



“Lurch” Phillips of Santa Maria, with Lexi

“Dobie Doings”



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“Cruiser” Eliasberg of San Diego

Ardis Braun-Director **Colleen Anderson** -Webmaster & Graphic Designer **Dennis Bolton** - Printer

As the economy appears to be rebounding, along with the employment rate, our adoptions seem to have picked up, though sporadically. As usual, though, most people want the perfect dog: young, beautiful, dog-social, good with kids, housebroken, even good with cats. We think probably 95% of our dogs at any given time are NOT good with cats, predators that they are! So the perfect dogs have ten people who would choose them, and most of the others have none.

Our last newsletter produced a few new dog-walkers, who combined efforts with the group that always come. Thank you to one and all who help make our dogs’ lives more interesting.

We have a new credit card processing company now, which will save us money on credit card donations, and we can also now take Discover card in addition to Visa and MasterCard. Some folks have opted to “virtually” adopt one of our dogs by having us process their credit or debit card each month for their support amount. However it comes, every bit helps.



“Hero”

Volunteers
Colleen Anderson
and Mike Klee
manned a booth for
us again – for three

days! – at the Orange County Pet Expo. Several former adopters stopped by to say hello, and there were also numerous “converts” to the Doberman breed who didn’t know they could ever like a Doberman. Colleen brought her small Border Collie mix, Hero, who has only two legs and was recently outfitted with a cart, which he was pleased to model for many visitors.

Thank you again to everyone who helps us with gifts of all types. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

We’re happy to say that three of the dogs featured in our spring newsletter have been adopted; all of them non-Dobermans. Actually, that number was four, but the couple that adopted little Daisy had her for only 27 days before letting her fall and break her leg, at which point they didn’t want her any more unless we paid all her vet bills. (We did, but she is not being returned to them, obviously!) Daisy is finished with her fracture repair and therapy, so she is up for adoption again.

KIKI,

a sweetheart who spent nearly her whole life with us, was adopted to Linda and Michael Swander of Santa Barbara. They are absolutely smitten with her! At least once

a week we get a glowing e-mail about how happy they are, and how Kiki acts as though she has lived there all her life. She even gets along with their fussy older female Brittany Spaniel. From Linda's most recent e-mail: "Once again we want to thank you

for connecting us to the newest member of our little family. As I write this, Kiki is sleeping comfortably on our couch – one of 3 places she chooses – ALL inside the house. She adds laughs, smiles and love to us all. Thank you especially for keeping her alive. So tragic to think of those cherished pets that have not been so fortunate."



WALLY,

the darling Beagle-Lab mix who lost the previous home we had placed him in due to a divorce, went to live with Amy and Alan Nordstrom of Woodland Hills. From their recent e-mail: "Boogie and Wally are doing very well, and are learning to share....Wally is learning to play with

toys now! He still is a big lover and would rather be petted than play tug-of-war, which is fine with us. Thank you for giving us another family member!"



SPARKY

has been a bit of a challenge for Vicki Freytag of La Canada Flintridge, who had always been a Doberman owner, but is now a senior lady who felt that a smaller dog would be more appropriate this time. Sparky bonded to Vicki promptly, but every time she left her beautiful property, Sparky decided he preferred to annihilate the barrier that kept him from going with her. Several fencing repairs and various ingenious ideas later, he seems to be successfully confined, and Sparky and Vicki love each other.



WAITING FOR HOMES

NANI,

is a sweet black and tan Dobie (or mix, maybe a little bit of Shepherd in her?) who is 3 ½ years old and was adopted from an animal shelter as a puppy. Three years later her family gave her up because they now have a toddler, and Nani "couldn't adjust" to the toddler. We're not sure exactly what that means, except that Nani was there before the toddler was, and she can be a little territorial, even sometimes with strange people and dogs when she's being walked on leash. She is dog-social otherwise, and she has her CGC (Canine Good Citizen) award.



BEAKER

is a cute little Terrier mix who was turned in to an animal shelter by his owner with a companion dog. The companion was adopted, and Beaker became terrified, apparently never having been without another dog to follow. He is a social dog and would probably enjoy the company of another dog, but he may not require a companion dog to be happy if he gets enough human attention. Beaker is a lively ball of love, and he's a good



watchdog. He's about a year old, weighs about 18 pounds, and he has a stub tail.

DUKE,

for purposes of our web site, is called Dukester, because we have three other dogs named Duke. He's just over a year old, a handsome red male with cropped ears (one doesn't stand). He isn't believed to be dog-social and is quite reactive to other dogs when being walked on leash. Because Duke isn't



well trained and is quite exuberant when meeting people, we think an adult home would be best for him.

WHIMSY

is absolutely precious! She is probably a combo of Chihuahua, Pug and Miniature Pinscher, and she

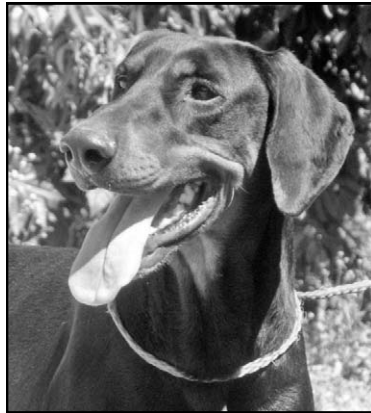


loves everyone, including other dogs and cats. Whimsy is very responsive and interactive; she loves affection, laps, just about anything involving people. She weighs under 10 pounds and is a young adult. Her only bad

habit: she can climb some fences.

MATILDA

is a big black and tan Dobie girl with natural tail and ears. She is a shelter favorite because she is affectionate and a lot of fun. She's about 3 years old and quite large, perhaps 80 pounds. Matilda has been kenneled with other dogs and could probably live with an undominant large male in the right home, but she sometimes becomes bossy with her kennel companions here so is now kenneled alone.



RICO



is a big, lovable fawn Dobie boy who is a favorite of our dog-walkers because he loves his walks and his dog-walkers. He's a hefty guy, about 3 years old, with a decent coat for a fawn. It isn't known if he can live with other dogs in the home, or with small kids, though we think he probably would enjoy older kids. Rico has an old injury to one rear leg,

which causes it to splay a little when he walks but doesn't appear to cause him discomfort.

PANINI

is a small Terrier mix who was not well socialized. She spent her early months with a would-be rescuer who accumulated far too many dogs and got in trouble with Animal Control. When we went to pick up an adult male Doberman, we saw Panini there and knew she would not do well if impounded at an animal shelter. She is dog-social and will bond with her person,



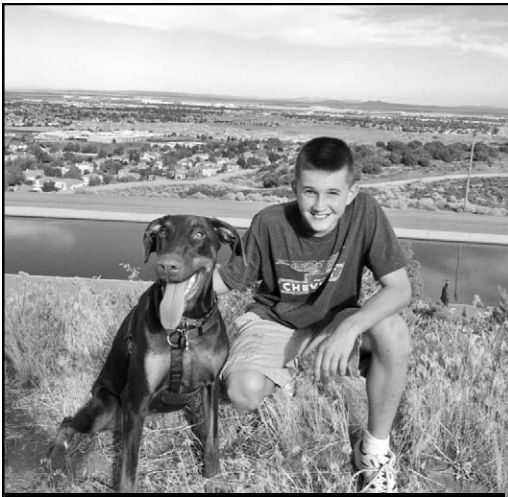
but she won't accept visitors (dogs or people) reaching to touch her when held by her person. A gentle adult home would probably suit her best. Panini is about 2 years old and weighs just under 10 pounds.

DOGGY DNA

A few years ago, there was a lot of excitement about a new testing system that could tell people what breeds were represented in their mixed-breed dogs. This was of interest not only from a curiosity point of view, but also because knowing what breeds are present can also indicate what kinds of behaviors, medical predispositions, etc., might be involved.

The tests probably weren't cheap, otherwise everyone with a mutt would have jumped at the chance to know what Rover "really" was. Then the test results began to trickle in. People with dogs that clearly looked to be Lab-Pit Bull crosses were told their dogs were mixes of Neopolitan Mastiff, South African Boerbol, and Presa Canario. Others were told their dogs were Saluki, Weimeraner and Chihuahua (uh-huh). Still others were told their dogs were part Scottish Deerhound, even though there might be only a hundred of them in the whole country. We began to wonder what they would say if we sent in the DNA from a champion purebred Doberman Pinscher!

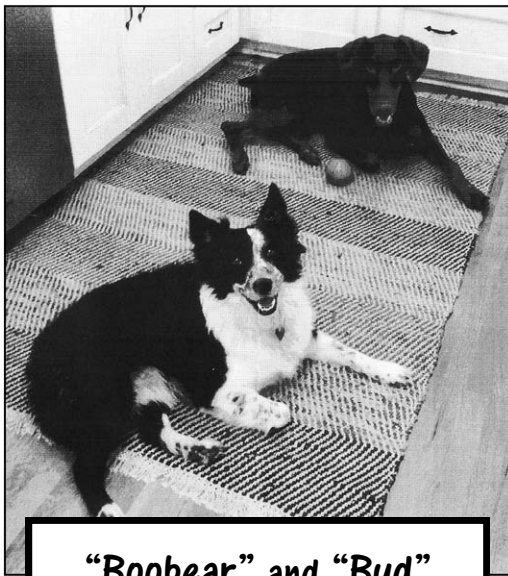
All in all, we think doggy DNA testing is fun in the same way that having your tarot cards read by Madame Sylvia might be fun, but not to be taken seriously!



“Baloo” Thompson of Palmdale, with Chase



“Gidget” and “Venus” Allen of California City

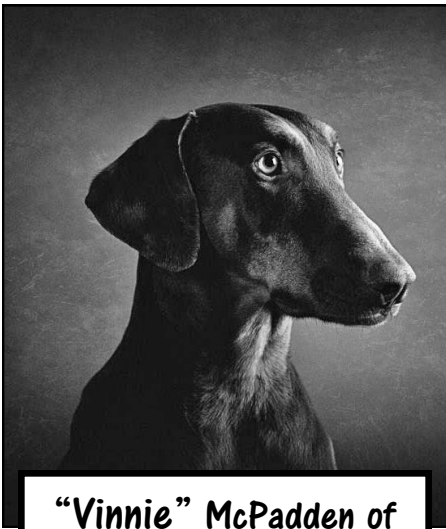


“Boobear” and “Bud” Dumont of Pasadena

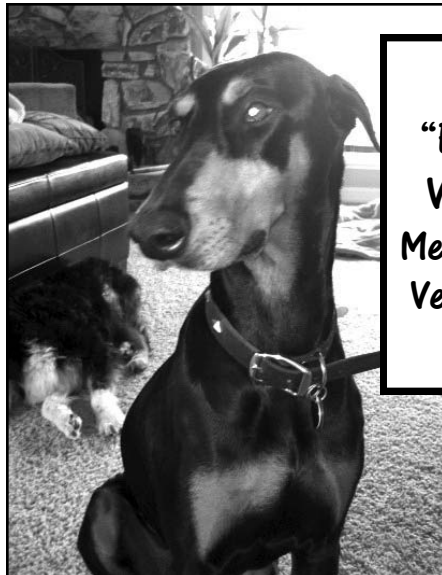
“Link” and “Zelda” Kruchen-Zhang of El Monte



“Shani” Adams of Chatsworth



“Vinnie” McPadden of Simi Valley

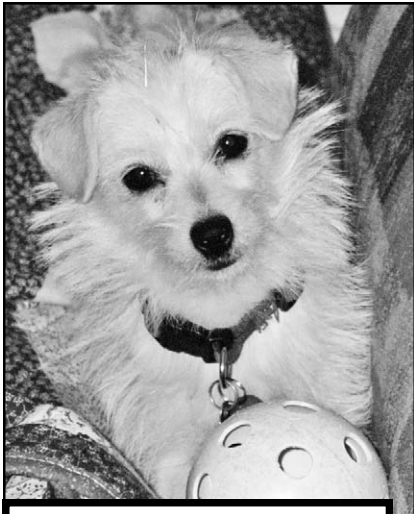


“Bella Vita” Means of Ventura



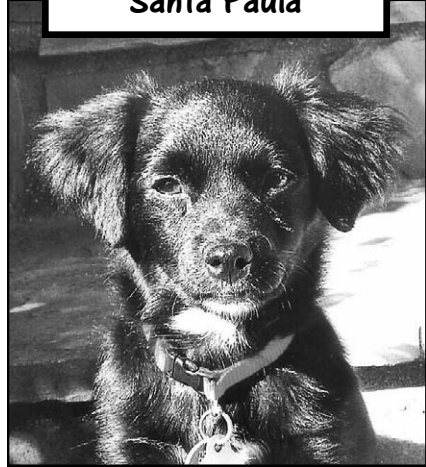
“Charley” Wallot of Moorpark

"Elke" Davis of Cathedral City



"Sandy" Storrs of Thousand Oaks

"Buddy" Jimenez of Santa Paula



"Scooter," "Greta," and "Kyra" Woodward of Calimesa



"Duke" Morrison of Cathedral City



"Chico" McKeehan of Santa Barbara



"Raven" and "Chloe" Rosenthal of Lakewood



"Charlie Bear" Trenholm of Glendale

HAPPY ADOPTERS

"Travis" Randall of Palmdale, with Jane



TRUST AND RESPECT

by Colleen Anderson

With all due respect to professional dog trainers and behavioral experts, I feel as though no one person or program has “got it” completely right. Every person is different, every dog is different, and every situation is different. If there’s one thing I’ve learned working with dogs these past eight years (!) I’ve been with the rescue, it’s that the minute you feel as though you can predict everything about a particular dog, you’ll be wrong.

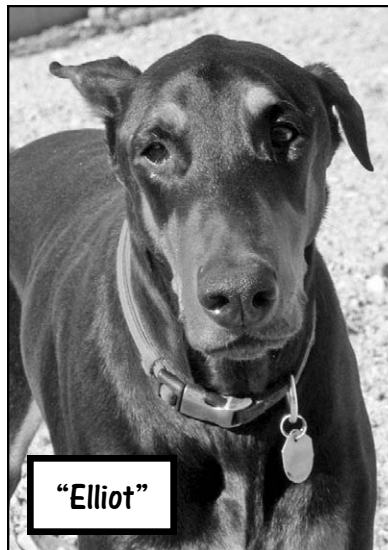
All my life I have immersed myself in anything dog-related that I could find, including dog training books, web sites, and television shows. One of those shows is “The Dog Whisperer” on the National Geographic Channel, featuring Cesar Millan. (We were recently featured on this show with one of the dogs we rescued from Taiwan.) Everyone has his or her own opinion on Cesar’s methods and theories, but in all honesty, I wouldn’t be able to handle half of the challenges the rescue dogs have presented me with, if not for this show. There is one thing Cesar spoke about that wasn’t featured prominently, but which really struck a chord with me. The need for trust AND respect in your relationship with your dog. It’s just a simple thought, but it was an “aha!” moment for me. I thought about every dog I had experienced difficulty with and realized that I was missing one of these things. A relationship without trust or respect will always be unbalanced.

Because the Doberman is such a sensitive breed, we tend to see a lot of fearful, shut-down dogs coming out of animal shelters. These dogs need extra time and patience in their new homes, and the people who are willing to adopt them are sincerely amazing for giving them a chance. One such dog is a middle-aged Doberman, now named Elliot. He was very sick and shut down when we got him from the animal shelter so I was asked to foster him for a little while. It turned out that he had a severe ear infection and an autoimmune disorder. His physical problems were pretty easy to cure with some medication, but his emotional scars were much more difficult to deal with. He was extremely sensitive around his head, and if there was ever any tension in my voice, he would have nothing to do with me. Sometimes it even seemed like he was “on guard,” ready to defend himself. It was clear that he was punished with anger and probably physical force at some point in his life. It took a long time to form a relationship with him, but let me tell you, it was worth it!

I thought I had earned his trust early on by being patient and making it clear that I wasn’t going to hurt him. However, it actually required that he almost bite me to fully earn his trust. One day a new dog got past a baby gate and accidentally got a little too close to his food bowl

while he was eating. Knowing that he had some aggression issues around food, I put an object in between him and the new dog. When the object touched Elliot’s head, he tried to bite me, which thankfully left only a scratch. He instantly became “on guard” so I knelt down on the floor and called him to me in a calm voice. He slowly relaxed, realized he was safe, put his head in my lap, and our relationship has been stronger ever since. That’s how I earned his TRUST. I earned his RESPECT day by day, never letting him get away with bad behavior even though I felt sorry for him. He was disciplined for bad behavior, never punished.

It’s human nature to treat insecure dogs differently and put all of our energy into gaining their trust, but we get so caught up in wanting the dog to love



us that all discipline tends to get thrown out the window. Unfortunately, this can get people into trouble down the line. Gaining the dog’s respect is just as important as gaining his trust. When a new dog comes into your home, there should be clear rules and expectations that can be enforced in a calm, gentle way. Just because the dog is frightened doesn’t mean he should be exempt from the

rules. The dog won’t love you less because he isn’t allowed on the couch. This way, as that big Dobie gains confidence, he’ll also respect and listen to you.

On the flip side, some people are all about training but can be heavy-handed about it so the dog doesn’t completely trust them. These situations can definitely lead to “fear biting,” as can lack of socialization. It’s important to put in the time to let your dog know that you mean no harm; our actions speak volumes with dogs, who read body language very well as they relate to each other. Remember that they don’t speak our language and aren’t mind readers.

Dogs are masters at unconditional love, so focus on trust and respect. If you can achieve these goals, love will come naturally and you and your dog will have a happy life together.

p.s. from Ardis on the article above....

Recently I was reading a book of vignettes called *Bad Dogs Have More Fun*, by John Grogan, the same guy who wrote *Marley & Me*, which was made into a hilarious movie. I’m sure most of you are familiar with it.



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 I am enclosing the best gift I can: \$_____

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Card # _____ Expiration date _____

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Please return this form with your contribution
 Your contribution is tax deductible (Federal I.D. #77-0357865)
 We also have PayPal
 100% of your contribution goes directly to benefit the animals.

After Marley passed away, the Grogan family got another Golden Retriever, named Gracie, who was so good that she was boring. Concerned about her lack of enthusiasm, they called Cesar Millan, the famous “dog whisperer,” to learn whatever they could about their new dog. Cesar observed that, though Gracie was well-behaved, she seemed “adrift,” trying to figure things out without benefit of a pack leader to follow. He said “You have her trust and affection, but not her respect.”

They successfully fixed the problem with Cesar’s insight.

Then I read something similar about human friendship in *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*, by Stieg Larsson, which was also made into a movie. A memorable line in that book said that true friendship between people has to include both trust and respect.

This is a recurring theme, one which obviously crosses species.

JUST FOR FUN

The people who post to Facebook probably exchange these kinds of stories all the time, but there are those of us who only occasionally snag a spare moment to check Facebook, and of course many who haven’t joined Facebook.

So...we thought it would be fun to ask our readers to share their “intelligent dog” stories. This is not a contest; i.e., whose dog is the smartest? It’s also not a forum to brag about things various breeds and individuals do as the result of either training or hard-wiring, such as Shepherds and Collies that herd, sporting breeds that assist hunters, etc. What we’d like to hear about are those dogs personally known to our adopters that exhibit true intelligence figuring

things out that they haven’t been trained to do.

Here are a few examples, dogs known to me (Ardis) personally.

A personal dog of mine whom I named Elsa (for the Born Free lion in the movie by that name) was a Shepherd-Whippet mix who had become elderly while I owned her and no longer moved very quickly. At that time, eight dogs shared my bedroom. When I announced “Time for bed!” they stampeded into the bedroom, where I had dog beds and quilts strewn about. Elsa, being the oldest dog in the group by then, was usually the last to arrive. She would look around the room, and if she deemed that the remaining bedding was not among her preferred places to sleep, she would run to the doorway of the bedroom barking, pretending to hear something occurring toward the front of the house. Invariably, a few of the others would charge forward to investigate, at which point Elsa would calmly claim the most desirable of the vacated resting areas.

Another personal dog, Amy, was a Shepherd-Sheltie mix, whom I believed to be much smarter than Elsa (who had proven very hard to train, causing me initially to think she wasn’t smart at all. She was!) Amy was a bit of a beggar, but it was my habit not to feed dogs at the table, though I would give them scraps when people had finished eating. Then I would rinse the dishes and place them in the dishwasher. Amy, with a dog’s superior sense of smell, determined that what dripped off the plates, even though diluted by rinse water, was still desirable enough to push the trays of the dishwasher in with her nose and lick the inside of the dishwasher door.

Another personal dog, Becky, was a Border Collie-Retriever mix, and she taught me to play hide-and-seek with her. What a great sense of humor!

Even among the dogs we currently have that are



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NOT personal dogs, meaning I don't know them nearly as well, there are two (Duke and Cassidy) who stand behind me every day when I am hosing their kennels down because they figured out that I never spray water behind myself, and they don't like to get wet.

We would love to hear your stories, and we'll try to print one or two at a time in upcoming newsletters. Please share them!

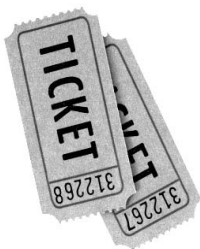
IT'S A RAFFLE!

It's fundraising time! We are thankful for all of the donations our amazing supporters continue to send. Every dime is used to rescue, support, and rehabilitate dogs here at the rescue ranch. However, the last few years have been tough, and making ends meet is not always easy. There have been a lot of medical cases this year, and our veterinary bills have been significant.

So...we've decided to hold a raffle this summer. We'll be selling raffle tickets on line, in person, and by mail. They will be \$1 a ticket, and you can assign them toward whichever prize you wish. So far we have a donation of 1,000 square feet of sod, a beautiful

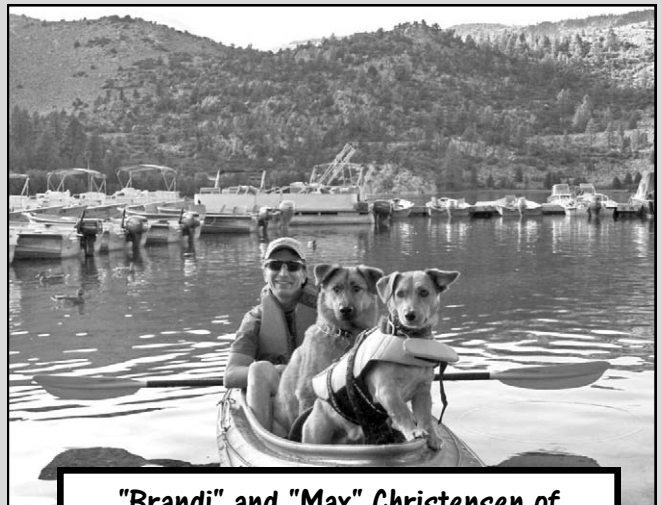
Doberman art print by professional photographer Cass Greene (viewable on our web site), and we are still looking for more items to raffle off. Please contact us if you have treasures you would like to donate.

We will also be offering a 50/50 drawing in which the winner will be awarded half of the total collected. Who wouldn't want to win money!?



We're organizing a get-together at a great local restaurant so we can eat good food, talk about dogs, and draw the winners for the raffle. You are all invited! It will be on Saturday, June 23rd, at Garman's Irish Pub on East Main Street in Santa Paula, from 5-8 p.m. This location is reasonably convenient to Ventura County, Santa Barbara County, and the western San Fernando Valley. There are dart boards, billiards, and entertainment for everyone. We would welcome prior notification if you're going to attend, but last-minute guests are welcome. There's no cover charge so your only expenses will be whatever you eat or drink. You don't have to be there in order to win, but we love to see our adopters, fans, and friends. Please come!

This is the kind of life we wish that all of our adoptees could have!



**"Brandi" and "Max" Christensen of
 Newbury Park, with Ed**