



BARC Beauty Sophia

nee Radisson Carmen, in Hungary, late 2000 or early 2001. Rescued by BARC in March 2001, adopted April 2001



Once upon a time, several very dedicated people took a journey into the dark, knowing that there were souls in danger from men consumed by greed. Many times these people braved the hazards of that dark trail to bring more and more precious lives into the light.

Sophia was one of the early rescues. Her papers bear the name Radisson Carmen, and Amy and BARC called her Rosa. I call her the light of my life. Sometimes I call her Goofball.

Sophia has food allergies and her OFA diagnosis was Moderate Hip Dysplasia and Grade II bilateral Elbow Dysplasia. Her food allergies gave rise to pain aggression and behavioral issues that made me question my own sanity for not being willing to give up on her. She chewed up books, shoes, eyeglasses, soap, and a potato chip can. And a black magic marker on the white living room carpet.

We both survived, even the incident of the shredded t-shirt – which I was wearing at the time. We overcame her allergies and her bad orthopedics, and the day she ran across the yard to me (okay, it was really to her dinner) brought me to tears after so many months of watching her struggle to move. I cannot imagine my life without her.

Her papers, Hungarian, list her birth date as Dec. 26, 2000. When I adopted her that April day, Amy said she was nine weeks. My vet tried to shave a few days off of that. Nine weeks would mean that she was born the day my beloved Border Collie, Bandit, died. In a way, she was, no matter what the date of her entry into the world.

Lord knows, she has changed my life.