

BARC'S I'M NO SAINT

Call Name: Bernie

Berner-Garde ID#25308

OFA'd (at 24 mos. of age): "Fair" hips; "Grade 2" elbows

Bernie flew into our lives on May 27, 2005—coming all the way from New York State. He had been rescued by a group of Berner lovers there who had found him in a pet shop. He was rescued from the pet shop at 5 months of age and flew to us at a week shy of 7 months. Bernie was a LARGE puppy and because he had been incarcerated for such a long time, he had many muscle tone and coordination issues. At 7 mos. of age, he weighed 74 lbs. and walked with a thug-like saunter and bounded around like a gazelle or bucked like a bronc when playing and being silly. To this day, he moves funny for a Berner although he is well muscled and quite strong now. I believe that a BIG part of the reason for his funny movements is the fact that he was never allowed to run and play and develop proper muscle tone and coordination as a young puppy, and that the way he now moves stems from how he had to learn to maneuver in his environment once being freed from the pet shop—just doing the best he could with what he had. I was able to learn from his AKC paperwork that he was trucked from a puppy mill in AZ up to NY at 7 weeks of age and put in the pet shop, thanks to Hunte Corp.

But gratefully, this committed group of Berner lovers in New York didn't allow him to stay in that horrible situation. Once they got him out, neutered and on the road to health, they posted to the BARC yahoo group list about him and I read the post. We had loved Bosley for over a year at that time and had determined that he SERIOUSLY needed a play buddy and had just begun to watch the BARC website in search of his perfect forever friend. When I read Betsy Rich's post about Bernie (then called Ernie), he sounded like the perfect match, temperament-wise, for our dear Bosley who was struggling with his fear issues and had such an incredibly docile nature, so I made contact. Betsy and I corresponded several times via e-mail, then had a few phone conversations and it was determined, after Betsy got Amy Kessler's word that we would be a good home for him, that this big "lil' man" would become our 2nd BARC boy!

Since that time, Bernie has grown strong and brave, although he has now been diagnosed with allergies by the dermatologist and is on injection therapy. He most definitely is our resident GOOFBALL, silly boy and noisemaker! He keeps us laughing at his silly antics and happy-go-lucky ways. He and Bosley are great buds and enjoy one another's company all the time. Bernie is a smart boy and if he EVER outgrows his puppy hood (he turned 2 in November), we'll be in good shape!! He, too, like Bosley, is a BIG boy. He is actually bigger now than Bosley! He stands 30 ½" at the shoulder and weighs 127 lbs...and still looks like a teenager! I call him my "Baby Huey"!! Our vet expects him to top out around 135 lbs. when he finishes maturing—whenever that may be!! He is a crazy mixture of this giant goober and the most sensitive and needy soul I've ever seen! He's impossible to stay mad at, although it is VERY easy to get mad at him!! He's stubborn and bone-headed, but sweet and needy all wrapped into one complex puppy...and we positively could not imagine our lives without him!! He is our "baby man" and we love him to pieces!!

Lisa Hawes, TX

Bernie
Lisa Hawes

