



# PET *Little Traverse Bay Humane Society* Gazette

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**TRUE LOVE**  
Is Rescued



## Who Rescued Who?



Deter Racine,  
Executive Director

Whoever coined the phrase "Who rescued who?" probably had no idea how it would mean so much to so many. Personally, it represents my whole family of four legged friends. For those of you who know me, you also know how much my life revolves around my English Bulldog, Bertha Anne. I don't know what I would have done without her in my life for the past nine years. Originally she was meant to be a breeding dog, which would have broken her

spirit as she is the 'baby' of my life and I cannot imagine her raising any puppies. We are inseparable, and life is not the same when we are not together. Really-just ask anyone! As she ages, I dread the day when she is no longer with me. I tell her that every day is a gift, and I mean it.

Bertha Anne has never considered herself a dog and frankly, I have never treated her like one. One day the opportunity came along to rescue a 'real' dog. Stranger's original family could no longer care for him and in 2008 in moved an 18 month old rambunctious, untrained, energetic, yellow lab. As much as Bertha loved her new 'brother," she was not the type to play, and every morning when she and I left for work, Stranger looked on sadly at us as the car drove away.

I talked with my husband and we agreed; Stranger needed a friend. In 2009 we had the opportunity to welcome Rider, an 11 month old, black lab. We knew immediately that we did the right thing. Rider and Stranger slept together and curled up like one. It was obvious that Rider was the missing piece.

You would think this should be the end of the story, but I haven't introduced Lucy yet. As Stranger was aging, it was obvious that he couldn't keep up with his younger brother. So, in order to fill out the color scheme, Lucy came to us as a puppy, a beautiful chocolate lab. The 'boys' took her under their wings and, she has been the perfect younger sister. When she wants to play there's Rider, and when she's tired, she has Stranger to snuggle with.

As you can see from my life, "Who rescued who?" can have many answers. This newsletter highlights some stories in which the companionship from another animal can truly make a difference. Whether an animal is grieving for a lost friend, or they haven't met their new best friend yet, considering a second (or third) animal can really bring out the best in lonely or scared animals. Enjoy the articles because you, as our members, have allowed us to rescue these animals that have made such an impact in their new homes.



Deter and her adopted daughter,  
Bertha Anne.



Deter with her dogs, Lucy, Stranger and Rider.

*Deter Racine*

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