

# *BARC's Dante's 2006 Journey*

I spent the first 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  years of my life in an Amish puppy mill in eastern Iowa.

**January 2006** - Amy and the BARC rescue team freed me from my miserable life! Thanks to Amy, the vet, and all the people I first met who showed me how kind people can be. Although I'm not sure this is all real, I like all this love and kindness.

I went to live at Aunt Liz's home first. She knew I needed special care and she was very patient with me. She will always be special to me as my first foster Mom. I was scared of everything except other dogs. So her 5 big dogs quickly became my new friends. Good Food, Clean Water, Daily Exercise, Brushing, Nice Petting and Nice Voices. Aunt Liz says I am a brave boy and has the soul of a grand Berner. But all these new sounds and experiences are a lot to cope with.

**February 2006** - I moved to Aunt Courtney's home. More new dog friends and little people, too! She is very kind to me, too. I think she's cared for many scared Berners and helped them learn about a better life. More treats, tender brushing, and lots of patience. Can it be that I will be able to live in a nice home with nice people and be safe and loved forever?

**March 2006** - My new family from North Carolina (wherever that is) comes to pick me up. They have a black lab/chow mix that will be my new brother and show me what to do. His tail is always wagging and he even sleeps in the bed with them, so I think they must be nice people. It's a long ride in the van, but I love rides. And they feed me cheeseburgers when they stopped for lunch! I guess I'm not in Kansas anymore.

When I get home my new family treats me very well and is quiet and patient with me. They work at home so they can give me pets and treats all day long, which is nice. I'm still a scared boy but I am curious about all that is new around me.

I prefer to be inside rather than outside. I prefer nighttime to the daytime. I prefer women to men. I prefer people sit rather than stand.

For the first few months, I only ate during the night when everyone was asleep and I would only drink once a day, during the night, too.

My new family fenced in about 4 acres so I could learn to love the outside and run and play. It took me a long time to lay down in the grass, but now I love to roll over and scratch my back!! I run and run and chase my brother and it feels good!!

It has been quite a year for me and I've decided that this new life is a good one. I still have many things to learn and many fears to overcome. But I have a forever family and many BARC friends that will help me on this wonderful journey.

 Hugs & Wags to Amy, Liz, & Courtney for starting me on this journey! 

Dante Paige  
Carolyn and Don Paige



Dante — Rescued 2006