

**Rescue Berner – Home Sweet Home Lucas, CGC
Three Rivers Bernese Mountain Dog Club Rescue
Owners – Kim and Jeff Moran (and Berner brother Linus)**

In August of 2001 we adopted our first Berner, Linus. It didn't take long to realize we wanted to adopt another at some point. Our plan was to adopt a female Berner and name her Lucy (I am a big fan of the Peanuts comic strip). We just didn't know exactly when we wanted to adopt another puppy. We both work full time and didn't want to leave a puppy all day long. When I received the December 2003 edition of *The Alpenhorn*, it started me thinking about adopting a rescue. I was taken by the stories of the rescues and talked to my husband about adopting a rescue. A few more months past by. We were on a list with a breeder, but her girl was not conceiving. Then I received an email sent by our club's Rescue Chair that she had an 11-month-old boy who needed a home. His first owner became ill and could not take care of him. She had given him to a family who had a Berner boy the same age. Well, Dave, as he was formerly named, was too much for them to handle so they gave him up to the TRBMDC Rescue. His description in the email I received basically said that he was a 'very exuberant boy'.

Our Linus has not been the easiest dog to raise. Linus has PICA (swallowing non-edible items). He looks for things to steal and is very quick and cunning. We have had three operations on him, the second, removing 4 ½ feet of intestine that was damaged. When reading Dave's description, I said to myself, "it's Linus!" Friends told me I was crazy to put myself through another high maintenance dog, but I just had to meet Dave; I felt so drawn to him. I felt that if I could handle Linus, maybe I could help Dave, too. And, I thought a companion for Linus would keep him busy.

When we met Dave, we just fell in love immediately. December 26, 2003 he came home with us. The name "Dave" just didn't seem to fit him, so we changed his name to Lucas (as close to Lucy as possible). He has been a great joy to us. His exuberance is one of his greatest assets. Lucas is full of life, loves everyone and every animal he meets, and just loves to entertain and have fun. We were concerned about how Linus would react, but everything worked out well. Linus established his dominance in the beginning and that was it. Linus and Lucas love to wrestle and chase each other. Lucas is a 'monkey see monkey do' dog. It is so funny to watch him do what his big brother does (except for the swallowing items habit - thank goodness he doesn't do that!) I think Lucas just needed time, love and attention to be the wonderful Berner that he is.

And if adding a wonderful new member to our family was not enough, last year at the Specialty in Frankenmuth, Michigan, we found out through the Berner Garde Foundation data base that Linus and Lucas are most likely real brothers! We knew the kennel Lucas had come from (which is where we had adopted Linus) and his birth date. According to the database, Linus and Lucas had the same parents! No wonder they get along so well!

Lucas has brought so much joy into our lives and into Linus' life. He has reached his forever home with us.

Lucas Moran
Kim and Jeff Moran

