our other dogs is also funny to watch. She will lay right next to Boone or Anika while they chew on a bone, with her mouth actually touching the bone. She never tries to take it. She just lays there next to them with her mouth on the bone. Eventually, she has the other end right in her mouth and she will gradually start chewing ever so easy so they will not notice. Then she will take a little more in her mouth, ever so easy, again, thinking they don't notice. In her mind, she thinks that she is so clever that they won't realize it when she suddenly has the entire bone. Once again, my girl is so proud of herself, thinking she has outsmarted them. Truth be told, though, they get tired of her slow, demanding ways and just get up and leave. It really is amazing that there is never a fight over the bone. It's as if Boone and Anika see her for the prankster she is!

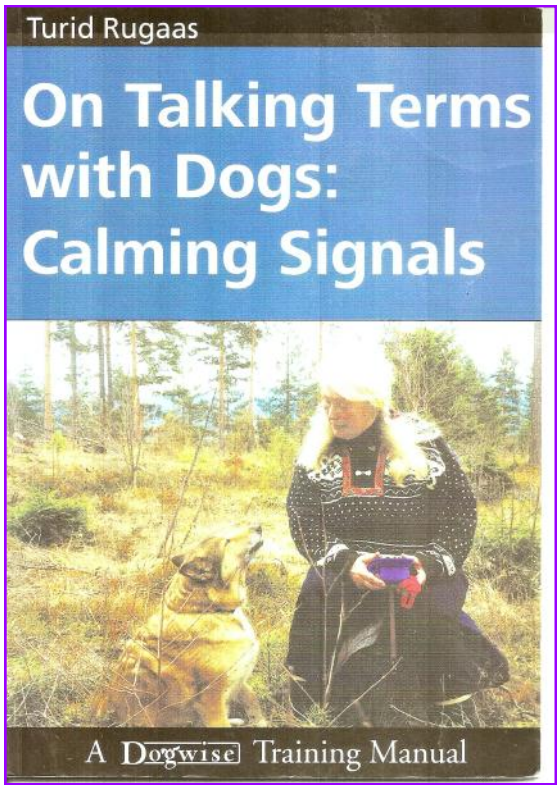
And then there is Elin's "door issue". I have talked about her shutting herself off in the utility room by closing the door with her nose. She apparently has this thing about doors and wanting them shut. Conversely, if our back door is partially closed she will open it more with her nose. She has actually locked herself in our guest bathroom. The problem is, I can't ever get that little key thing that is shaped like an "L" to work to get it unlocked. Much to Gary's dismay, both times she has done this he was a work and I was home. It happened again recently, and Gary had to leave work to help me get the door unlocked! Poor Elin was getting anxious and was barking and scratching on the door, so Gary raced home. Once Gary set her free, Elin pranced around, so very proud of herself, as if she was the one to be thanked! When she makes us laugh - which is a frequent occurrence - she feels she has done something really good and important.

We never know what Elin will do next, but we can guarantee it will involve our laughter, and her "Look at me! I'm so special!" dance. And, she is.

-Gary & Cheryl Thornton

Oklahoma City, OK





Book Review:

On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals

We all talk to our dogs, right? And I bet we have all said, on more than one occasion, "I wish my dog could talk". Well, have I got good news for you! Your dog talks to you all the time! Unfortunately, you don't understand his language. *On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals* by Turid Rugaas can serve as a dog to human translation dictionary. This small book (fewer than 100 pages) is full of incredibly valuable information about reading a dog's body language. It also includes over 80 photographs that show what these physical manifestations look like. Specifically, this book deals with how dogs use their body language to diffuse potential conflicts.

Dogs communicate with each other using different parts of their bodies in different ways, depending on the message they intend. They can stand tall or crouch down; perk up their ears or have them flat to the head and back; raise, drop, or wag the tail; change expression and so on. Behavior also serves to communicate a message - turning away, sniffing the ground, etc. To the casual observer all these things are "just ordinary movements" that every dog does countless times in a day. However, by learning what these signals mean, not only can we better understand our dogs (especially if/when they are stressed), but we can also employ these "signals" ourselves in order to help calm our canine companions.

As I learned in this wonderful book, human beings' instincts for soothing and calming are really at odds with what works for dogs. Most dogs are quite uncomfortable with being hugged (restrained) although they can learn to accept and enjoy it over time. One of the calming signals that dogs use to calm each other is yawning. Yes, that's right, a simple yawn. The author tells of occasions when she was dealing with dogs that had fear issues - when the fear trigger appeared, the dogs became tense, but then they would relax when she yawned at them several times. Just imagine how this could help some of our BARC babies overcome their fears - we just have to speak their language.

The book is divided into chapters that describe what the calming signals are, how they are used, how humans can use them, how dogs can lose their language and regain it, case histories, and more. I love this book and recommend it because it can be read in one sitting while the wisdom in it can last a lifetime.

-by Lori Simidian

BOSLEY'S CULINARY CORNER



Pumpkin Dog Treats (Lori Jacobson)

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/4 cup canned pumpkin (only use pure pumpkin puree, not the pie filling)
- 1/4 cup peanut butter (smooth or crunchy, I used all natural smooth)
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- water (I used 1/4 cup of water, you may need more or less)

Additional flour for rolling

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F
2. Place all ingredients in a bowl
3. Stir until thoroughly combined.
4. Add water as needed to combine the ingredients.
5. Roll out dough to 1/4" thickness and cut with dog cookie cutters.
6. Place cookies on a greased cookie sheet.
7. Bake for 20 minutes (if you want a really hard cookie, bake for 5-10 minutes longer).
8. Leave in the oven to cool overnight. Or, cool completely on a wire rack before serving.



BARC BABY FEATURE STORY — BIALYSTOCK!

Many years ago, I was walking our golden retriever at the park when the most amazingly beautiful dog appeared right in front of me, emerging from a break in the hedge. I had never seen such a beautiful dog. I asked the owner if he was a Collie/Black Lab cross. After a vigorous "harrumph," he informed me it was a Bernese Mountain Dog. I knew at that moment that my next dog had to be a Berner. But it took several more years before the miracle that was Bialystock happened.

On January 22, 2001, someplace in Hungary, Bialystock was born. His birth name was Aramis. As soon as he was able to leave his mother, he took his first plane trip to America. Upon his arrival, his new owner placed him in a puppy auction. Luckily BARC was there and bought him to prevent him going to a puppy mill. From BARC headquarters, he was sent to Suzanne Hochstetter in Rochester, Washington to be fostered. That is where we met him.

It's funny how things worked out. He simply was meant to be ours. About a month earlier we had lost the second of two dogs in a short period of time. Because of the pain, we were not "ready" for another dog. I had always admired Berners and knew at sometime in the future we would have to investigate them. I stumbled upon the BARC website and, after some trepidation, mentioned it to my wife, Fran, who was even less ready than I to consider another dog.

Four months previously, Fran had started a new job. One day, she happened to mention that we had thought of getting a Berner. Imagine our surprise when she talked to one of her co-workers, Chuck Turley, who was at the time the President of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Greater Seattle. He mentioned that Suzanne had one of the BARC puppies at her house. After some discussion, we applied to BARC and a few days later went down to Suzanne's to be interviewed.



We didn't know if we were ready for another dog, but then we met him. He came out carrying a yellow plush chicken, and he just seemed to know that we were his forever parents. We sat on a very wet deck playing with him for a couple of hours, pretty much ignoring Suzanne, who I think was surprised that we were getting soaked to the skin sitting on her deck getting to know him. We left that afternoon not knowing if we had "passed the test." It's hard to describe our elation when we found out a couple of days later that we were judged to be fit parents. We drove back to Rochester, and he rode home with us in our son Eric's lap. Eric was a high school senior at the time, and he too fell immediately in love with him. Somehow the name Aramis just didn't seem right, and we were struggling to come up with something that "worked."


Bialy, with the plush chicken!


Bialy and Eric

At the time, "The Producers" was about to open on Broadway, and I had been obsessing about seeing it. My older son, Andrew, pointed this out, telling us that the ONLY possible choice was "Bialystock." And thus Bialy was named. (A couple of years later, we found a brother for him, who we have since lost to hemangiosarcoma. His brother was, of course, "Bloom.")

We took Bialy to puppy kindergarten and soon found out that he was not only handsome but also smart. He rapidly learned how to come when called, walk at a near heal position without a pesky leash, and the other standard commands. He was keenly interested in his surroundings and soon learned to "knock" on the door when he wanted to go out and lie on the deck or smell all the smells or just watch the world go by. He could never tolerate being away from his family on the deck for very long, though, and soon enough he'd be knocking on the door to come back in and be with his family.



Part of the contract that we signed with BARC stated that we could never leave Bialy alone for more than four hours. In the ten years we were privileged to share our home with him, through the use of a succession of dog sitters, with the exception of a couple of emergencies, we never violated this. We live near a dog park, and with the exception of the times we were out of town, we were at the dog park daily. He somehow knew when it was time to go to the park. If somehow he thought we had forgotten, he would not be bashful in reminding us it was time to "go to the park." He would start pacing and wagging his tail, but if we didn't pick up on his request pretty soon he would start to vocalize. At first he would "whisper," but then he would gradually increase the volume to a full-fledged bark if he thought we hadn't heard him. We'd spend around 90 minutes at the park where he would play with his friends, smell the amazing smells, find bunnies and squirrels to chase, occasionally roll in skanky smelling stuff, and at the right time of year, try to set the worlds record for the number of burrs in a Berners coat. When he got hungry at the park, he would pick his own fruit; blackberries, cherries, pears, plums and apples. He had his favorite apple trees and would always know when we were getting close to them.


Bialy, with little "brother" Bloom


Bialy, teaching Bloom the joys of a marrow bone!

Perhaps the most endearing thing he did was to "whisper." This became his favorite game. At night, while we were reading or watching TV, he would position himself in front of us and start to whisper, gradually increasing the volume of the vocalizations until he got a treat.

In April of 2009, while at a routine vet visit, the vet noticed swelling of his right wrist and suggested that we x-ray it. The x-ray tech was apparently dyslexic and x-rayed the left wrist and, purely by chance, discovered Osteosarcoma. Five days later he was in Colorado, having bone-sparing surgery to remove it. He came back and underwent combined chemotherapy. He did well until the summer of 2010 when he had a local recurrence, which we treated with radiation. Unfortunately, by September he developed lung metastases and gradually became more and more short of breath. The walks at the dog park continued but became shorter. The evening whispering performances gradually stopped, and we knew that the end was near. He celebrated his 10th birthday on January 22, 2011. The next day, when we asked if he wanted to go to the park, he looked animated as usual, but you could tell that he wanted to go because we were going, not because he really felt up to it. After his last walk, we all knew it was time, so we took him to the vet, who helped him across The Rainbow Bridge.

On the one hand, having a 10-year-old Berner who had lived with cancer for 21 months was pretty remarkable; but his loss still came way too soon. Because of family commitments, we remained dogless for about 8 months. In our 36 years of marriage, it was the longest period of time that Fran and I had been without a dog in the house. It was really strange to come home to the house and not be greeted by a wagging tail and a nose in the groin.


Watson (l) and Parker

Then last August, the stars came into alignment, and we adopted Parker who came to us from California. Finally, about 5 weeks ago, Parker got a new baby brother, Watson, also from California. So our inventory of Berners is back up to two. Now that Parker is a big brother, he has become very "Bialy-like," sharing some of the behaviors that made Bialy so special. No dog could ever replace Bialy, but it is wonderful that Parker reminds us on a daily basis of the miracle of Bialystock, our very first Berner. Without BARC, none of this would have happened. Our life has changed because of the actions of BARC 11 years ago, and we are very grateful.


BLOOM (LEFT) AND BIALYSTOCK

-Tim & Fran McNair

Washington state

To watch Bialy picking apples from a tree and to watch him "whisper" to get what he wants … check out these amazing videos on YouTube!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CgdVrAeMoo&feature=youtube_gdata_player

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMfcWbgzG9Y&feature=youtube_gdata_player

ANOTHER BRAG FOR BARC GRACI KENNEDY!



Graci continues to exceed all expectations!

She recently qualified for "Rally Advanced-B"

WAY TO GO GRACI!!!

(and Lori, too!)

BARC SUMMER PHOTO CAPTION RESULTS!



Mike Martin Came out the Big Winner with THREE of his FIVE Captions submitted winding up in the top five!

Top five Captions, in order of votes!

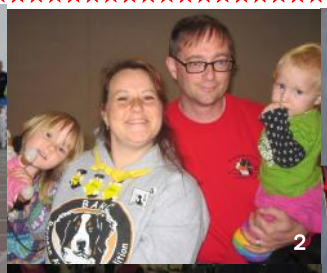
1. You sure the RCA Dog started out this way? (Mike Martin)
2. Does this Collar make my Butt look Big? (Kim Clark)
3. Berner University tryout Participant … GIVE ME A "B" … GIVE ME AN "E" … (Mike Martin)
4. Calling all Cars! Calling all Cars! Be on the lookout for a Cat Burglar! (Mike Martin)
5. Hey! I Put UP with those ruffled Collars for Parades, But What the heck is this?! (Mary Ann Monte)

So Creative, so much fun!

2012 SPECIALTY COLLAGE!



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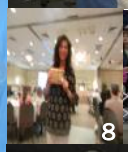

4



5

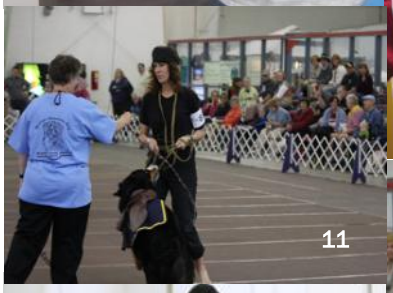

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Specialty Collage Photo Key

1. Pat Tackett walking BARC's Samson in the Veterans' Parade.
2. The Nielsen Family: Wenna, Amy, Frank (aka: Doc), and Robyn.
3. Nell and John Ward, Rescue Gallery Chairs, with Summer.
4. Team Obedience competition: Team Wizard of Oz.
5. Karen Thompson's Zed (Lionheart's Zero Tolerance) in the ring, strutting his stuff with his handler.
6. Steve and Karen Thompson.
7. BARC mom, Suzanne Deering, with Bruno.
8. Lori Kennedy showing off Murrey's "Working Dog" award.
9. 2012 BMDCA National Specialty Best of Breed winner, Odin (GCH Great Lakes Danish Treasure) with his handler, Amanda Cook. (Breeder/Owner: Randall R. Carpenter, DVM, Renee D. Tiano/Michael Stafford and Amanda Cook).
10. Kathy Webb with BARC's Rosie in the Veterans' Parade.
11. Pat Tackett and Vilma Briggs during team obedience competitions.
12. Rescue Gallery display.
13. Zed, Karen Thompson's boy, placed 3rd in his 16-18 month old dog class at the Nationals.
14. Team Obedience competition: Team Civil War.
15. Herding Trials.
16. Rescue Gallery display in the All-Star Complex.
17. BOB/BISS GCH Great Lakes Danish Treasure, Odin, with handler, Amanda Cook.
18. BARC Mom, Suzanne Deering, in the ring with Bruno during the Veterans' Parade.
19. Lori Kennedy's Murrey doing agility.
20. Herding Trials.
21. Veterans' Parade special line-up of memorial tributes for those veteran dogs who passed away prior to the Specialty. The line-up includes BARC moms Lori Simidian (Jake), 5th from the left, and Debby Fitch (Abby), 2nd from the right.

Start placing your orders **now** for the 2013 BARC Calendars!
It is another year of amazing photos of our BARC babies!
Contact Debby at: **thetrumancollar@yahoo.com**
to reserve your copies today!





FUNDRAISER FAQs: 2012 CANCER FUNDRAISER

Q: Which fundraiser is currently running or will run during this quarter, and where do I go to find it?
A: The next fundraiser will be the 2012 Cancer Fundraiser, and the money we raise will support cancer research in Bernese. I am asking that everyone send a donation to help defeat cancer in our beloved breed. You will be helping both the Berners of today and the Berners of tomorrow! The fundraiser will begin in late September or early October and will run until early December.

There will be two tiers of tickets. Tier One tickets will cost $5 each, or 4 for $10, or 10 for $20. Tier Two tickets will cost $1 each, or 8 for $5, or 20 for $10.

When the fundraiser begins the website address will be:
http://www.bernese.biz/CancerFundraiser2012.htm

Q: Why should I, as a Bernese Mountain Dog owner, participate, and how does it benefit our breed?
A: Since 2003, we have raised $475,639.63 for cancer research through our fundraisers. The majority of that money has gone to the research studies on histiocytic sarcoma (formerly known as malignant histiocytosis) of Dr. Matthew Breen, Dr. Elaine Ostrander, and Dr. Catherine Andre. These researchers have made significant progress in their work on histiocytic sarcoma and are continuing to study the testing for, and the cause as well as the treatment for this dreaded, inherited disease in Bernese Mountain Dogs. Your continuing support will help us conquer this disease in our Berners. Last year we were able to raise $58,664.22 for Dr. Matthew Breen's grant on histiocytic sarcoma through the AKC Canine Health Foundation, which was an all time record for our fundraisers. Here is a note from Dr. Breen about the research he is doing as a result of our grant to his research:

Dear Joye,

As you know, we were awarded funding from AKC-CHF for another two years, primarily due to the funds provided by your superb fundraiser and the continued generosity of the Berner community.

With these funds we will be taking our analysis of histiocytic malignancies in the Berner to a new level. We have developed a means to identify aberrant regions of the dog genome at a very high resolution and so will use this approach to narrow down our candidate regions even further. Within these regions we expect to find genes that play a key role in driving these devastating cancers.

Knowing what these genes are is only part of the process. Once we have a list of genes, we then need to determine what they are actually doing or not doing in the cancer cells before we can hope to correct them. For this, we have developed an assay for the dog that allows us to look at the activity of genes in both fresh and archival tissues. For these archival samples, we use the formalin fixed paraffin (wax) embedded tumor specimens that are evaluated by pathologists as they make a diagnosis. The cells in these wax blocks are now dead, but we have a way to extract suitable materials from them that allows us to take a look at what was the status of genes at the time the tissues were taken from the dog.

Using these archival tissues means we can ask questions of the samples long after the samples were taken. This means that we can make use of the countless number of biopsy specimens that are sitting in a drawer somewhere rather than solely depending on waiting for the sad time that a new Berner is diagnosed. This is one sure way that the Berners that have passed are still able to help those that are still with us.

We now need the help of all of the Berner community who have suffered the loss of a Berner to histioctyic cancer. If your Berner had a confirmed diagnosis of a histiocytic neoplasm, made by a pathologist, we need you to be willing to help us retrieve that piece of tissue from your vet. With the technology we have now, these small pieces of tissue in wax add a big new weapon in our armory as we tackle cancer in the breed.

Best wishes,
Michael Breen

Here is a recent abstract from Elaine Ostrander about the research she and others are doing on histiocytic sarcoma in Berners:

Abstract

BACKGROUND:
Advantages offered by canine population substructure, combined with clinical presentations similar to human disorders, makes the dog an attractive system for studies of cancer genetics. Cancers that have been difficult to study in human families or populations are of particular interest. Histiocytic sarcoma is a rare and poorly understood neoplasm in humans that occurs in 15% to 25% of Bernese Mountain Dogs (BMD).

METHODS:
Genomic DNA was collected from affected and unaffected BMD in North America and Europe. Both independent and combined genome-wide association studies (GWAS) were used to identify cancer-associated loci. Fine mapping and sequencing narrowed the primary locus to a single gene region.

RESULTS:
Both populations shared the same primary locus, which features a single haplotype spanning MTAP and part of CDKN2A and is present in 96% of affected BMD. The haplotype is within the region homologous to human chromosome 9p21, which has been implicated in several types of cancer.

CONCLUSIONS:
We present the first GWAS for histiocytic sarcoma in any species. The data identify an associated haplotype in the highly cited tumor suppressor locus near CDKN2A. These data show the power of studying distinctive malignancies in highly predisposed dog breeds. Impact: Here, we establish a naturally occurring model of cancer susceptibility due to CDKN2 dysregulation, thus providing insight about this cancer-associated, complex, and poorly understood genomic region. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev; 21(7); 1019-27. ©2012 AACR.

We are hoping that someday in the future there will be a test for histiocytic sarcoma, and I asked Dr. Ostrander about this. Here is her response:

Hi Joye,
We are not quite ready for a test for MH in Berners, yet. We are still working on finding the mutation that is responsible for the increased susceptibility. While we have found one of the genes that we think plays a huge role in causing the disease, the combination of markers that lead us there is VERY common in Berners which would lead to a lot of false positives in a genetic test. We wouldn't want to cause dogs to be unnecessarily removed from breeding programs because we tried to rush our findings. As soon as we do find the right marker or set of markers, we will be happy to let everyone know.

As you can see, great progress is being made, but they need our support to continue their research in histiocytic sarcoma. Please support our cancer fundraiser to help further study on this hereditary disease in Berners.

Q: How does this fundraiser work?
The fundraiser is simple. Go to the website that Jean Cheeseman has made for our fundraiser at:
http://www.bernese.biz/CancerFundraiser2012.htm

"Check out" all of the wonderful Tier One and Tier Two prizes that we have, and decide which ones you want to try to win and how many tickets you want from each tier of prizes.

Make your checks payable to: ***AKC CHF***. In the Memo part of your check/cheque, write ***"Berner Lovers DAF".*** 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.

Be sure to tell me how to distribute your Tier One and Tier Two tickets into the various prizes and Tiers. Also, please include your mailing address, your phone number, and your email address. I look forward to getting a LOT of checks and foreign cheques to support cancer research in Berners!



Joye Neff is a fundraiser for Bernese Mountain Dogs both nationally and internationally. Since 1999, she has raised $777,593.28 doing fundraisers on the Berner lists for Berner health, rescue, and education. The generosity of the Berner Lovers on the lists has made this total possible, and she is thankful to everyone for their support!

BARC SPECIAL DAYS

Zsa Zsa Lowe	9/3/2004	Birthday
Kaiah Cabral	9/5/2009	Anniversary
Molly Prato	9/6/2008	Anniversary
Ben Turner	9/6/2011	Anniversary
Cruiser Tomaszewski	9/7/2003	Birthday
Rosie Hannon	9/11/2008	Anniversary
Denise Schatz	9/11/2008	Anniversary
Zoe Monte	9/11/2010	Anniversary
Emme Meckes	9/12/2003	Birthday
Buscia Tomaszewski	9/14/2003	Birthday
Ricky Kramer	9/14/2006	Anniversary
Charlie Friedman	9/15/2011	Anniversary
Gracie Lettner	9/20/2010	Anniversary
Moonlight Ginsberg	9/21/2009	Anniversary
Shirley Greco	9/23/2010	Anniversary
Howard Greco	9/24/2005	Anniversary
Brogen Blake	9/26/2004	Birthday
Anne Sandler	9/26/2004	Birthday
Oliver Barry	9/27/2006	Birthday
Rudy Moore	9/27/2011	Anniversary
Maybe Bauman	9/28/2008	Anniversary
Emily Vandemark	9/29/2004	Birthday
Arlo Glynn	9/29/2011	Anniversary

Tabitha Quinn-Leslie	10/1/2011	Anniversary
Jojo McQueen	10/7/2009	Anniversary
Paxton Kuehn	10/8/2009	Anniversary
Dallas Goodman	10/9/2009	Anniversary
Lexi Ginsberg	10/14/2008	Anniversary
Tucker Pelletier	10/17/2005	Anniversary
Bear Suydam	10/17/2005	Anniversary
Buddy Bledsoe	10/20/2004	Birthday
Galen Lischer	10/22/2004	Anniversary
Lilly Schlabach	10/30/2008	Anniversary
Abby Prather	10/31/2009	Anniversary

Patience Hoefinger	11/2/2009	Anniversary
Kota Kennedy	11/3/2006	Anniversary
Rosie Zarinsky	11/5/2005	Anniversary
Heidi Niggli	11/06/2005	Birthday
Daisy Batting	11/07/2006	Birthday
Willow Finley	11/07/2006	Anniversary
Missy Meisner	11/10/2009	Anniversary
Smidgen Klinger	11/10/2010	Anniversary
Arthur Freedman	11/11/2005	Anniversary
Bea Stringfellow	11/13/2008	Anniversary
Daisy Devine	11/14/2005	Birthday

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**

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 FALL PHOTO CAPTION CHALLENGE!



A new Photo Caption Challenge for Fall! 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

October 31, 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!!