

OUR BEAUTIFUL BERNER FAMILY

Meet Hiker, Spencer and Lola Jan.

These beautiful babies live in Utah with their three humans. All three Berners are rescue dogs but have different stories.

HIKER: Hiker, our first Berner, joined our family in July 2004. We believe Hiker is probably 6 or 7 years young this year. After our daughter was old enough to be around dogs appropriately, we researched breeds and decided a Berner would be perfect. The only struggle for me was that I wanted to adopt a dog from the shelter rather than buy a puppy. My husband made contact with a local BMD member, Mary Ann, who informed us that rescue was an option and that she had an adult boy that needed a home. The problem was that another family was already interested in Hiker (Cy Young at that time.

We were leaving town for a vacation and Mary Ann suggested we contact her upon our return because you never know. When we returned, the family did not take Hiker and we were invited to meet him. We went to Mary Ann's house and out shuffled Hiker. It was truly love at first sight. Mary Ann suggested we take Hiker home for a few days to see if it would work out and then let her know. What Mary Ann did not realize was that, at that moment, Hiker was ours. I think our daughter renamed him in the car! The next day was July 4, 2004. While enjoying our barbeque, we made a family decision that Hiker was staying with us forever.

What we know about Hiker is that he was located in another county's shelter.

A woman at the shelter recognized Hiker was a pure breed BMD and contacted Mary Ann. Hiker was "adopted" and brought to Mary Ann's. The rest of Hiker's history is with us.

SPENCER: About a year after getting Hiker, we decided we needed another Berner. My husband started making inquiries and found out that the Rocky Mountain BMD club had Spencer in Colorado. We talked with the rescue coordinator, Patti, and his foster family, Bill and Linda, and decided that he would make a perfect second Berner. In September 2006, my daughter and I did a quick weekend trip to Colorado Springs to pick up Spencer.

Spencer was found in Texas and brought to Colorado by the BMD club in hopes that he could be more readily adopted in Colorado. He was very underweight upon his arrival but his fantastic foster family did a tremendous job with Spencer, helping him put weight on his skinny 70 lbs frame. He's now around 90 lbs, his coat is glossy and he is in great shape. Our sweet Spencer taught us how to "hug" and that is one of his favorite activities! We believe Spencer is around 4-5 years young.

LOLA: Well, given that there are three humans in our family, we decided we needed another Berner. I found the BARC website (www.barcinc.net) and started surfing daily. Since we have 2 older (don't tell Hiker and Spencer) dogs, we thought a puppy would be fun. Lola has been a huge learning experience for us! She is such a funny, energetic girl. Lola has certainly brought out the puppy in Spencer and the fatherly side of Hiker. Lola makes us laugh and we are so grateful to all the BARC folks who entrusted us with this precious, precocious puppy!

Lola will be 9 months old on the 13th of March. She is all legs and is almost as tall as Hiker!

Hiker, Lola and Spencer

Annette Jan

Left to right--Spencer, Lola and Hiker

