

“HALLEY” BARC’s Comet Comes Home

Halley was born on May 27, 2001, in Hungary and imported into the United States at 8 weeks of age. She was rescued by BARC, at auction, when she was 4 months old. Photos taken of her on the day she was rescued show an emaciated little girl, with an eager smile on her face. After spending two months with BARC, Halley went to her first real home, only to be returned to BARC a few months later, in the foster care of Pat Long.

At that time, our first Berner, “Beau”, age 4, was dying of cancer. I was determined that our next Berner was going to be bred by a responsible breeder, after I had researched lines hoping to ensure we would have a healthy, orthopedically sound, and hopefully, long lived dog. As fate would have it, my plans changed when I received a call from Pat, telling me about “Brandy”, a BARC dog that was about to be delivered to her, as she was being returned to BARC. According to Pat, “Brandy” was an amazingly sweet, confident little girl, a very special girl, but unfortunately, Pat couldn’t keep her herself. “Well, Pat,” I said, “What do you want me to do about it”. “I want you to take her”, was her reply. Without hesitation, I said, “Of course!” A decision made in an instant that was truly one of the most fortuitous decisions I had ever made.

“Brandy” stayed with Pat until after “Beau” had gone to the Bridge. I drove from my home at the tip of Cape Cod, to PA, to pick her up, and then on to our first National Specialty in West Virginia. Spending a week in a cottage with 8-10 people, and numerous Berners I got to know this confident little girl, and she, me. When we arrived home a week later, she jumped out of the car, and waltzed into my home with her head up and tail wagging, as if it were hers. It is. My boys observed her racing around the yard and decided to call her Halley, as she is as fast, and as bright as a comet.

After dealing with a few minor fear issues, the garden hose, and two “panic attacks” while walking off leash in the woods, Halley has matured into an extremely happy, bouncy, confident, obedient girl. She practices agility, obedience, has her CGC and is a Companion Animal Program Therapy Dog, visiting local nursing homes and participating in the R.E.A.D. program in the library.

It gives us all great joy to watch this wonderful girl, who spent the first 4 months of her life in less than optimal circumstances, racing along the tidal flats, dipping her toes into the waves, running through the dunes and pine forests. She is living the life she and all rescued dogs deserve. It was Halley who healed our hearts after the loss of Beau. We like to say that we didn’t rescue Halley; she rescued us.

HALLEY
Janice Parky

