

Derek

(aka Willow)

Patti Finley

Derek was rescued by BARC and sent to Ohio for foster care. He was approximately 10 months old when he came to live with us in Harrison, Ohio. Derek was extremely shy of people, noises, darkness or sudden movements. He had a fear of being touched, approached, of walking through doorways and so on. He was also extremely thin. One thing that did make Willow feel more at ease with himself was to be in the company of another berner. He quickly attached himself to my berner girl, Resi and she did help him to settle in a great deal.



Shortly after we began fostering Derek, I began talking with Patti Finley about adopting him. She was looking for a rescue berner boy in particular. She also had a berner female named Kinzey, which seemed would work well for Derek's security needs. Patti came to visit Derek and somewhere in our conversations felt that Willow would be a good name for him. We soon began calling him that and in a few more weeks, Willow had gained enough progress and Patti felt able to take him home to live with her.

Since Willow's adoption into Patti's family, he has made great strides in becoming a wonderful companion animal for her. He appears to be enjoying life at the Finley house with sister Kinzey and brother Magic. He is overcoming his fears as time goes on and Patti reports progress in his behavior on a continuum. It was a great joy to foster Willow for BARC and it was a great joy to place him in a loving home with Patti Finley.

submitted by Karen Bell