



“Jackson” Perez-Monje of Tustin, with Santa

“Dobie Doings”



2946 Young Road

Fillmore, Ca 93015

Phone (805) 524-5102

www.DobiesandLittlePawsRescue.org

E-mail: dobierescue@earthlink.net



“Leia” Hastings of Bakersfield, with Kyle

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

Our winter newsletter is definitely the most fun because we get to showcase our adoptees in their happy holiday surroundings! Be sure to send us your pictures from this holiday season so we can include them in next year’s winter newsletter. Our hope, of course, is that lots and lots more of our great dogs will be enjoying the comforts of a happy forever home by then.

Paula Cwikly will be hosting another Deck the Halls with Bones and Balls party for us on Sunday, December 20th, starting at 2 p.m. As in previous years, the party will feature appetizers, beverages, and great company from our circle of dog lovers and her circle of TV personalities, some of which are also adopters of ours. There is no admission other than to bring a nice gift for our dogs. Our wish list is included in this newsletter. Please confirm with her that you’re coming, by e-mail: pcwikly1@earthlink.net, or by phone: 818-985-5698.

Last year Natalie Rimmele, our every-weekend volunteer, good friend, and owner of Pippi, a Dobie girl she adopted a couple of years ago, decided to make a calendar for 2015 of Pippi pictures, with each month themed accordingly (St. Patrick’s Day, Cinco de Mayo, back to school, etc.). The calendars were a hit! Everyone loved them and they were sold out, so Natalie will be doing another calendar for 2016. Please let us know by year-end if you’d like to order one, and send \$20 to us by check, PayPal, or call over a credit card number, and we’ll pay Natalie for her expenses and cover postage to you as well. If you use PayPal, be sure to let us know

what your donation is for.

By the time you read this, it will be too late to tune in, but one of our sweetest dogs, Dexter, will have been featured on a show called All Star Dog Rescue Celebration airing on Thursday, November 26th, from 8:00-10:00 p.m. We don’t yet know as this is written whether Dexter will be adopted, but the show will be showcasing more of our dogs of various sizes.

Once again, a heartfelt thanks for all that you do for us! We appreciate all of your gifts of every kind. Have a wonderful holiday season and a great beginning to the new year.



Blessings,

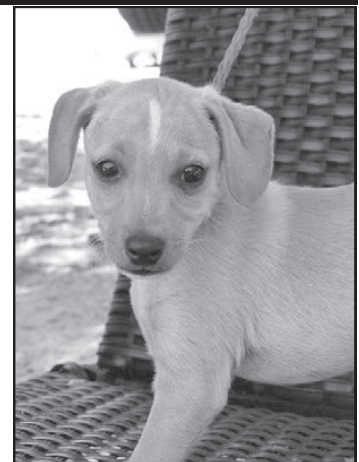
Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

Unfortunately, only one of the ten dogs featured in our last newsletter has been adopted. It was a very slow adoption season, and this certainly proves it. But...

FLEA,

our little “street stray” puppy, was adopted by Andrea and Tony Wright of Los Angeles. We were concerned about Flea’s safety because he’s so small that he seemed



able to slip out of doorways between feet and legs unnoticed. The Wrights live in a condo with no door leading directly outdoors (their front door leads into a small gated terrace), so he's safe, and according to them, he hasn't even tried to escape. Andrea says: "He's a great little dude, though at times he's a bit too smart for his own good. He's had a start on obedience training, but it's difficult for him because all he wants to do is play with the other dogs. We kept his name, Flea, because it suits him. Thanks for all you do."

WAITING FOR HOMES

Brutus

has been with us over a year, so we've learned more about him. It still isn't known if he can live with other dogs, but he's quite happy to be the one and only. Brutus is on the small side for a male, and he's animated and affectionate toward people. His animal shelter aged him at what would now make him 3 years old, but we think he's into middle age, and he appears very healthy and attractive. We've learned that Brutus sits immediately on command and will shake hands. He listens well, doesn't jump on people, and we think he was clearly someone's special dog until he became lost and impounded at a shelter as a stray. Though we've not seen Brutus with children, he probably would be reliable with older kids. Certainly introductions can be made to view his level of interest in older kids.



Tinkerbelle

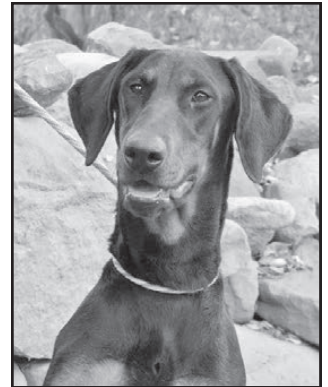
may be the sweetest little dog in our program. She had been a stray who was running around a post office for a couple of weeks, eating snails to survive. One of the mail carriers represented her to us as a worthy little dog that needed help, and we took her in. Initially Tinkerbelle stayed for a couple of weeks in a foster home, so when she arrived here at the rescue ranch and was placed in an area with several other small dogs, she was overwhelmed. She wasn't very approachable, probably because she had never known so many strangers—dogs and people alike—in her short life. (We think Tinkerbelle is just over a year old.) Now she's a changed dog. She flitters around, bouncing into the other dogs, loves to be picked up, can be crated with no "mistakes" for



what would typically be someone's entire workday, and is nice and quiet. Though she hasn't been tested with kids, we think she would be a good family dog.

Shadow

was relinquished by an owner who was concerned about her hyper-reactivity to other dogs when on leash. Though she can be kenneled with an equally dominant male, her territorial side is evident when being walked or housed in a yard. Shadow is housebroken (with dog door), probably crate-trained, not destructive, knows most commands, and is good off leash. She isn't recommended for homes with children because in a previous home she supposedly nipped or tried to nip a small child. Her date of birth is about 7/1/12, and she is a tall, attractive dog. Though Shadow is sweet, affectionate, smart and eager to please, she hasn't had clear boundaries set for her in the past and will require a strong pack leader or couple. She is not recommended for a dog-rich, urban environment; a rural setting with the right owner will suit Shadow better and allow her to be the terrific dog that she is.



Hoggle

continues to wait for his forever home after struggling to overcome demodectic mange for years. He is finally mite-free! Hoggle was left with some damaged hair follicles, so his coat won't completely grow back. He has also had much dental work including many extractions which have left him completely toothless, so his tongue peeks out of the side of his mouth much of the time. He's only 7 years old and most likely a Chihuahua mix. His looks can be quite polarizing; some people have a hard time looking at him while others think he is downright darling. We know how sweet he is so to us, his looks don't matter and we're desperately hoping that there is a loving home somewhere that will agree. Hoggle loves to snuggle and is happy to be held or hang out on your lap as long as you'll allow. He is extremely dog-social and can hold his own with large and small dogs alike. He was given a clean bill of health when he was last at the vet, so there is no reason that he can't finally get a chance at a real home. To be completely honest, he isn't entirely housebroken, so he needs some continued training and a chance to learn a new routine, but he's absolutely worth the extra effort.



Gamble

came in to the shelter absolutely terrified and didn't present himself well as a candidate for adoption. We think Gamble still does have trust issues with strange people, but we worked with him right away for several



hours and had no indications of aggression: no growling, snapping, staring, raised hair, teeth showing, nothing. When we meet dogs who behave this way, we know it's very often because the dog was accustomed to having a more confident dog for company, someone to follow. Suddenly, without the leader, the dog doesn't know what to do. In Gamble's case, we were able to

"marry" him to a confident female dog companion almost right away, without incident or any kind of challenge. Gamble is estimated at 3 years, and he's a tall boy with a distinctive upright ear that is natural (uncropped), which gives him character! This boy needs a low-stress, loving home, preferably with another dog, probably a friendly large female dog.

Renata

is a great little Miniature Pinscher who has one behavior that makes her "not for everyone:" she can easily vault over fairly high fences. She is probably an ideal pet for someone in a condo or apartment without a yard because she is housebroken and well-behaved indoors. She lived with older kids and everyone adored her, but concern about her escapes near a busy highway made her family more concerned about her safety. Renata is a young adult of about 2 years old, and she weighs just over 15 pounds.



Shogun

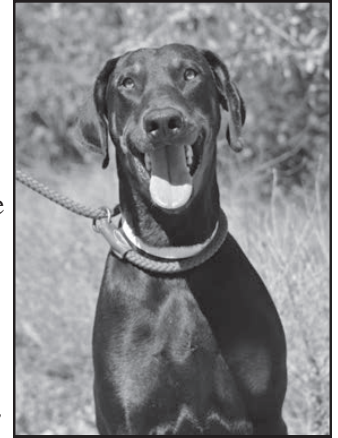
is close to 7 years old, and he's a wonderful dog in most ways. His last owners had him for 21 months and ultimately gave him up because they really want a house dog, and Shogun suffers from "night terrors," which make it impossible for him to be indoors at night. Apparently this makes him anxious and vocal, and it can go on for over an hour. Shogun is



also a very needy dog, constantly demanding attention. He's great with other dogs, cats and kids, but he does chew things, which is probably another manifestation of his anxiety. We're hoping for a low-stress home for Shogun where other options can be explored such as natural calming remedies like Melatonin, or veterinary anti-anxiety medications including doggie Prozac. He's a very handsome dog with a personality to match.

Bonnie

is a sweet female who just came from an animal shelter. She is all natural and approximately 2 years old. Bonnie also seems to have some stunted growth in her legs but she is perfectly mobile and most people don't even notice at first. She is great with other dogs as long as they aren't too dominant because she is gentle, submissive, and playful, often greeting new dogs with kisses and tail wags. So far, Bonnie has been nothing but a sweetheart and we hope she will be in a loving home very soon.



MEDICAL MATTERS

Just like people, some dogs are far more level-headed and "normal" than others. Whether it's a dog you've adopted or raised from puppyhood, some of their behaviors may embarrass you, worry you, or drive you crazy.

When we first heard of "doggie Prozac," our reaction was probably a lot like yours is now, if you haven't heard of it before. We laughed. But in quite a few cases personally known to us since then, it has made the difference between a dog being able to stay in his or her home, and having to lose it.

The generic name is Fluoxetine, and vets may prescribe it for anxiety (separation anxiety and otherwise), overly territorial behavior, fear-aggression, unpredictability, and various other reasons. Often it's prescribed after everything else has failed, but we're encouraging people to try it for out of control or overly-anything kinds of behaviors. It really isn't a joke.

Also, just a reminder about things you shouldn't give your dog during the holidays, or any other time:

Alcoholic beverages	Salty foods
Chocolate	Tomato plants or fruit
Coffee	Yeast dough
Grapes and raisins	Poultry bones and turkey skin
Spoiled food	Onions and garlic



"Scout" Cosley of Spokane, WA, with Mike



"Elmer" & **"Bella"** Means of Ventura, with Topher & Gail



"Duke" & **"Quinn"** Murphy of Sparks, NV



"Bella" Dill of Somis, with Khloe



"Schuyler" Embree of Renton, WA, with Tina



"Rusty" Shaw of Sanger, with Luke Field, Christina Shaw, & Santa



"Winona," "Kody," "Tamaya," "Charlie Brown," & "Sammy" Sovich of Carpenteria



"Bailey" Saxton of Riverside, with Liz



"Casper" Atkins of Carefree, Arizona



"Pippi" Rimmele of Ventura

"Charlotte" Rimmele of Ventura

"Madison" Greene of Long Beach



WISH LIST

- *Large heavy-duty plastic buckets
- *Leashes and chain collars
- *Tarps
- *New or used dogloos of any size
- *New or used crates of any size
- *Large metal-frame beds with vinyl hammocks, any size
- *Old blankets and comforters
- *Financial gifts of any size



"Dani" Hughes of Ventura

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



"Raleigh" & **"Quigley"** Greene of Crescent City



SPECIAL NEEDS, SPECIAL HEARTS

We named him Luke. We knew before we rescued him from his animal shelter that he had “visual impairment” (moderate blindness), but rescue organizations should – in our opinion – be there as a safety net for the animals that deserve and need to be rescued, and Luke certainly fit that category.

Soon after he arrived, we moved Luke into my (Ardis’) section of kennels to be sure he would get enough attention, affection and stimulation to make his stay here enjoyable, since we thought he would probably need to stay for a long time. Soon after he moved into my section, I discovered what a great dog he is! He’s such a joyful dog, always happy to greet with his long tail wagging and his smiling face directed at me. Unfortunately, as with so many dogs that are partially or totally blind or deaf, he didn’t get along well with other dogs here, perhaps as a result of not being able to read their visual and auditory signals very well.

Luke stayed quite a few months, and we watched him grow from a scrawny, somewhat confused dog into a big, solid, wonderfully handsome fellow with plenty of confidence. And soon after that came the call from Jacqueline and Mark Gottlieb of Felton. It was almost eerie. Jacqueline said that they had recently lost their Dachshund and were looking for a large dog this time, ideally a red Doberman with natural ears, and preferably with a long tail like their Dachshund. The Dachshund had also had visual impairment, so they were familiar with taking care of dogs like that, and it truly seemed to all of us as though this was a sign. I told her: “OMG, if you adopt this dog I will love you forever!”

Felton is a long drive, but the Gottliebs made the 6-hour drive from the Santa Cruz area to meet Luke. Jacqueline walked him, spending quite some time with him, observing how he followed her lead, and ultimately declaring him a smart and good dog, very willing to please. They took him home that day, October 3rd, and early reports were positive. She said Luke was “handsome, sweet, adorable, friendly, tractable, sitting and staying (briefly) on command, and just winning our hearts. He was everything Ardis had promised me. She is very, very honest about her dogs.” He bonded well with Jacqueline, a very good thing because in a conversation with her in early November, she said that her husband – who was seriously ill when they visited – had just passed away four days previously, on November 4th.

Now is the time to bring out the Kleenex box. Jacqueline said that Luke, whose new name is Crash, is her best friend, and that he has helped her cope with her grief. Her husband had specifically urged that they make the trip to adopt a loving companion for her because they knew his days of having that role were soon to end. From her recent email:

“Crash quickly created his own new name as he constantly crashed into walls and doors, in spite of our carefully ‘mapping’ our home with his sniffing prowess. He was/is just a big, bumbly boy. We took him to the vet and he weighs 82

pounds. Crash was eager to learn and fit in, and within a week he was sleeping in the house on his own sheepskin rug. Within two weeks he would come ‘tell’ me when he needed to go potty.

He goes to the dog park twice a day for 45 minutes to an hour, and loves and plays with all his doggie friends. (He is dog-social, after all!) After watching the other dogs chase and retrieve yellow tennis balls for three weeks he finally decided that must be fun.

If I throw the balls low and no more than 30 feet he now chases and retrieves them and prances around as proud as any of the ‘seeing’ dogs. He is the new love of my life and exactly what Mark wanted for me when we realized I was going to be alone. I miss Mark, but love him even more for understanding that I would need a best friend and protector after he was gone....Thank you and Crash for giving me something to live for and look forward to every day.”

It takes those with special hearts to open them to less-able dogs, but in our experience, they are repaid many times over by a dog that understands that special heart.





I want to support Doberman Pinscher and Little Paws Rescue!

I am making the following contribution:

() \$100. () \$50. () \$20. () \$10.

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

Please charge my Visa, Discover, American Express or MasterCard!

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Billing Zip Code _____ Signature _____

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.

UNEXPECTED LOVE

by Colleen Anderson

Two years ago I was lucky enough to be part of a very special rescue that took me by surprise but left a lasting impression. I knew this dog for only one week, but the impact he had on me was significant, and his story remains one of my absolute favorites to tell.

Blakey was a handsome Doberman who was turned in to an upstate animal shelter for growling at a child. He was one of many dogs we were following in the shelters and we were trying to get more information about availability and temperament. The report we got about Blakey was pretty bleak, as the shelter had labeled him highly aggressive. Most of the shelter staffers were so afraid of him that he had been secluded and very few people, if any, ever visited him. Other rescues decided not to take him because of his evaluation and didn't feel they could properly handle an aggression case.

I was visiting family in the Bay area on Christmas day when Ardis gave me a call, asking if I could swing by the shelter on my way back and check him out. We were his last hope and she told me that the choice was mine, but if he was worthy she wanted to save him. Of course I agreed and set out to the shelter the next day.

When I arrived at the shelter, I was greeted by the supervisor and one of our volunteer transporters, Jim Hill, who was anxious to see if we could save Blakey. I grabbed my slip leash and they walked me down a long corridor of kennels, Blakey being stationed at the very end. The moment I came into his view he started barking, and I could see why the shelter staff had felt so intimidated. He had the classic Dobie look with long legs, a healthy black and tan coat, and nicely-cropped ears. A big black dog rushing up to the gate barking like mad can be scary for most people, but I quickly noticed

something interesting in his behavior. As I quietly stood there, his barking got to be higher and higher in pitch as he backed up bit by bit. I recognized the behavior immediately and knew he wasn't aggressive, he was terrified! Not to say that scared dogs can't be dangerous, but my gut told me that he meant me no harm and he was completely misunderstood. I held my hand out and he tentatively smelled me from a distance. I then crouched down and offered my side to him without direct eye contact. In what seemed like only seconds, he was sniffing me up and down, the barking had stopped, and his posture was much more relaxed.



I opened the gate, slipped my leash on him and out we went. He didn't just walk, he seemed to prance down the corridor, ignoring every dog in the kennels on either side of him. I will never know if I imagined this or not, but I swear I even saw him do a small, gleeful hop as he exited the gate into the parking lot. He was still a bit unsure, but I was easily able to touch him, and with careful handling, he was in the car right away. I turned around to see a dumbfounded Jim and a surprised supervisor to whom I said, "Is there any paperwork I need to fill out?"

He slept for the entire trip down to Southern California. Over the next week I got to know the real Blakey and couldn't believe how amazing he really was. We didn't get any history on him, so every behavior was a discovery. He was fantastic with all the other dogs he met, both large and very small, which reinforces Ardis' theory that a lot of dogs that are so frightened and shut down are that way because they don't have their confident canine pack leader or other canine friends to follow. There wasn't a single dog that he didn't become instant friends with, or at least give a respectful my



Doberman Pinscher Rescue
 2946 Young Road
 Fillmore, California 93015

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Santa Clarita, Ca
 Permit #172

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

distance to. It was also clear that he had some training and was happy to show off what he knew. Most of all, he was incredibly affectionate and playful. The fearful, tense, "aggressive" boy from the shelter was long gone and all I saw was a silly, goofy boy who was loving life. The best discovery? He was a smiler! When he got excited he just loved to run up to me, front teeth exposed and a furiously wagging tail. I fell so in love with Blakey over that week that the selfish part of me wanted to keep him, but I knew he deserved better and that he could have a home with people who could give him far more attention than I ever could, considering there are new rescue dogs every week that need my focus. He went on the website right away and we crossed our fingers.

The following Saturday, Blakey went to the rescue in Fillmore for our open house adoption day, and he was quickly a big hit. I was introducing Blakey to one family and things were going okay, but there was another couple there who were keeping a respectful distance, and I could see love in their eyes. Sure enough, the first couple decided to look at other dogs and the second couple made a beeline for us and asked to walk Blakey. It was an instant match, and it didn't take long for the Goodmans (close by in El Segundo) to have a new family member! We don't always know how an adoption is going to work out, especially with some of the more challenging dogs, but I had a wonderful feeling as they drove away and was confident he had found his forever home.

I recently asked Elaine Goodman to let me know how things are going with Blakey, now called Zorro, and this is what she had to say: "In our first month or two in his new home, we had to teach him it was okay to come inside, how to go up stairs, and how to walk on tile or hardwood floors. He had to learn there would always be a meal for him, so he could share food with his new Chihuahua brother, Rex. Flash

forward 2 years later: Zorro is a happy dog who isn't scared of everyone he meets and who plays with all of the other dogs at doggy daycare. He loves snuggling and hunting for lizards while hiking anywhere we'll take him. He shares rides to Mammoth and meals with his brother Rex.

Adapting to Zorro's unique challenges was a learning experience for us. But it has been a worthwhile journey, because we know he loves us to the moon and back."



PARTING SHOT

"Bam Bam" Kao of Fullerton



*"Tis the season to be jolly,
 Fa la la la la, la la la la"*