

## **Lucy's story**

All of the BBR dogs are special, but sometimes there is a dog that needs all the help she can get. Lucy is one of those dogs. We'd like to show you how many people came together to help this one special little basset girl. Donations and love from a lot of people made a huge difference in her life.

### **October 5, 2011**

Several of the BBR volunteers noticed Lucy on Craig's "Free to a good home" and notified the intake volunteers. The family was contacted the same day. Lucy's family loved her but was unable to care for her anymore. She had never been spayed because they did not think she was healthy enough for the procedure. She was six years old and weighed only about 25 pounds.



### **Oct 10**

Lucy's intake questionnaire completed. At that point BBR was on hold to new intakes but BBR offered to help the family to screen applicants from Craigslist.

### **Oct 29**

Because of increased donations coming into BBR for the Capital Campaign, BBR was able to contact the family and say BBR could take Lucy!

### **Nov 5**

Volunteers Lisa and Mary picked up Lucy. Lucy did not want to ride in the kennel so she sat like an angel in Mary's lap all the way back to St. Paul. Volunteer Julie stepped in and transported Lucy to her first foster home- Holly.

### **Foster mom Holly**

When I got the email from Lisa about taking in a foster named Lucy, I was delighted to help out another hound. When I heard more about her background that she was 25 pounds, history of

pneumonia, intact female, cataracts, and surrendered because the owner had too many dogs to care for, I immediately wanted to cuddle her. When I met her for the first time, I knew she was going to be such a wonderful pet for someone. I put a pink jacket on her to make her feel safe, and covered her up with a blanket. As we did the hour drive home, she cuddled in my front seat and didn't do anything but lift her head at me. I arrived home, and her ears did perk up when she heard my two basset hounds barking, and was very interested in being by them as we got out of the car. Grayson, my 5 year old son, and Kailey, my 3 ½ year old daughter gave her a hug and Lucy just wagged her tail in delight.



I had Lucy for one week, and during that time she melted my heart, and anyone who met her. She cuddled on the couch with us, loved to sleep in blankets, and enjoyed traveling to work with me. She met many of my Vet Tech students, and they all told me she was such a good girl for them. We ran blood work and took radiographs to determine what the health status of Lucy was before going to her regular foster home. We received good news from the radiographs! Lucy's lungs showed only mild damage and it would be safe for her to undergo anesthesia. However, because Lucy had such significant dental problems it was determined that she needed to see a dental specialist for her dental procedure. Lucy was moved to Tatiana who was able to transport her to the special dental vet. When I met Tatiana whom was interested in being a foster mom for Lucy, I was so happy for Lucy. I knew that she was going to be in a loving home, and getting a lot of attention that she so desired.



I only had Lucy for 1 week, but I could have easily adopted her. She had such a wonderful disposition, and will make such a wonderful addition to her forever family.

### **Foster mom Tatiana**

Nov. 12

I met Lucy for the first time and instantly fell in love. She was such a tiny, skinny little thing, but SO sweet. She was the smallest adult Basset I had ever encountered. Her teeth were in poor condition, causing her tremendous pain which is why she was not eating. When she came to my house, it was apparent that Lucy had trouble seeing...her eyes had the cloudy look of cataracts. She was very hesitant on the stairs and ran into walls several times. After a few days, she started to adapt to her surroundings and get around okay.



Nov. 15--I took Lucy to the veterinarian who specializes in dentistry. After a teeth cleaning and an extraction (Lucy had an abscess in her gum line), she was back home with me to recover.



We had family stay with us during Thanksgiving, and everyone commented on what a sweet, sweet girl Lucy was. I was so glad that she was able to have a warm, loving home during the holidays...every dog deserves that!



Dec. 7--Lucy had a consultation with a Veterinary Ophthalmologist. He confirmed that Lucy was basically blind, and that at 6 years old it was pretty rare that such a young dog would have such advanced cataracts. He believes that she most likely developed cataracts before she was 1 year old and has just been able to adapt all these years. He also said that without the cataract surgery, she would develop glaucoma, detached retinas and/or other complications. On the plus side, Lucy had gained several pounds!

Dec. 20--Lucy's big day! After today, Lucy will be able to see! Lucy spent the day at the ophthalmologist who performed surgery to remove her cataracts and replace them with artificial lenses, restoring her sight. When I brought Lucy home, her eyes were extremely inflamed, but she was so groggy it didn't seem to bother her too much as she fell asleep right away.

Dec. 21--Lucy's eyes were still very inflamed, so we took her back to the ophthalmologist. He gave her some medication to reduce the inflammation. When I brought Lucy home, it was like a whole new world opened up for her. She was no longer running into walls. Her hesitation on steps was gone. When I give her treats, she can actually see them instead of having to sniff around for them.

Dec. 27--I just took Lucy to her 1 week post-surgery check-up. The doctor said she is healing very well!

Lucy will be spayed in a more few weeks once her vet feels she is recovered from her eye surgery and has gained a few more pounds.



I am just so grateful Lucy was able to receive such excellent medical care. She is the sweetest girl, so good with my 18 month old son and 5 year old daughter as well as my 2 beagles. Lucy loves to play in the yard, snuggle on the couch, and give kisses. My family and I are very lucky and blessed that such a remarkable Basset came into our lives.



BBR wishes to thank the following people and groups who helped Lucy get healthy.

Minnesota School of Business/Globe University who provided free vet care for Lucy (exam, blood work, radiographs)

Her dental veterinarian - Dr. Ryan Speltz- Skyline Veterinary Clinic, Fridley, MN who fixed Lucy's mouth and allowed her to eat without pain and gain weight.

Her ophthalmology veterinarian Dr. Robert Larocca, Animal Eye Specialty Center, Andover, MN who took away her eye pain and helped Lucy see again.

The many volunteers of BBR who give their time and love.

And the many people who support BBR financially!

Thank You!