

The Oregon Quilt Story

This quilt has been a pleasure to make. It was inspired by my beloved Harry Brat (Zanzebern Shining Knight, who died from a brain tumour on 22 March 2008 aged 5 years, 9 months) and Harry Potter (Zanzebern Sir Gawain- my foster dog - euthanized because of lymphosarcoma aged 5 years, 3 weeks (January 2008). Harry Brat was my introduction to Bernese and so began a love affair. Harry Potter was Gideon's brother, who lived with us on and off for the best part of 2.5 years, whilst his human mother battled and subsequently lost her own cancer fight. Hence I could not let the 2009 Health Auction pass without making a small contribution in memory of Helen and the Harrys.

The quilt is a Brenda Franklin design. www.bfdesigns.on.ca/BERNESE.htm. I reversed the pattern stitch by stitch to get the opposing heads. Each dog panel takes about 30 hours to create. The quilt can be washed as the cross stitch is made using DMC cotton thread. It has a hanging sleeve if future owner/s prefers to use it as a wall hanging rather than a lap-quilt. The quilting is 'stitch-in-the-ditch' and Berner silhouettes on all apart from the centre block. The Berner silhouettes represent all Berners - past, present and future.

The corner panels are subtly different because Berners are. (My story and I'm sticking to it.☺) The centre panel is a blessing that Gael Goldsack added to a Berner Buddy Christmas 'Pass the Parcel' as a prize some years ago. I kept it because it moved me. It seemed to sum up what a dog would want their family and friends to do when looking from beyond the Rainbow Bridge - wish human baby starting out in life or for a couple beyond the wedding/commitment ceremony and for continued happiness within the homes they have left behind.

Quality Assurance has been carried out by my current Bernese: Gideon von Wink (Zanzebern Sir Galahad), Special Spike (Zanzebern Ignatius), Suki-lala (Zanzebern Nicoletta), and Harri-ette (Zanzebern Cha Cha Cha). Harri-ette has tested it for portability - I found the top in the backyard at one stage and she was most proud of her contribution to the Quilt story.

My wish is fourfold: for the eventual owner have as much pleasure as I had making it; it to have a long journey through Berner land; be cherished by those who are its custodians and for the valuation certificate and story go with it each time it moves house.

Enjoy!

Hugs, tail thumps and gentle bumps from Annie Bell and the furry crew. Queanbeyan, New South Wales, Australia.



Annie with Harry (2005) and with Harri-ette (on knee) Suki (left), Spike (centre) and Gideon (right) (2008)