

**Romeo**  
**BARC's Lover Boy**  
**BG # 33138**

Lisa Florin

Romeo was whelped on June 12, 2006 and came into my life on September 22, 2006, exactly three months after my first Berner, Rocket, died of Malignant Histiocytosis at 6 ½ years old. Rocket was a re-home and supposedly from a reputable breeder. While I truly admire and respect “reputable” breeders, since I volunteer with rescue groups in the Dallas, TX area, I felt rescue was the avenue I wanted to take in adopting another Berner. Before adopting Rocket or Romeo, I had spent a lot of time on the BARC website looking at the pictures of the many dogs that were rescued from the horrific conditions in puppy mills. BARC, I decided, was where I hoped to adopt my next BMD. I did not anticipate my new family member arriving so soon after Rocket’s passing, but when Courtney contacted me stating I had been approved for adoption, and I could take my pick out of a litter of 8 puppies rescued from a backyard breeder, I fell in love with all eight. It was difficult, but I narrowed my choices down to two puppies, and Courtney helped me make the final decision. She felt Romeo (aka Ernesto at BARC) would do best with my blind senior Cocker and two cats. Two weeks later I drove to Kansas to pick up my new bundle of fur. I am fortunate that Romeo did not spend a day in a puppy mill and was somewhat socialized when I adopted him. It is my ultimate goal to return to Heart of Texas Therapy Dogs, where Rocket was certified. For me, therapy work is a passion and some of the most rewarding volunteer work out there. Since Romeo doesn’t have to overcome the huge obstacles and trust issues like so many BARC dogs do, I feel that he will eventually make a wonderful therapy dog. We are currently attending obedience classes and hope to earn Romeo’s CGC by this summer. Romeo truly lives up to his name and is my “lover boy”. He has brought my smiles back after losing Rocket at such a young age. I pray that Romeo will live a long life, free of hip and elbow displasia and so many other conditions that the breed is predisposed to, but if health issues do arise, I will have no regrets deciding on rescue. In fact, I won’t hesitate to do it all over again. There will always be a Berner in my life. These special dogs have a way of capturing your soul.

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Dallas, TX

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