

## What's In A Diet? B.J.'s Story



*Earle White and B.J.*

B.J. is an 11 year old Airedale who was diagnosed with hemolytic anemia when she was 10 years old. That was in November 2001.

We first met B.J.'s family, Earle and Lynn White, when they visited us to talk about adopting a puppy in early January 2002. By that time, B.J. had had a blood transfusion and was on steroids. Her vet did not offer any hope of a long life expectancy.

While visiting us, the Whites decided that they would like to adopt an adult Airedale, and they really liked our Holly, who was almost six years old. We had decided, however, that Holly could only go to a home that would feed the raw diet. The Whites were impressed with the condition of our adults, and decided that they would try the diet on B.J. to see (1) if she would eat it (they did not want to feed two dogs two different diets) and (2) if it would be much of a nuisance to make. They said that if B.J. would eat the diet and it was not too time-consuming to make, they would come back and talk to us seriously about adopting Holly. Needless to say, when they introduced B.J. to the diet, she quickly told them that from then on, she would only eat the raw food! And in a short time, the Whites noticed such improvements in her health that, with their vet's approval, they started to back her off of the steroids.

The first week in February, B.J. and her people adopted Holly. At first, the two girls did not pay each other much attention: In fact, Holly was pushy, and she decided on her first night in her new home that she would just take over B.J.'s bed.

As time went by, however, B.J. and Holly bonded like two sisters. Holly discovered how to run just fast enough that B.J. could catch her; play tug of war just hard enough that B.J. could win; and race to bed each night just fast enough that they could both reach the upstairs bedroom at the same time. As B.J.'s health continued to improve, she decided that she too could once again jump on the human bed when they raced to bed at night! And when Holly wandered out of the garage one rainy evening before the door could be shut, B.J. was right beside her. And when B.J. was called, she looked back at Earle, looked after Holly, and decided that she was going with Holly (both girls were quickly found, thanks in part to Holly having a microchip tag and the finder calling in her number).

But the most amazing part of this story is B.J.'s health. When Holly first went to live with this family, I hoped that the diet would improve the quality of B.J.'s life for the short time it appeared that she had left. When I met her, she did not look anything like the picture with this story: she looked tired and old. Fourteen months later, she had such great muscle tone and good health that I received a call from a woman who had met a man with two Airedales at a dog park, and just had to tell me how wonderful the older girl looked. As she described the two dogs and the fact that they were on the raw diet, I knew that it had to be B.J. and Holly, and when I checked with Earle, he confirmed that he had the two girls in that park and had met a woman who was amazed at B.J.'s age and good health. The caller told me that she could not believe that the older dog was older than her own dog who looked old and tired by comparison.

B.J.'s family believes that the raw diet called BARF (biologically appropriate raw food or bones and raw food) literally turned her health and her life around. They patiently make the veggie-meat mush from the recipe on our website ([www.jubileecaires.com](http://www.jubileecaires.com)), and they feed both dogs ample raw meaty bones along with healthy table scraps and good supplements. Both dogs have clean teeth, fresh breath, and good health.

And if you are wondering about the prettily groomed girl, Holly brought something else to this family's life. As soon as her four week trial was up, Earle brought her back for a grooming lesson, and now he keeps both dogs looking like the pretty Airedales that they are.

*We were saddened to hear that BJ crossed the Rainbow Bridge on June 20, 2005, three and a half years after she was diagnosed with severe auto-immune hemolytic anemia. She had a long and full life and was much loved by her human family.*