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# Linda Thomas

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I currently live with two Berners. They love brace draft for parades, visiting the nursing home, having fun in the Rally ring and practicing with our Search and Rescue group. They have done all the obedience competition that they care to do; they have their CD's.



I first saw AKC obedience when I was 7 and my aunt took her Bassett Hound to obedience class. I watched each week as the teacher showed my aunt what to do and I would go home and practice with her dog. Over the years, I trained my aunt's dogs and those who joined our family.

I first "discovered" Bernese Mt Dogs in my Grandmother's Geographic Book of Dogs before I could read. As an adult, I had a wonderful Golden retriever (who I now know was a Berner in a Golden suit!). When he died, I started my research on Berners and found that they would fit my lifestyle. My first Berner, Baron, escorted me into the Berner world and opened the door to Draft work.



My Grandfather never had a tractor; he farmed with horses. I always wanted to work with a team and I thought I would never get to do that. But then I got into Draft work with Baron and I found that I could get that same teamwork connection with my dogs that Grandfather had with his horses. I feel like I am carrying on that bit of family tradition – on a smaller scale.

I am honored to have been asked to judge at our National Specialty 2008. I hope everyone has a fabulous time at our yearly "gathering of the Berners".

Good luck to all,  
Linda