

## "Dobie Doings"



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### Goodness, thank you!

After reading our last newsletter, many of you were moved to open your hearts and your wallets, and you really made a difference. The veterinary bill for Jenette's surgery (see page 2) has been completely paid off. As is often the case in rescue, however, no sooner had this matter been put to rest than another came up to take its place. (See story about Aries, page 3.)

Our entire centerfold this issue is devoted to pictures of our older, long-term resident Dobermans. There was such an unexpected outpouring of sympathy for Kiley, our dear 9-year-old Dobie who waited nearly five years for her own home that never came, as we mentioned in our Christmas issue, that we decided to show you the faces of others who share her plight before it is too late for them.

The problem of having older dogs for adoption is a difficult one for nearly all rescuers. We do not generally accept older (eight-years-plus) dogs for placement, because very few adopters will consider taking an older dog, and taking in such a dog, only to have it live out its days in a kennel, is unfair. They are not abused, of course; they have food, water, shelter and a clean, safe environment, but compared to the attention and comforts of having their own home, they don't have much of a life, particularly

the ones who must be an only dog, because they don't have the pleasure of being in a play group. A dog's stay in a rescue facility is intended to be temporary.

The real difficulty is that some of the dogs who arrive at Dobie Rescue as younger or middle-aged dogs do not get adopted, or perhaps do get adopted but are returned years later, and suddenly they are older dogs that have become nearly unadoptable. It is very difficult for us to put these dogs to sleep because, first, there is nothing wrong with them, and second, they are like old friends. What, then, to do with them?

Not to put them to sleep means tying up a kennel space for several years, essentially waiting for them to die. During that same time frame, younger, adoptable dogs are denied that kennel space, many of them in animal shelters where they will be destroyed if not rescued. So

for each older dog remaining in our kennel over the long term, potentially dozens of more placeable animals are lost. There is also the problem that, obviously, having an abundance of less placeable dogs in the program means that far fewer dogs will be adopted.

The reasons for our urgent plea for help in placing some of these great older dogs should be apparent. Please speak to people you know who are currently without a dog

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- ☛ Adoption Updates
- ☛ Waiting for homes
- ☛ Senior Dobies in need
- ☛ Aries' Story



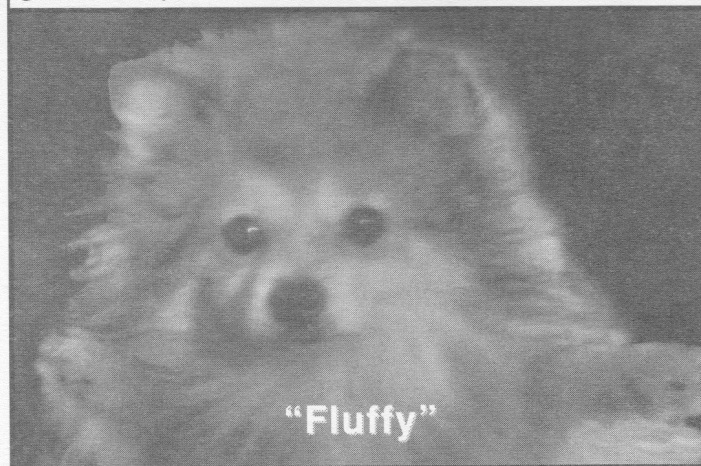
about those dogs who must be the only pet, and to dog lovers like yourselves about the very social ones - maybe one of you could squeeze in another dog. The older ones are usually very easy to own, and there is no required donation to adopt one. Sometimes older folks are good candidates for an older dog, and if they no longer drive, we have been known to make deliveries...

Sincerely,  
*Ardis Braun*  
Director

## Adoption Updates

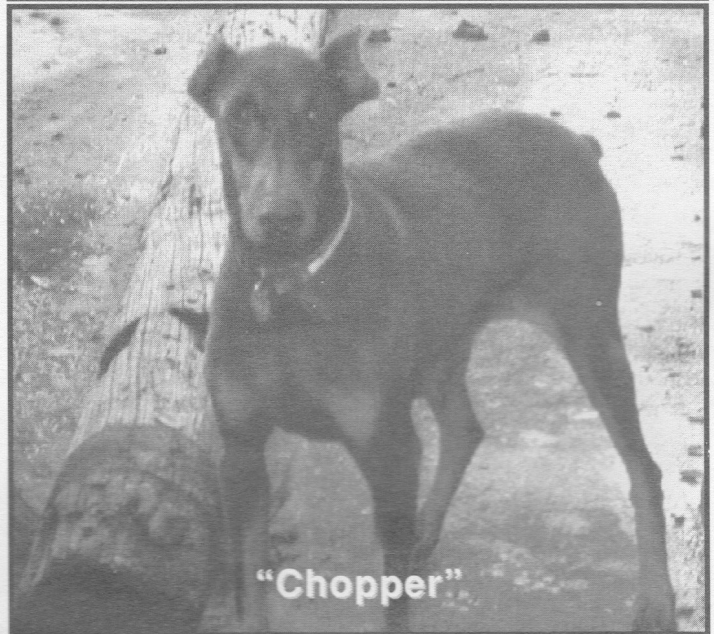


Just as we were going to press, "**Brady**" was adopted by Nancy Cross of Ventura. Nancy had adopted another American Eskimo from us in May, so hopefully Brady will be a good companion for him.



Little "**Fluffy**," the tiny older Pomeranian, was adopted by Genna Bearden and lives with another tiny Pom in Boron, where he is now spoiled rotten.

*Sorry small dog people, this issue is mostly about Dobies!*



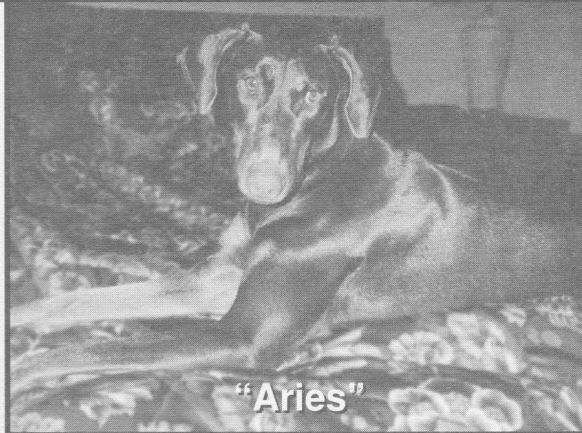
"**Chopper**," the gentle girl Dobie with home-cropped ears, was adopted by Jack Solomon of Santa Monica. He changed her name to Lucky, which she most certainly is, and our current report is that Jack and Lucky are very happy with each other.



And "**Jenette**," the Rat Terrier mix who was hit by a car and suffered a broken leg, has completely rehabilitated and uses her leg beautifully. She now lives with new owner Tracy Child in Playa del Rey. **All** of us appreciate the donations you so generously made to help us pay for her surgery.



## ARIES' STORY



"Aries"

We rescued "**Aries**," a lovely 18-month-old female Doberman, from a local animal shelter on a Wednesday. She was spayed just hours before we picked her up, so we kept her comfortable and quiet the first few days after her surgery. On Saturday she was moved into the kennels and introduced to her new kennel mate. All seemed well until...

Sunday morning, while making our rounds, we received quite a shock. Aries had torn or pulled out two sets of sutures from her spay surgery, and her intestines were waving in the breeze. Realizing how serious this situation is, we immediately rushed her to the Pet Emergency Clinic in Ventura (all local vets are closed on Sundays). After 2 1/2 hours of surgery, she had had all intestines sterilized and repositioned in her abdomen, which had also been flushed and sterilized. The bill was \$883!

Coincidentally, while returning several phone calls just prior to picking Aries up from the emergency hospital, Jane McCullick of San Luis Obispo said she wished to adopt a young red Doberman female. The only young red female Doberman available at that time, strangely enough, was Aries; so, very lucky for her, Jane drove down to Santa Barbara that night and met us there. Poor Aries, who at this point had been through two major surgeries in four days and was also suffering from kennel cough, went home to a warm house and a new owner without having to spend another night in a kennel. Throughout her ordeal, her spirits remained high; an amazing dog, really.

Jane says that it took Aries a full six weeks to "bond," to seek closeness from her people and to know she belonged somewhere. Her favorite thing to do is to "run like the wind" at the park and Laguna Lake, and she is one very lucky dog.

"Nicolas" and "Jake"

Good news and bad news on "**Nicolas**" and "**Jake**," the dogs we were trying to place together... both dogs are in foster homes (possibly permanent homes). That's the good news. The bad news is, they are not together. But neither seems to be unhappy about it, so we're delighted for them.

## Waiting for a home



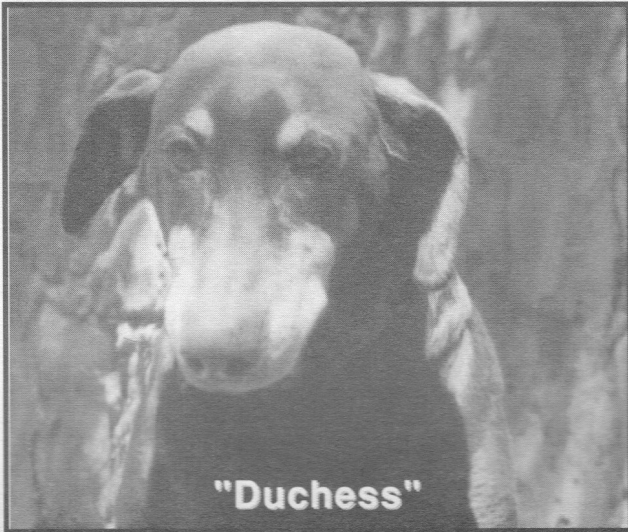
"Kettle"

Pictured here is "**Kettle**," a four-year-old Lhasa Apso. Kettle was so ill upon his rescue from the pound that we did not expect him to survive. His eyes were so matted that, once cleaned up, he was nearly blind from the ulcerations the infection left. Now, many months later, he has his vision back and is a delightful little dog. Because Kettle has a temper, like many other Lhasas, we think he would be best placed in an adult home.

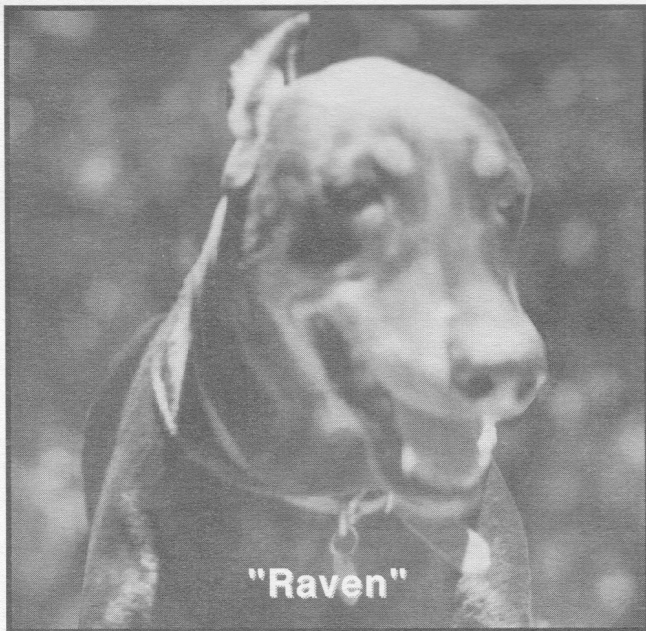


Here are a few senior faces  
**Waiting for Homes**

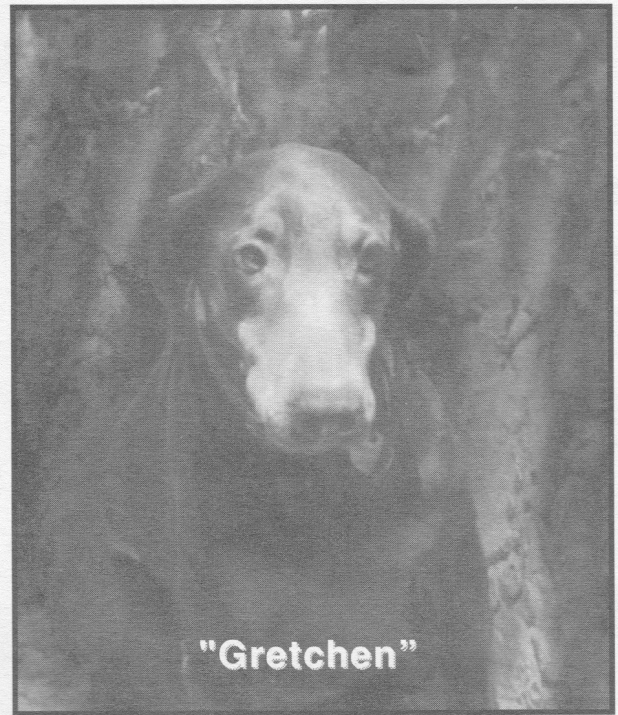
On the cover: "**Rusty**" - Red female, nine years old- The most beautiful of our older dogs; social with all other dogs, housebroken, well-mannered, good off leash, good watchdog. Enormous bark is very intimidating. This dog loves water.



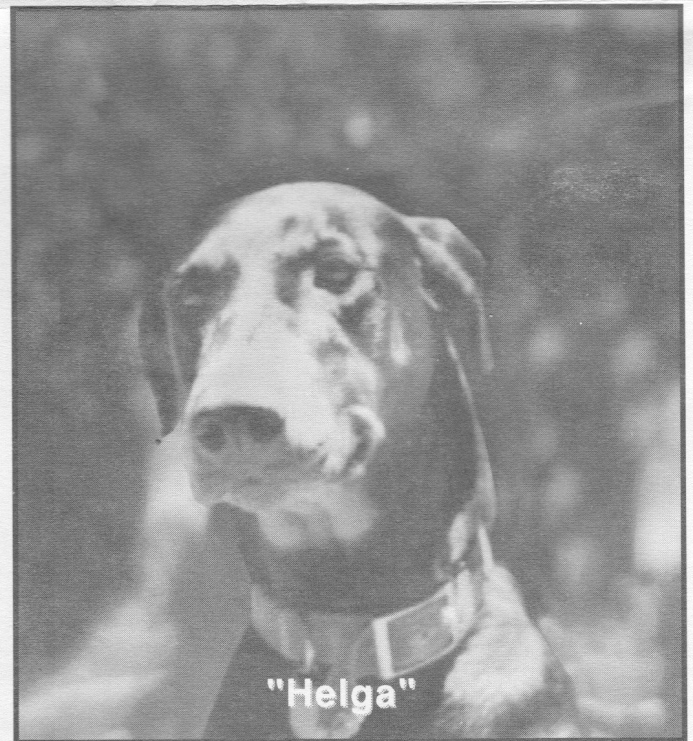
**"Duchess"** - Red female, 8-9 years old. Housebroken and very social with other dogs; good off leash. In rescue program for two years.



**"Raven"** - Black female, 8-9 years old. Social with other dogs for the most part; happy, winning personality. Poorly cropped ears. Has waited two years for a home.

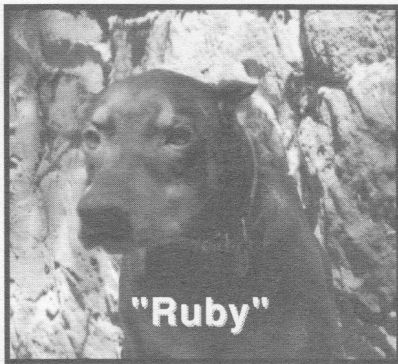


**"Gretchen"** - Red female, 7-9 years old. Housebroken and social with other dogs, no kids. Active, good off leash; **very** protective, the best guard dog in the program. Returned 4 years after adoption because her owner moved.

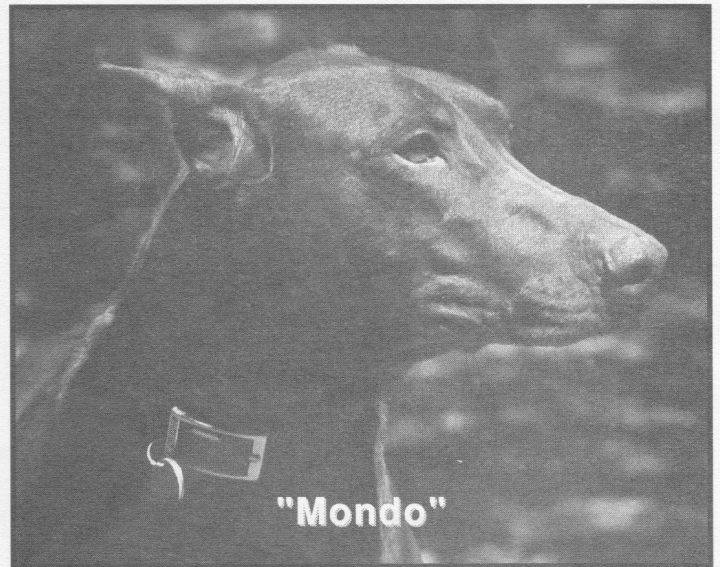


**"Helga"** - Black female, 8-10 years old. Social with most other dogs; active and demanding. Poorly cropped ears. Three years in the rescue program.





**"Ruby"** - Red female, 7-8 years old. Housebroken, dominant with other dogs but can coexist if necessary. Active, good off leash. Returned 4 years after adoption due to a move.



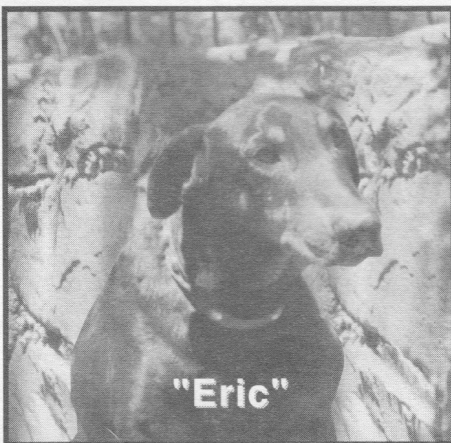
**"Mondo"** - Red male, 8-9 years old. Has waited for a home for three years. Active, loves children, good off leash. Needs to be an only dog, though.



**"Fritz"** - Red male, 9-10 years old. Has been in rescue program for 3 1/2 years. Nice personality; gives a "full-body wag;" must be an only dog. Very undemanding, happy with a dog house and daily meal.



**"Lorenzo"** - Red male, 8-10 years old. Must be an only dog. Obedience trained, a "gentleman Doberman." New in rescue program (animal shelter said he was five years old).



**"Eric"** - Black male, 7-9 years old - Social with female dogs. Affectionate and undemanding. Only in the rescue program a few months (represented by animal shelter as being a much younger dog).



**"Heidi"** - Red female, 8-10 years old. Social with all other dogs. Not good off leash. In rescue program for two years. (The animal shelter said she was two years old.)



## EASTER MIRACLE

This is the story about a dog named Easter, so named because he miraculously survived the night and slowly began to regain his health on Easter Sunday morning.

Easter was rescued from the pound in Santa Ana, which does not vaccinate any of the stray dogs it impounds. By the time we received Easter and vaccinated him, he had already been exposed to distemper. Over the course of the next few weeks, his condition went from bad to worse while being treated with the strongest antibiotics available.

Most dogs who are infected with distemper do not survive. Of those that do, there is often such terrible neurological damage that the dog is left blind, deaf, subject to major seizures throughout its lifetime, etc. Probably the worst disease a dog can get.

The night before Easter, the dog Easter was so depleted that I opted to begin subcutaneous feeding, which means to inject fluids and nutrients under the dog's skin through an assembly of bags of solution, tubes and needles. After hooking up the necessities and preparing to treat the dog, I was horrified to see the

life-saving fluid leaking out of the tubes and falling on the ground. Mice had chewed the tubes in dozens of places, making the apparatus useless!

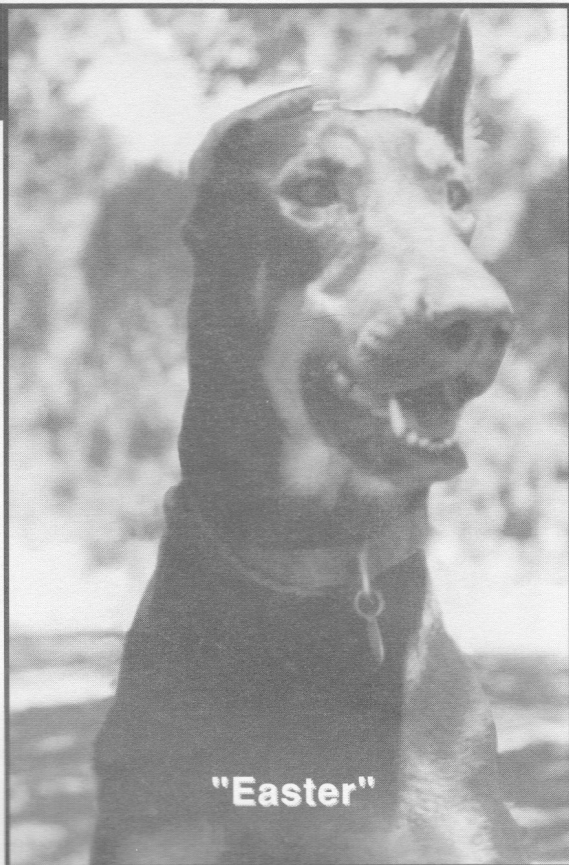
I hoped to be able to get new tubing in the morning, a very big IF, since the next day was a holiday. That night, though, I used the biggest syringe I could find and filled it, time and time again, with the solution, injecting Easter with the fluids the best way I knew how until it could be done properly.

I said a prayer before going to bed, knowing this beautiful two-year-old Doberman would either be dead in the morning, or he would be better.

Easter morning, he was standing!! I called friend and volunteer Paulette Michel of Sylmar, who works for a hospital, explaining our plight. She was not working that day, she said, so she could not get the supplies, but she could deliver them. Then I called friend Tricia Kohl of Santa Ana, the volunteer who had originally rescued and delivered Easter to us in the first place. She also works for a hospital, and she was "on call," so she could get the supplies but could not deliver them. Tricia got our stuff and sent her daughter, Carrie, to meet Paulette and her daughter in Los Angeles, and they brought it the rest of the way to us on Easter morning.

Easter immediately got a subcutaneous feeding, then another two later in the day. The next day he had several more such feedings, and by the next day, he was drinking broth on his own! Likewise the next day, and by the following day he was drinking a gruel I concocted in the blender made of rice, broth, vitamins and electrolytes. After several days, he began to eat food again; first rice and cottage cheese, then rice and dog food, and ultimately, dog food.

Today Easter is in a play group in our kennels, waiting for his own home. He needs to be placed with another dog (or several dogs) because he probably will always need to be an outside dog; the distemper's only apparent damage is to his urinary system, so he drinks enormous amounts of water and consequently urinates enormously (this may not be permanent). He is quite beautiful, with tall ears, and a happy personality. We believe he would work well with kids, and he is very social with other dogs. And his survival was nothing short of a miracle.





## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Every now and then stories come to our attention about dogs that have done things that are, quite simply, unbelievable. Sometimes these things appear to involve reasoning on the dog's part. Other times they are things that involve capabilities dogs have that people do not have. A classic example of the latter has been described in *Dobie Doings* before: the dog Dawn, our seizure alert dog. Dawn was trained to immobilize her master when she was about to have a seizure and not to release her until the seizure had ended. Training accounted for her behavior in these situations, but the "believe it or not" part was her knowing when a seizure was about to occur! Somehow she knew, and no one else did. Last year the Los Angeles Times reported a story about a West Hills woman, Ellen Ottenberg, who was rushed to the hospital to give birth. Her three Dobermans, Trouper, Shandy and Schon, apparently escaped through the front door while husband Ed's back was turned and traveled to the Humana West Hills Hospital some distance away. They had never been out before and had never been walked anywhere near the hospital. But there they were, in the emergency room, when Ed

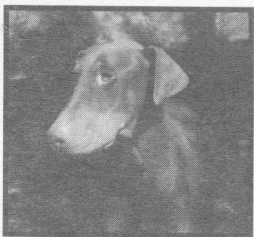
was reunited with them. How did they know where to go?

Another Los Angeles Times story reported that an Irish Setter named Lyric saved owner Judi Bayly's life by dialing 911 on the telephone. Judi has a breathing disorder, and when her oxygen mask came loose, Lyric first tried to rouse her and then knocked the receiver off a phone and bumped a speed dial button three times to dial 911. And Irish Setters are supposed to be among the least gifted of dogs with respect to intelligence.

We want to hear some of your "believe it or not" stories. We already have a few of your amazing fido feats and will devote another newsletter page to this fascinating subject.

**Item:** A senior black female Doberman was found in Van Nuys in mid-June wearing a Dobie Rescue I.D. tag.

Unfortunately, the tag was very old and the tag number had been inactivated in our records, perhaps due to the owner moving to a new address and not informing us. If any of you know who this dog might be, please contact us immediately. Distinguishing features: cropped ears, a wart below one eye, and moderate Wobbler's symptoms.



### I want to support Doberman Pinscher Rescue!

I am making the following contribution:

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

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

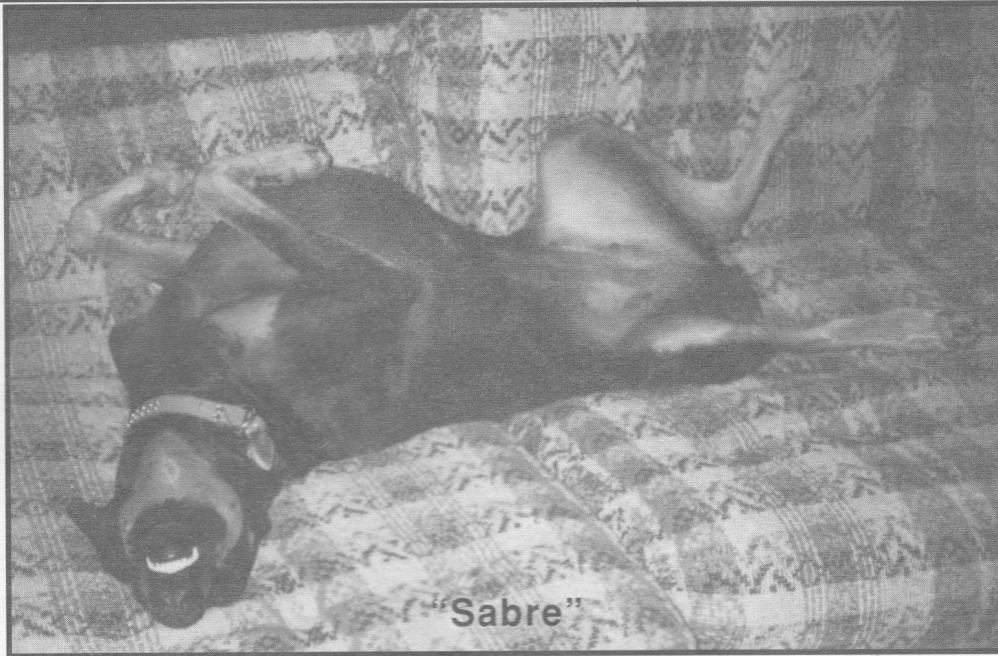
I cannot contribute money right now. I would like to support

by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your contribution  
Your contribution is tax deductible (Federal I.D. #77-0357865)



## PARTING SHOTS...



Do you have a dog that smiles? Send us a photo! "Smiling" is frightening to some people, who don't know that the dog is not baring its teeth, but is actually being submissive. The dog pictured here is Sabre,

owned by Karen Ledahl of Simi Valley. This photo was one of the finalists in our big photo contest last year, but was not one of those drawn out of a hat at the end. Isn't she cute?

### IN OUR NEXT ISSUES:

- To crop or not to crop?
- Training tips.
- Raffle

### Doberman Pinscher Rescue



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