

## BOS DEXTERUS UNDOCUMENTUS : A Cautionary Tale

Like many people getting their first Dexters, I had tried and tried to locate animals for many months, suffering disappointments in the search which only whetted my desire for Dexters. Finally, two lovely cows and their daughters made the trek from Montana to Colorado, arriving the night before Thanksgiving. They had lost their owner in an accident, but the sheaf of papers which accompanied them gave neither their "heir" owner nor me any reason to think that transfers and registrations would be a problem. Unfortunately two complete Dexter novices should not be allowed to make such judgments!

Once the initial euphoria (*I have Dexters!*) subsided, I finally began to plow through the paperwork which had come with the cows to start the transfer process. And kept on plowing until it became obvious that I had no certificates of registration and no transfer forms. Hmmm, beginning to look like a problem.

Fortunately, at this point I contacted the all-knowing Rosemary Fleharty, ADCA Secretary, with a plea for help. Having digested the bad news -"You have grade cattle"- I had a decision to make, sell/slaughter them and start over or try to find out their true identities. Option #2 won out, and the search for documents continues, with the help of several kind ADCA members in our area.

Now the "cautionary" part of the tale. As a show dog fancier and breeder, I'm familiar with registration procedures for dogs. Somehow, though, I just never equated "dog" and "cow" when thinking of registration requirements. Also, I had searched for so long for some Dexters that I wasn't inclined to scrutinize the paperwork which came with the cows closely enough. Actually having them at last seemed like such a miracle that I was sure (or hoped) paperwork would be trivial. Trust me, it isn't.

I hope this registration nightmare will finally be happily resolved, but one thing is for sure, any animal I buy, breed or sell from now on will be *Bos Dexterus Documentus!*

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Note: my registration problems, intractable as they seemed, were finally resolved.

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