

## BARC's Hugger, CGC, TDI

Our fearless, tenderhearted Alpha girl came to us on August 18, 2002. She was about 5 months old, 50 lbs. of dark curls and serious brown eyes. She walked into the house like she owned the place, plunked herself down in the middle of the kitchen, crossed her paws, and that was that. She really is one-of-a-kind.

She came to us with some physical issues – a severe case of mange, and some pretty bad food allergies that gave her diarrhea, but time, good food and lots of love took care of things, and it was wonderfully satisfying to watch her health return.

Hugger has a special, intuitive quality that makes her a wonderful therapy dog. Sometimes when those thoughtful brown eyes zero in on you, you would swear she knows exactly what you're thinking! Probably because she does.

She loves children. The smaller the person, the more Hugger seems drawn to them. An enthusiastic participant in the Read to Rover Program, she waits eagerly by the door when it's time to head off to the library. One little boy, inexperienced with dogs, was reading on the floor, hunched over. He kept shifting, slowly moving until he had his back to Hugger. After a few minutes of this, Hugger sat up, leaned over and poked her nose into the back of neck and blew, tickling him until he laughed. She knows how to break the ice!

She loves people, activity and being in the middle of the action. She was actually depressed when she came home after the fun of the 2005 Specialty. Agility seems to come naturally to her, and she seems to have an unending supply of natural gifts.

When our second BARC pup, Cruiser, joined our family, he brought a multitude of fears. Hugger was the one who rarely left his side. She was his protector and gave him her courage. When I broke my ankle, falling in the yard, it was Hugger who parked herself at my side and refused to leave. We're so grateful she wasn't lost to us, trapped in a dirty crate in some puppy mill. She has made us better people by knowing her and taught us much about overcoming obstacles, She has broadened our horizons and makes each day a little nicer because she's part of it. It just doesn't get any better than that.

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