

The Littlest Rescue **by Anya Wittenborg, Rescue Chair**

On the morning of May 29th, I received a call from Paul Emerson, former BMDCNV rescue chair. A nine week old, female BMD puppy had just been relinquished to him. The puppy, now in her new home and called "Gracie", had been impulse purchased online from a puppy mill in Missouri ("Have Credit Card, Will Ship"). On May 25, she was packed into her shipping crate and flown from Missouri to Boston. Her new owner had her for two days before handing her over to her friend, saying *"Here! Take her to a shelter – she bites!"*

The friend, fortunately, knew that there was someone in her town who had Berners and tracked down Paul. This took her a couple days. Now, ordinarily, Paul and Mary would be thrilled to foster a cute little live-wire like Gracie, but they were "expecting" – puppies, that is. So Gracie didn't stay more than a few hours in Groton, though she got loads of cuddles and kisses in that brief time. Paul and I met half way between Groton and Arlington and "passed the puppy."



I brought her home and introduced her, one at a time, to Celeste and Luca. The ordinarily maternal Celeste (now aged 9 or 10) decided she'd pretty much had enough of puppies, especially really cute ones like Gracie, so she left the puppy care to Luca, stepping in only occasionally to provide a little discipline. Luca let her use his body as a plaything. They wrestled endlessly. She chewed on his tail so much that it looked like she'd teased it to 5 times its' size! She spent her days either (briefly) comatose (on her back with all four paws in the air) or circling around Luca like his own twirling Mini-Me.

Meanwhile, I checked all the rescue applications on file. The two that were geographically closest had both just received notice that BARC dogs were about to be transported to them, so they felt they had a "previous commitment". By the end of the week, Gracie found her new home in New Hampshire. For me, it was just in the nick of time, since I was unprepared for the onset of sleep deprivation that comes with a puppy. For Gracie, it's just one more adventure.

She really amazed me from the moment I saw her. For a little pup who had been shipped by air from the only place she's ever known, and then passed through numerous homes in the course of 10 days' time - Gracie was a trooper. She took everything in stride, with eagerness for the next adventure.