

"Bailey" Mocniak
of San Clemente

"Dobie Doings"

Happy ❄️ Holidays!

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Here it is, nearly holiday season again! It seems incredible that a whole year has passed since we sent you these greetings the last time. We hope this holiday season is the happiest and healthiest ever for you and your loved ones of all species. Our centerfold is again devoted to your holiday photos from previous years. Keep those pictures coming!

In our last issue, the centerfold was devoted to harder-to-place dogs seeking foster or permanent homes. We prefer to view the glass as half full rather than half empty, so we are pleased to say that of the eleven dogs featured, four are now in happy PERMANENT homes. One in particular, Fletcher, made us ecstatic because he had waited 7 years for his own home. (His story follows.)

We are occasionally asked what percentage of each donation dollar made to Dobie Rescue is used to directly benefit the animals. Many charities have been embarrassed to admit that only ten to twenty cents of every dollar donated actually helps those it is designed to help; the rest goes for "administrative" costs. We are pleased to state that 100% of every dollar donated to Dobie Rescue is used for the animals' food, veterinary bills, animal shelter purchase fees, vaccines, collars and tags, etc. No one draws a salary or compensation of any kind, nor is anything ever spent for entertainment, telephone, or any other discretionary expenses.

We are also now equipped to accept credit card payments, either for new adoption donations or for general charitable contributions. Our next project is to establish a web page on the Internet. We have

already had several kind offers to assist us with this important endeavor, so we'll keep you updated.

Once again, HAPPY, HAPPY HOLIDAYS from all of us at Dobie Rescue!!

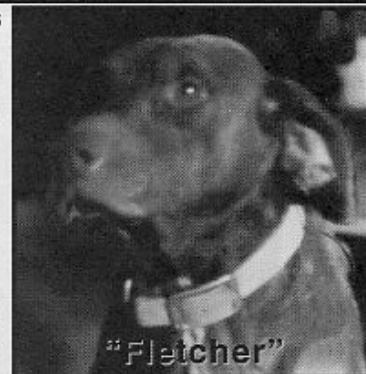
Sincerely,
Ardis Munck

FINALLY FLETCHER

It wasn't that he was a bad dog that he spent 7 years waiting for his own home. He just had several strikes against him.

First, he wasn't quite a Doberman. The volunteer who rescued him for us in the first place had an unskilled eye, and to her he looked like one. After she brought him here from the animal shelter, we couldn't send him back; his sweet face and winning disposition made that not an option.

Second, he was quite the acrobat. A six-foot chain link fence wasn't even a challenge to him; he would get a running start and fling himself against one side of his play area, several feet off the ground, and from there jump the rest of the way to freedom. Not that he wanted to GO anywhere, he just hated confinement.



"Fletcher"

Third, he was AWFUL with small animals. No cat, squirrel, rabbit, duck, or any other small animal was safe with Fletcher around. Not his fault. His instincts just told him that if it was small and it ran, he had to catch it.

When we ran Fletcher's picture in our last issue of *Dobie Doings*, it caught the eye and the heart of Leslie Ewing of Lake Hughes. Leslie had adopted "Annie," formerly called "Witch" by her previous owner, from us years ago, and loved and tolerated her through a long mellowing-out period where she progressed from being a maniacal, dog-aggressive canine to being a much more pleasant dog to own.

Leslie works for a plant nursery with average fencing topped with extra wire to discourage intruders. Her thought was that Fletcher could stay there with her every day and spend the nights chasing things on the several acres of enclosed property. One visit there, though, told us that the fence was probably inadequate to contain this pole-vaulter at night, and we all worried about what would happen if it didn't.

We left Fletcher there on the condition that he would be contained at night, either in a large kennel carrier, or inside a building. What ACTUALLY happened is that Leslie took Fletcher home with her where he slept on her waterbed that first night, and he has slept in her house every night since! He goes to work every day and gets love and many hugs from customers and visitors of all ages. And Annie the Witch even likes him!

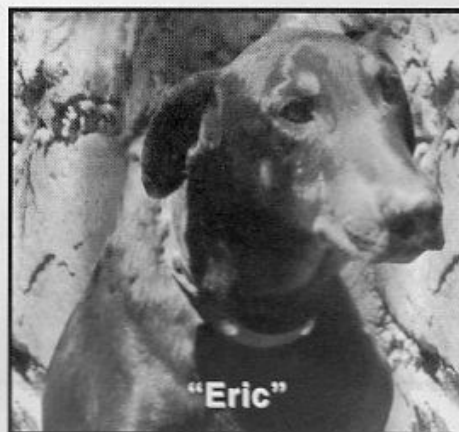
Now that Fletcher has found this kind of home, we hope he lives to be twenty to enjoy it!!



"PINKY," the little Yorkie-Poo, found a wonderful home with Sue Moore of Toluca Lake. We paid Sue a visit and found Pinky, now "Puccini," looking fat, happy, clean, and very bonded to Sue. She was never out of his line of vision the entire time we were there.

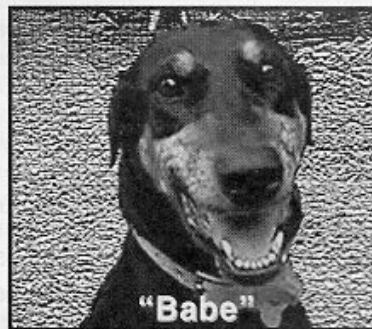
An excerpt from Sue's September 17th letter: "He made his presence into the family not as the newcomer, further down the food chain, but as

Numero Uno. Within days, he quickly got with the program barking at the gardeners, mailman, knowing when it was breakfast time or where the treat drawer is. . . . Daily, we either go to the park or for a walk. He's now the first one in the car! He runs from window to window, head hanging out, wind blowing in his face not wanting to miss anything. He's a little love whether I'm on the sofa or in bed, a great cuddler. . . . He really tickles my heart and I'm very glad that he's a part of my life."



"ERIC," the older "gentleman" Dobie, is another happy adoptee. He lives now with John and Dona Bailey of Camarillo. This lovely couple had adopted a female from us three years prior and decided their home could accommodate another dog. We have been receiving rave reviews about what a perfect dog Eric is!

"BABE," the senior dog returned to us years after being adopted because of a move to a no-pets apartment, now lives with Shirley Caramella and Jerry Primm of Hemet, where she is being spoiled rotten by this retired couple who enjoy hand feeding their pet all kinds of yummy things. She has assumed the role of resident princess just fine, thank you.



BAD NEWS!! BABE IS BACK
(She made some mistakes in the house.)

Still Waiting for Homes

That leaves the seven dogs from our last issue, plus about eighty-five other deserving dogs, who would love their own foster or permanent home. Two of these eighty-five, "Joey" and "Twiggy," deserve special mention because their circumstances struck a chord with us. Maybe you or someone you know can help?



"Cutie"

"**CUTIE**" is an older Dobie who is friendly to all people, but simply cannot share his abode with any other dogs. He knows several commands and is quite obedient in doing whatever is asked of him.



"Geronimo"

"**GERONIMO**" is an older red male Dobie who can tolerate other dogs that don't try to dominate him. He is housebroken and is recommended for an adult home.



"Moby"

"**MOBY**" is an older red male Dobie who ranks high on the list of length of time dogs have waited for a home. Quite a few years in his case. He can live with a female dog and is very affable.



"Peg"

"**PEG**" is a younger Dobie we rescued with a very badly broken front leg. After three castings, it eventually healed well enough that she puts weight on it but still walks with a very pronounced limp. She's great with other dogs and seems to be housebroken.



"Roscoe"

"**ROSCOE**" is a middle-aged, very mellow and very sweet Corgi mix who gets along with everything and has no bad habits that we're aware of (except we don't think he's housebroken).



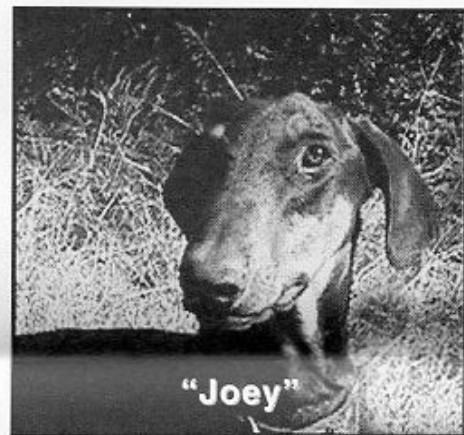
"Tara"

"**TARA**" is a middle-aged red female Dobie who is not particularly attractive, with many calluses and a thick body style. She is good with other dogs and cats, though, and has no bad habits we're aware of.



"Tiny"

"**TINY**" is probably a mixture of Doberman, Bassett Hound and Sheltie. She's three or four years young, mellow, good off leash, and should be fine with kids of all ages and other dogs.



"Joey"

"**Joey**" was physically abused as a puppy. Specifically, his skull was fractured with a blunt object such as a baseball bat, prior to age 4 months. He and his siblings were turned in to an animal shelter, where all but he were adopted. No one wanted Joey because of the wounds on his head and his misshapen skull. No one except Mr. & Mrs. Bill Dame of Lancaster. These marvelous folks adopted Joey and cared for him for seven months, at which point their pre-existing dogs began to have serious differences of opinion with Joey, and they felt it better for Joey to have his own home than to put him through additional stress.

The Dames sought us out, and, after considerable questioning to make sure that we were worthy caretakers of Joey, surrendered him to us. Joey is now one year old, housebroken, good with dogs, cats, and older kids, not a problem barker; a happy, obedient dog who needs a gentle, loving home that can overlook his unusual looks and treat him well.

Happy Holidays from all of us at Doberman Pinscher Rescue



"Alex" & "Gillis" Cwikly
of North Hollywood, with friends



"Boone" Bell of Simi Vall



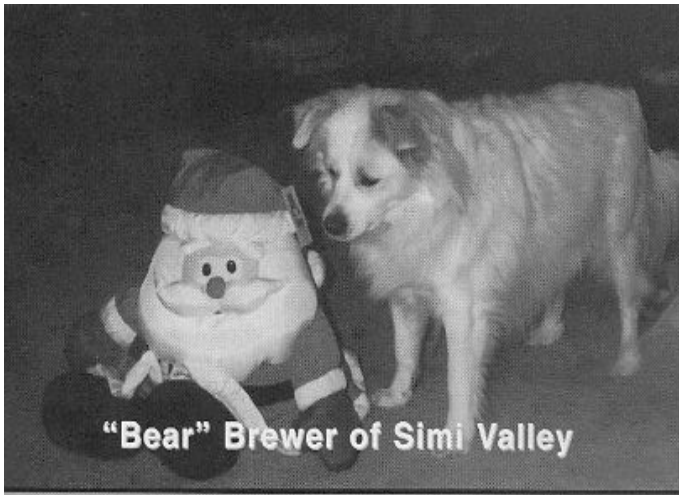
"Thor" Williams of Van Nuys
(deceased)



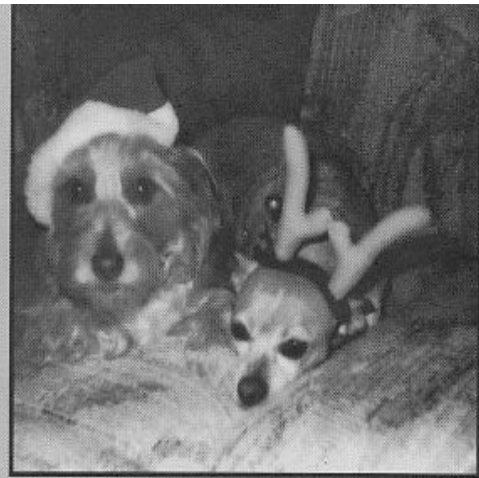
"Simon Templar" Powell
of Long Beach



"Shadow"
Osos



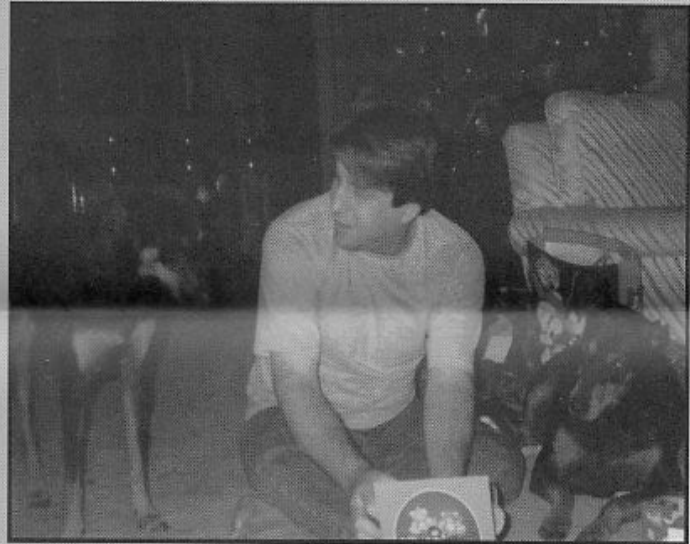
"Bear" Brewer of Simi Valley



**"Amber" & "Tinkerbell"
Contant of Santa Clarita**



**"Charlie" Mayer of Camarillo,
with owner Joan**



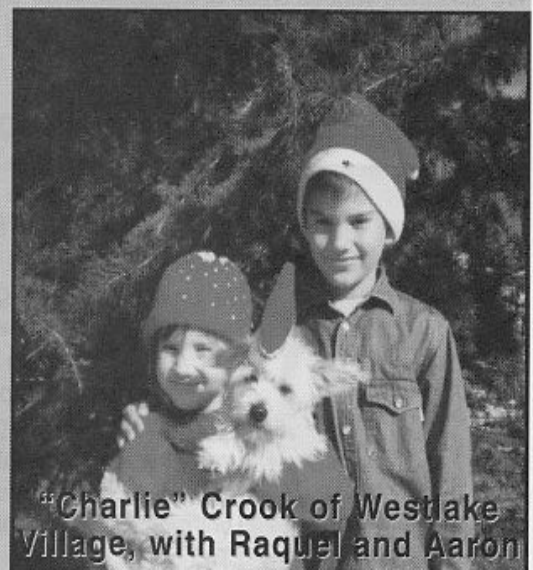
**"Weezner" & "Higgins" Heicklen of
Tarzana with owner Michael**



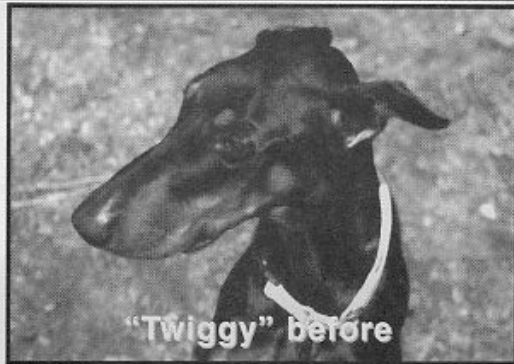
**pen of Los
h Lizzy**



**"Kramer" Goldman of Los
Angeles**



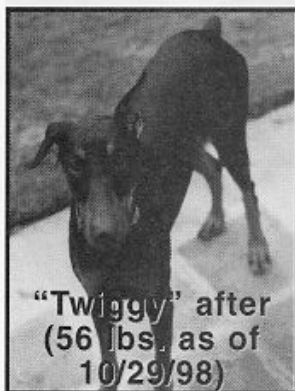
**"Charlie" Crook of Westlake
Village, with Raquel and Aaron**



"Twiggy" was an animal shelter rescue. When we first saw Twiggy, she looked like a skeleton with hair, and a sign on her kennel said "Keep Alone — Food Fighter." That is not a death sentence in our world, so we brought her in, wormed her, and gave her a feeder full of dog food. She weighed 36 pounds. About a week later she looked no better, so we began feeding her small meals with a little canned dog food mixed with dry so that we could monitor how much she was eating. (She was eating a LOT!) We took a fecal sample to the vet, which tested negative.

At this point, we began to spend serious money on Twiggy for blood work and various tests to determine why she looked emaciated and lacked energy. We also tried various types of medications for internal parasites, just in case the fecal analysis had missed something.

Finally, after about six weeks of getting nowhere, our Riverside volunteer, Maggie Cecil, came out to bring us a dog from a shelter in her area. Maggie at that time worked for a vet and was not currently fostering any dogs for us, so we convinced Maggie to take Twiggy home to keep her warm at night (the nights were beginning to get chilly) and to get her vet/employer's opinion on Twiggy.



His opinion was that Twiggy might be having trouble absorbing protein in her diet. He put her on a prescription dog food, a mixture of canned and dry, several small meals a day, and within days she was showing marked improvement. Within a week, she was playing and acting like a totally different dog. Less than a month later, she weighed 51 pounds!

Twiggy still lives in her foster home with Maggie but is now ready for a special permanent home seeking an indoor dog, with no resident cats. Her food costs several times the price of regular good-quality dog food, but she is a delightful youngster (about one to 1 1/2 years old; her ears are cropped, though one does not stand) who is compatible with other dogs and kids and is fairly well housebroken.

"ALPHA" DOGS

Perhaps the single most serious behavioral problem with Dobermans, and indeed many other types of dogs as well, is "alpha" dog behavior. Loosely translated, this means the dog is a dominant individual who prefers to be in control of all other beings in its environment, even, sometimes, its human owners.

Certain breeds are more likely to be dominant in general than others, but individual dog behavior within a breed can vary widely. Many Dobermans, for example, are so passive that they will let any other being, even a tiny Chihuahua or young child, be dominant. Conversely, a typically un-dominant breed such as Golden Retriever or Beagle, can have some very dominant individuals who are every bit as "alpha" as the most dominant dogs in a typical "alpha" breed.

There is enough information on this subject to fill books, but a little overview seems appropriate for such a large audience of dog owners.

First of all, it is obviously a good idea to select a dog whose temperament is well suited to its environment. Some people prefer to start with a puppy for this reason. They have the idea that the dog can then be raised correctly and its personality can be molded to the environment it has to exist in. The downside of getting a puppy is that very little is known about how "alpha" this dog by nature is. Many dogs don't reach their psychological maturity until well after one year.

Adopting an adult animal can give a clearer picture of how the dog's personality will be. Naturally, adult dogs come complete with their own unique set of semi-engrained behaviors, both good and bad. People appreciate and

enjoy the good behaviors, but the bad ones can stand in the way of a dog being adopted or can ruin an adoptive home after one has been found.

Dobie Rescue believes it is well equipped to recommend certain individual animals for the situations they will find themselves in. We have the reputation of being quite good at this, but, as always, every situation is different. A dog who is fairly submissive to a dominant owner can be a monster with a weak, indulgent owner, and a dog who gets along well with other correctly-matched dogs in our facility may bully and attack a family's resident pooch if the dogs are not correctly matched.

Many trainers believe the dog does not benefit as much from behavioral modification as the owner does. Train the owner, they say, and the dog's problems will be resolved. As we mentioned earlier, a lot of these problems are "alpha" dog problems.

The most serious such problem, in our opinion, is when the dog actually challenges the owner. The dog should NEVER growl, snap, bite or otherwise try to intimidate the owner for any reason, not even if the owner handles the dog while it is eating. Dogs often get testy about their food, toys, and sleeping area.

Some dogs will become anxious or bite if they are apprehended by the collar or the back of the neck. Sometimes dogs will growl or bite if they are nudged while laying on the couch or the bed, or if they are required to get down.

Another very dominant behavior is when a

dog will not let another dog or person approach its owner. The dog in these cases may be assuming the "alpha" role in its "pack, even dominating its owner to the extent that it overrules the owner about who may or may not approach.

Most "alpha" dog behavior is capable of being modified or trained out completely. The owner must learn what to do to when dominant behaviors present themselves and MUST BE CONSISTENT about enforcing the rules. If the dog is allowed to "win, because it doesn't want to go out in the rain to do its business, or because it doesn't want to "come" on command because there are so many good things out there to sniff, then the dog has just learned that it can always win by using the same strategy, whether it be growling, snapping, or just being stubborn or ignoring the owner.

Children present a little different challenge. Dogs, especially sensitive breeds like Dobermans, realize that children are subordinate to adults in the home. An "alpha" dog will usually allow the adults to be dominant, but will often intimidate children, especially young children, and often in a rather unkind manner, similar to the way the same dog might intimidate another (weaker) dog. Opinions differ as to whether this can be overcome through training, or whether a dog in this situation simply has to be readopted to an adult home.

In our next issue, we will discuss a few training methods for modifying "alpha" dog behavior.



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: \$ _____

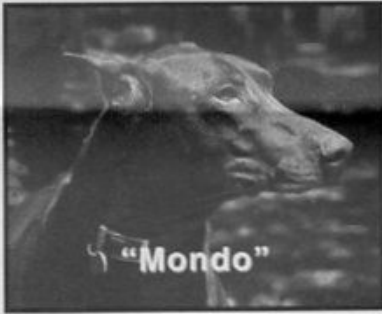
I cannot contribute money right now. I would like to support
by: _____

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

Parting Shots



It is with great sadness that we report on the passing of "Beastie," our dear Bullmastiff ranch mascot for several months. Beastie had begun to experience loss of feeling in her rear quarters for neurological reasons, which led to her ultimately not being able to get up. We miss her! ("Mondo" is now our official ranch mascot.)



WISH LIST

Since it's the holiday season and all, we thought we'd print a wish list for Dobie Rescue and maybe Santa will see it!

- #1 Homes for our dogs (permanent or foster)
- #2 New or used Dogloos (these are sometimes sold at swap meets or garage sales very cheaply)
- #3 Stainless steel bowls, all sizes, new or used
- #4 Towels and blankets, used
- #5 Supplies such as dog shampoo, collars (all sizes) & leashes, toys, etc.
- #6 Varikennels (crates), all sizes, new or used
- #7 Fencing material
- #8 Sturdy mats and beds
- #9 Volunteer groomers and dog walkers
- #10 Grooming table, bathtub, & clippers,
- #11 Canned dog food, rawhide chews, and pig ears
- #12 Spare change

Doberman Pinscher Rescue



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