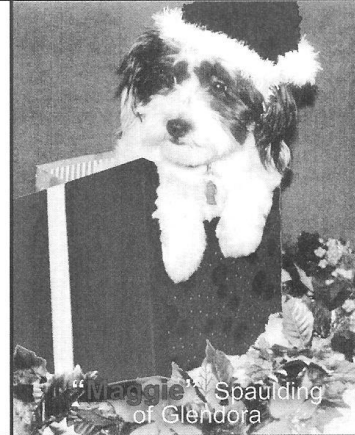


"Dobie Doings"



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Another year is almost over as of this writing. It hasn't been a good year for a great many people. We hope very few of you are experiencing the most drastic effects of this country's terrible recession.

Your donations and gifts have continued unabated, and for that we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We couldn't continue to provide for the many animals in our care without your help and support.

Dear friend and adopter Paula Cwikly will be having the 11th annual Deck the Halls With Bones and Balls holiday party at her home in Toluca Lake on Sunday, December 20th, beginning at 5 p.m. Every year this occasion has proven to be a very enjoyable evening of great company, good food, drinks, and holiday spirit. Paula asks only that each guest bring a nice gift for our dogs. If you can attend the party, please RSVP her at pcwikly1@earthlink.net, or if you don't have internet, you can call her at 818-985-5698.

If we don't see you at the party to wish you Happy Holidays in person, please enjoy the blessings of the season with our hugs and warmest wishes.

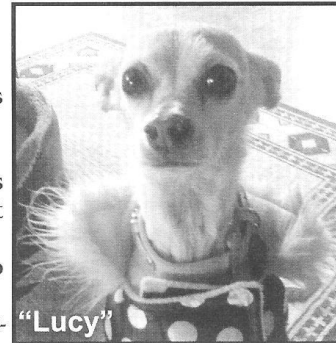
Sincerely,
Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

Two little dogs featured in our last newsletter were adopted and are loving life right now!

IVORY,

our gentle little Chihuahua mix, made her new home with Tracy Schamber in Fillmore. Her new name is Lucy, and she sometimes goes to work with Tracy. The teens she works with love her. At home she has other doggies to hang out with, who were adopted from us by Tracy's roommate.



CHARLIE,

our 6-pound lapdog, was adopted by Karyl Fischer of Port Hueneme. She recently forwarded to us an e-mail from him:

"Hello, dear friends from 'Lil Paws! It's me Jake, aka Charlie. I have adjusted very well in my new home with Karyl and I get to have 3 walks a day! I have a snuggly bed and I enjoy my milk bones! I have met many friends on my block and I have a crush on Cha Cha! Love to all!"



"Jake" with Karyl

A RESCUER'S PLEA

About three decades ago, there was one Doberman Pinscher rescuer I knew of in Southern California (Nina Culver), and her kennel was always full. I was a volunteer for a large animal shelter (every Saturday for twelve years), and I used to buy the occasional Doberman for her and deliver it.

In 1987, I acquired the ranch property where our present Dobies & Little Paws kennel is located, and I began rescuing Dobermans, and later, little dogs. That made two Doberman rescue kennels, both of which were always full.

Some years later, Rita Whipple decided to go all out rescuing them also, even though it required selling her lovely Arcadia property and buying a kennel in Sun Valley so she could legally rescue a lot more dogs. That made three Doberman rescue kennels, all of which were always full.

Finally, Susan Schionning also opted to rescue Dobermans, especially those with special needs. She had to sell her California City property, buy acreage in Tehachapi, and build her kennels. That made FOUR Doberman rescue kennels of size in Southern California, and ALL of us are always full.

This fact began to be deeply troubling to me. It seems to me that we don't need more kennels to house dogs; we need more permanent homes to ADOPT them!

During the summer months, which are usually quite slow, we had wonderful adoptions, and we had the illusion that – just as in the past – we were almost “keeping up” with the supply of homeless Dobermans. About the beginning of September, though, when traditionally adoptions began to really pick up, we've had the opposite experience this year. At the same time, the supply of dogs at all of the shelters has skyrocketed, due partly to the horrible foreclosure situation.

It is crushingly depressing to me that so many wonderful dogs don't have a chance at adoption because of the enormous supply of animals suddenly being relinquished. We're also aware that many of the dogs being destroyed are probably better dogs (younger, healthier, with fewer behavioral problems) than many of those we are already housing at our facility. When we decided to be a no-kill facility, it was partially because we realized that our job would be much too emotionally devastating if we had to put our sweet old friends to sleep just because they got old, or didn't like cats, other dogs, strangers, or whatever.

This newsletter has an official mailing list of about 5,000 homes, plus many more folks who are now able to read it on the internet. If just our 5,000 would each speak to 10 people (coworkers, friends, relatives, neighbors), that would make 50,000 contacts. If even one-tenth of one per cent (that's one out of a thousand) of these contacts resulted in the adoption of a dog, fifty dogs would have new homes. That's almost a third of our population!

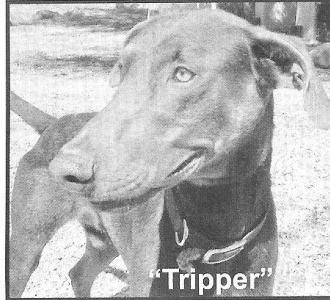
The young and the beautiful usually don't have to stay long. Those that need homes most desperately are Dobermans with long tails, dogs of any breed who have to be the only dog, the average-looking ones, the middle-aged ones, and dogs with occasional behavioral problems.

Remember the old saying: "You can't win if you're not playing." Will you please speak to ten people?

WAITING FOR HOMES

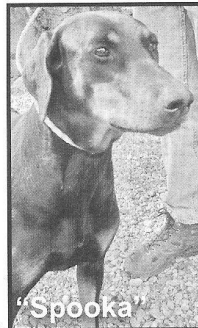
TRIPPER

has a pretty face but unfortunately not a pretty coat. It's typical for that of blue Dobies: patchy and not shiny. He also has a long tail, and he prefers not to live with any other dogs, though he can be walked around other dogs without much reaction. Tripper is a happy pleaser of a dog who has been with us for almost two years.



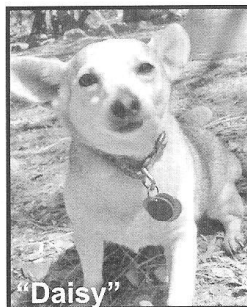
SPOOKA

is one of a batch of six littermates we got in from a so-called breeder. Unfortunately, the woman waited until they were 18 months old and animal control was after her for having too many dogs. She didn't spay or neuter any of them, didn't socialize them, and didn't dock their tails. Spooka is the most dog-social female. She's also a very good watchdog, born 7-4-07.



DAISY

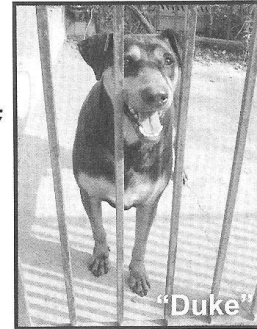
came back to us a number of years after she was adopted because her family moved. She's 7 years old now, but very dog-social and kid-social also, though the family



said she sometimes nips when she's crabby. Daisy misses her family badly, and her sad little whimpers are heartbreaking. She's a very soft-coated Corgi mix.

DUKE

has waited over 3 years for his own home. He's good with kids and he's obedient; a really happy dog who loves to please, and that, of course, makes him a shelter favorite. Duke is about 3 1/2 years old, he's a mix of Doberman and Shar Pei, and he probably needs to be the only dog in the home.



RACHEL

has been with us for over a year, mostly because of her unfortunate ear crop. She's 3-4 years old now, and she's a kennel favorite, though she is unfortunately not thought to be good with other dogs.



BUCKY

is a new arrival in our program, but he's deserving of a good home after spending most of his life tied up outside a mobile home. When he was allowed inside, the family said he was house-broken and fine with the kids. He's a wiry-haired Terrier mix, about 4 years old, who weighs about 15 pounds.





"Rudy" and "Kylie" Mandigo of Bonita, with Cindy

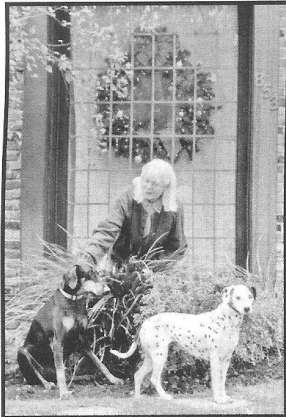


"Woody" Lemon of Thousand Oaks, with Jenna and Karlie



"Max" and "Bella"

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



"Aegis" and "Susie" Nichols of Los Angeles, with Mary



"Osa" and "Larry" Booth, Of Oak View



"Remy" Smith of Oxnard



"Cody" and "Xena" Rogers of Ventura



"Mister" Magdaleno of Santa Paula, with Cali



"Tater," "Bumbles," and "Leo" Gapen of Los Osos, with Louise



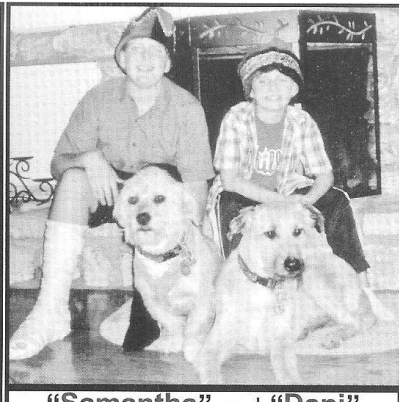
Tice of Santa Barbara



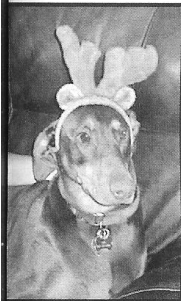
"Marley" Low of Fillmore



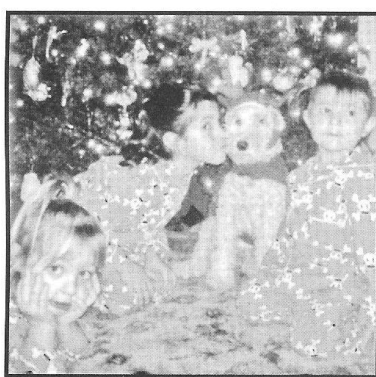
"Quigley" Greene of Carlsbad



"Samantha" and **"Dani"** Hughes of Ventura, with Bradley & Joshua



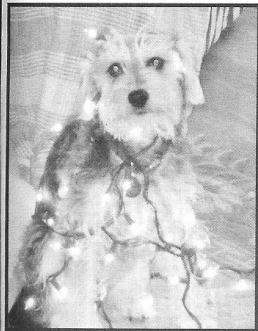
"Gir" Phillippe of Ventura



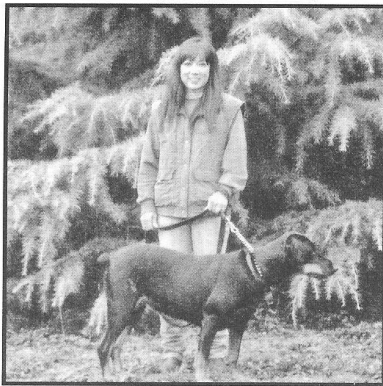
"Madi" Memoly of Aliso Viejo, with Lauren, Kendall, and Charlotte



"Mickey" and **"Heidi"** Strehler-Desmond of Torrance, with Marianne Strehler



"Eddie" Jaso-Pfeiffer of Penn Valley



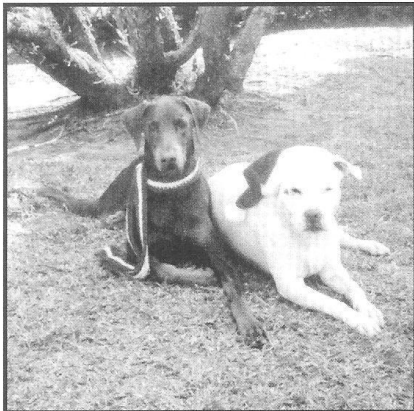
"Dazy" Brown of Brush Prairie, WA, with Dana



"Pepsi" Setler of Los Angeles



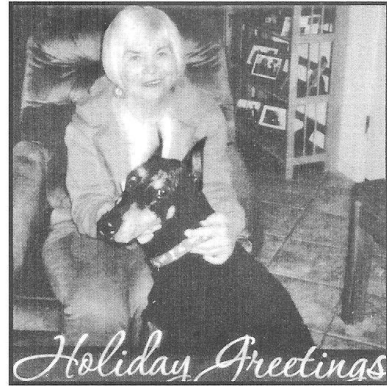
"Zeus" and **"Pandora"** Gray of Brentwood, with Sean, Roni, Chara, and Santa



"Barkley" and "Bailey" Cohn
of Villa Park



"Bailey" Saxton of
Riverside, with Liz



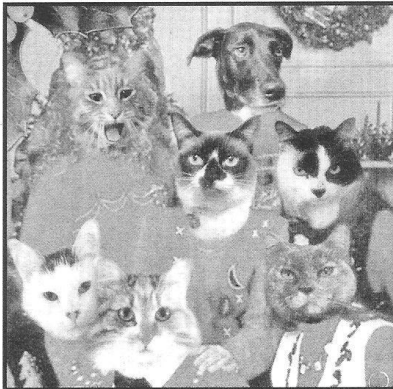
"Cochise" Kozlowski
of Oxnard, with Gloria



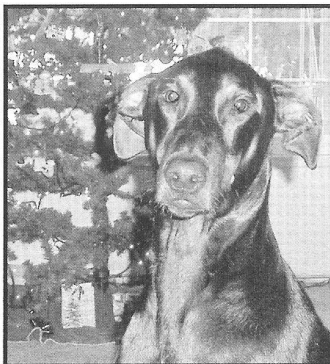
"Wrigley" Doyle of Visalia, with **"Maelee,"**
"Carmel," and **"Kali"** the cat



"Jasmin" and "Jacob"
Dominski-Curlee of Encinitas



"Serena" Elbermannfeld of
Woodland Hills, with feline friends



"Nikko" Baca of Ventura



"T-Rex" DiMarco
of Thousand Oaks



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 or MasterCard!

Card # _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Please return this form with your contribution
Your contribution is tax deductible (Federal I.D. #77-0357865)
100% of your contribution goes directly to benefit the animals.
We also have PayPal and we're still accepting most donated cars.

IT'S ALL ABOUT ATTITUDE

So often we receive dogs from owners, or get dogs returned that we've placed in good homes, because of some problem behavior. We always feel obliged to tell new prospective adopters of these dogs about their previous behaviors, but it's common for these dogs to behave completely differently in the next home. Why?

A lot of it has to do with the new owner's attitude: confidence level, calmness, and other unspoken cues the dog can pick up on that tell him whether he's finally home.

We recently had a beautiful young red male Doberman named Dinozo relinquished by his mildly-handicapped female owner because she had intended to use him as a service dog, but she found him completely unsuitable. When he saw other dogs on leash, he lunged at them, and if she tried to restrain him, he turned around and "mouthed" her. This made her very anxious, and she transmitted that anxiety to him.

Soon after receiving Dinozo we had a call about him from Hugo Sosa Najera of Agua Dulce, who is the mobile dog groomer for Cesar Millan. He exuded confidence about his ability with dogs, and he said that, if he couldn't work out Dinozo's behavioral problems, Cesar most definitely could. He took the dog home that day, and a few weeks later, we received pictures of his family with Dinozo, one of which is shown in the next column.



FRISKY FRISCO, ONCE AGAIN

About a year ago, Frisco and his brother came in to our shelter as puppies, not yet four months old. Probably Whippet mixes, they were saved by a Good Samaritan who thought they were too good to have to take their chances at an animal shelter.

For unknown reasons, Frisco stayed several months at our shelter, spending most of it in our cattery. He was a happy boy who got along with the cats and the other little dogs residing together. Finally we placed him with an owner whose name shall not be mentioned (we'll call him X), who signed our Adoption Agreement, as all our adopters do, promising to give vet care when needed, etc.



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Many months later, X was riding his bicycle one day, accompanied by Frisco, who was on a long, makeshift leash resembling a shoelace. As another Good Samaritan watched, X (who was reportedly quite inebriated) dropped the shoelace and Frisco ran into the road and was hit by an F-150 truck. Horrified, the Good Samaritan, Michael Gattuso of Santa Clarita, picked Frisco up and determined that he was miraculously still alive though badly injured, and asked X what he planned to do. X said he would take Frisco home.

Michael insisted that Frisco should be seen by a vet right away, so X basically told Michael he could have the dog. Michael then took him to an emergency vet, who determined that Frisco had a broken wrist on a front leg and severe road rash on a rear leg. It wasn't known if he had internal injuries. Fortunately, he also had a microchip, which came back to us.

Frisco overnighted at Michael's home and we received a call the next morning. When Michael offered to bring Frisco to us from Santa Clarita, we asked him to deliver him directly to our vet instead, where he was x-rayed, splinted, bandaged, and medicated. He spent a couple of days there and began to feel much better!

It so happened that Michael knew someone who might be interested in adopting Frisco. A

few days later, Patricia Lewis of Woodland Hills and her family came to meet him. They decided to adopt him, so we have been covering his vet bills, and they have been dutifully taking him to our vet for rechecks and resplinting as necessary. In a phone conversation with Patricia on October 19, Frisco had just had his splint removed and was back to his usual bouncy and happy self.

In this season of gift-giving and being thankful for our blessings and loved ones, we should remember Good Samaritans like Michael, who give of their time and resources to help those who can't help themselves; people who get involved. In other words, the caring, who make up for the uncaring.

