

My husband and I had wanted a Bernese Mountain Dog since 2012 and while we lived in Victoria we attended dog shows, meet local breeders and their Berners and from that day, we were in love! We did a lot of research and emailed multiple breeders with all sorts of crazy questions. 4 years later we moved to Brisbane and knew it was the right time to start seriously searching for a puppy. We got in touch with a local breeder who had a litter on its way and had a puppy available for us. My husband and I were ecstatic, married in November 2015 and picked up our Berner baby in January 2016. Our beautiful boy Chuck has been a huge part of our lives and introduced us to a very welcoming group of people in the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of QLD. We have been along to group meet ups and met some wonderful people who have given us so much beneficial diet and lifestyle advice. More recently we unexpectedly moved further North to Townsville and Chuck found himself at the Vet and was recommended some quite invasive and expensive surgery. I was overwhelmed and extremely emotional, with Chuck being the only Berner (that I'm aware of) in FNQ and with limited vets up here (none of which had ever met a Berner before) I decided to reach out to the group and asked for advice and guidance. Within hours I had multiple people calling me and sending me messages reassuring me, offering advice and recommending I get 2 nd and 3 rd opinions. I had one person who is extremely knowledgeable offering advice on diet and supplements to get him healthy again, another beautiful person recommended vets to consult with to get other opinions and along with Chucks breeder, could reassure me that we were doing the right thing. Sure enough, a specialist in the Sunshine Coast, said the \$12,000 worth of surgery was unnecessary and with a little lifestyle and dietary adjustments Chuck is doing better than ever. Almost 3 months on, and these wonderful people still check in on Chuck and I, we would honestly be lost without them all. When you get a Berner, you don't just get a puppy, you get an inviting, friendly and extremely supportive community of people to share their love of Berners and to offer help and support to you and your pup. We can't wait to be back and see everyone again soon.

Kirstyn, Nathan and Chuck Bart



