



“Rusty” Shaw of Sanger

“Dobie Doings”



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“Leia” Hastings of Bakersfield

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

We hope you all had a lovely holiday season, as we begin another year, our twenty-eighth (!), of placing dogs in great homes. Adoptions are still a little slow (even though demand for space is high), with an occasional outstanding weekend...but now we have a new outlet for Dobermans: a rescue group in Vancouver, BC, Canada, contacted us recently, asking if we would consider allowing them to rehome some of our dogs in British Columbia. There are apparently very few Dobermans in BC, but there is significant demand for them. Recently they had a dog available on their web site, and there were over twenty applications for that dog!

We researched them to ascertain that they are like we are (no-kill, conscientious about checking out potential adopters, etc.), and we have begun a multi-state transport arrangement with them to place some of our dogs, especially those that are overlooked here for lengths of time that are unfair to some very good dogs.

This year we expect to attend the Orange County Pet Expo again, and we always enjoy seeing our friends and adopters to renew acquaintances, so say hello if you happen to find yourself there. It's scheduled for April 10-12.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to pay off a huge chunk of our outstanding vet bills! Our most current need, other than financial, is for large metal or heavy plastic trash cans with lids and large heavy plastic storage containers with lids to keep unwanted visitors out of our dog food. These items cost quite a lot to ship – probably more than the cost to purchase them in the first

place – but if local friends have any to donate, we'd be delighted to receive them.

Speaking of donations, please let us know if you require a special donation receipt for your taxes for monetary donations made during 2014. Technically, any donations of \$250 or more that you itemize for the year require a receipt indicating no goods or services were received in exchange for your donation.

Colleen's article will not be appearing in this issue as she has her hands full with a huge new challenge that we'll tell you all about in the next issue. Have a great spring, and don't forget to send us pictures of your dogs. Thank you again for everything you do.

Sincerely,
Ardis Braun

ADOPTION UPDATES

Of the nine dogs featured in our last newsletter, six were adopted!

RUGBY,

the scruffy little Terrier mix, is now called Frodo, and he lives with Suzette Smith at her beautiful hilltop property in Los Angeles. Suzette was our graphics lady for Dobie Doings for over 15 years, and she and her husband were always Doberman people, then Standard Poodle people when their kids had kids and there was fear of the scary Doberman breed. At present, Suzette has one female Doberman, one elderly male Standard Poodle, and Frodo, the new little guy, joined this group.



From Suzette's recent e-mail: "Frodo is a wonderful little dog. He is very intelligent and has a great little disposition, very quick to learn....I got him to be Twiggy's (the Doberman's) pal, and that has worked out very well, they both race up and down the property or inside the house, each with a 'baby' or stuffed toy in their mouth.... They play for hours and wear each other out.

He has an enormous prey drive and hunts side by side with Twiggy or on his own....He usually has a crust of dirt on his nose, which indicates that he is sniffing at holes and trying to get the gophers.

All the grandkids are wild about him. Sophia calls Frodo the fastest dog in the world, and she and Catalina run all around the backyard, shrieking at the top of their lungs and Frodo is racing along with them and whipping around."

So it seems as though he's loved!

SKIP,

the 11-year-old Terrier mix who was returned 8 years after adoption, now lives with the Hurd family of San Diego. They say: "Skip is doing well! He gets along great with our cats and is very sweet. We don't know why anyone would want to give him up! Our son and nephew like taking him on walks and he seems to get along with other dogs just fine.



He's managed to figure out how to climb the cat tree and eat the cat treats, so he's trained us to give them their treats separately. ;)

Thanks so much for allowing us to take him home!"

DINO,

the stunning older red male Dobie, lives with the Ferraro family of Lakewood. From John's e-mail: "Dino

has been a great addition to the family. He has transformed my wife from a non-dog person into a lover of Dobermans. His gentle disposition has been great dealing with our little girls while his masculine good looks promote countless compliments and conversations with passersby during his daily walks.



Hopefully some of those referrals turn into future adoptions of Dobermans! We couldn't have asked for a better family dog."

COOKIE,

our dainty Dobie girl, was adopted by Roxanne and KR Hughes of Ventura. Such a great update from Roxanne: "Our family included two Labradors, three cats and a leopard gecko. When our chocolate Lab succumbed to cancer in August 2014, our blonde 12-year-old Labrador (Duncan) really missed her. The kids, Ian (10) and Ella (5) also longed for a new puppy too.

However, I was in agreement with Duncan's vet that a puppy would not be a blessing to him at his age and limited mobility level. We visited the local animal shelters a few times looking for the 'right' fit – to no avail....My husband, KR,



said he always wanted to own a Doberman Pinscher. Really? OK. I know that they are smart, loyal, high-energy dogs with a very loyal following – once a Dobie owner, always a Dobie owner it seems....I Googled 'Doberman Pinscher' and immediately ended up in contact with Ardis at Dobies and Little Paws....she named a few probable candidates and encouraged us to all come out for a visit – and bring Duncan for a compatibility test. Cookie was the FIRST one we were introduced to....Impressed with her calm, loving demeanor and how well she got along with Duncan, we adopted her on the spot....She is gentle and obedient, loves kids and is amazingly SMART. Duncan fell right back into routine having a younger female to 'keep him in line,' and our family is complete again. I can truly understand why Dobie owners remain loyal to this breed – Cookie is quite a special girl. We are blessed to have been able to give Cookie a forever home and we all love her. I wish the same for the rest of the beautiful Dobermans.... Thank you, Dobies and Little Paws."

RORY,

the cute little half-pint Chihuahua, was adopted by Tisa Garrison of Victorville, but soon after that, on a visit to Henderson, Nevada, Rory (now called Precious) snuggled up to a dear elderly widower, and



Tisa opted to leave him there. She says: “Precious, the Chihuahua formerly known as Rory, has found a great new pal, Al Riley, an 88-year-old WWII veteran....Al’s beautiful wife, Gloria, passed away March 26, 2014, so Precious has filled an important companion role for Al. Precious has a huge home, grassy yard, full-time lap, live-in caregiver and ‘cousins’ who come to visit every few weeks. Thanks, again, to Doberman Rescue for providing love to our family.”

MORK,

a nice red male Dobie who spent nearly a year waiting for his forever home, was adopted just before we went to press by the Forleo family of Cupertino. Riccardo Forleo actually wanted two Dobies, so another sweet Dobie –



a very timid one needing a family to love her – went home the same day. They named her Mindy, and early reports are that Mork and Mindy

are doing well. Mork is a happy, outgoing boy, and Mindy is slowly but surely overcoming her shyness.

WAITING FOR HOMES

TRISCUIT

is a precious little Pomeranian-Chihuahua mix that we already had when we wrote the last newsletter, but she is so adoptable that we didn’t assume we’d need to advertise her at all! She’s still with us and long overdue for adoption to a wonderful home. She weighs 8 pounds and is about 3 years old.



BINGO

is a deserving black and tan female Dobie who has been with us over 1 ½ years. Initially we thought she wasn’t good with other dogs, but it turned out that she simply had no experience with them and was afraid of them. Since then, she has lived easily with various large male Dobies. Bingo also declined to walk on leash but has made progress with that as well. She is a sweet dog who is now about 7 years old, and she’s a good watchdog.

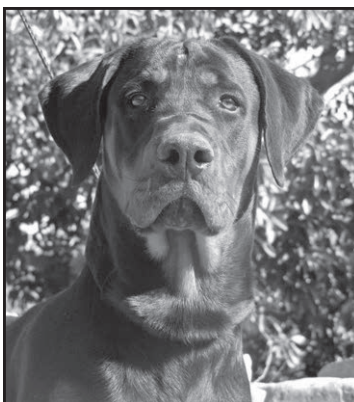


PETE

is about a year old and is one of three little guys who were abandoned when their owner moved away. A neighbor worried about them running in the street and brought them to us. All three are very sweet and dog-social. Pete resembles a Jack Russell Terrier, but he has none of the feistiness or hyperness of that breed; in fact, he’s the most submissive of the group. Pete weighs 10 pounds.



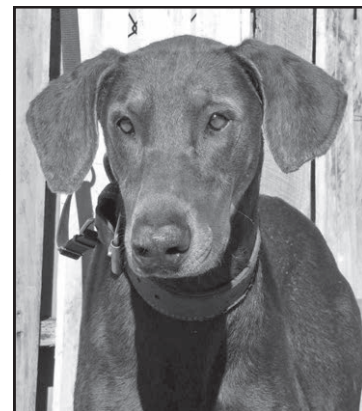
ORCA



is a BIG Dobie-Rottweiler or Dobie-Dane mix that is a favorite of our volunteers despite the fact that he isn’t good with other dogs. He’s a young dog (about 18 months), so there is still time for training to help with his leash manners and dog-to-dog behavior, but he needs a strong, committed owner to work with him.

DUKE

is one of several Dukes we have at any given time, but at present, he’s the only blue one. He’s new in our program, but he’s shown himself to be a very personable dog who gets along with other dogs and is a pretty easy keeper. He was given up by his former owners and is therefore known to be 7 years old, but his activity level and the condition of his body and teeth would suggest a dog of 3 or 4. Duke is a tall, lanky guy who enjoys his life and makes everyone smile.



HERMEY



is a scruffy little Terrier mix who is full of life, always happy and eager to greet everyone. He would be perfectly happy to be the only dog, but he does bunk with two small females and gets along with them. Hermey is about one year old and weighs under 10 pounds.

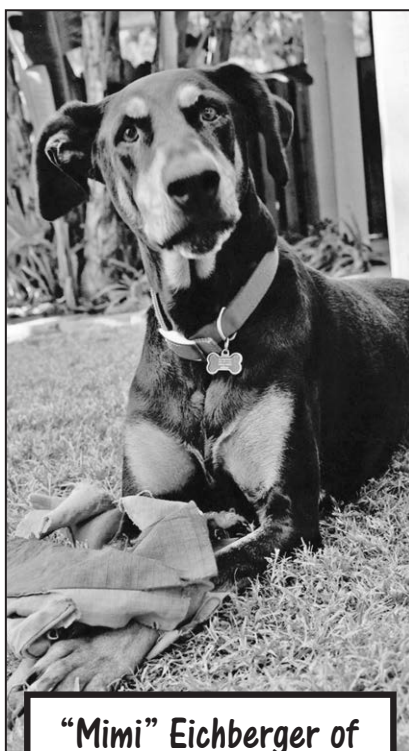


"Ida" Dunitz of Los Angeles

"Ducky" Swander of Santa Barbara



Congrats!



"Max" Ryan of Santa Barbara

"Mimi" Eichberger of Santa Rosa Valley

"Schuyler" Embree of Bellevue, WA, with Erik



They met for a reunion!

"Callie" O'Kelley of Canyon Country and "Finley" Floyd of Mission Viejo



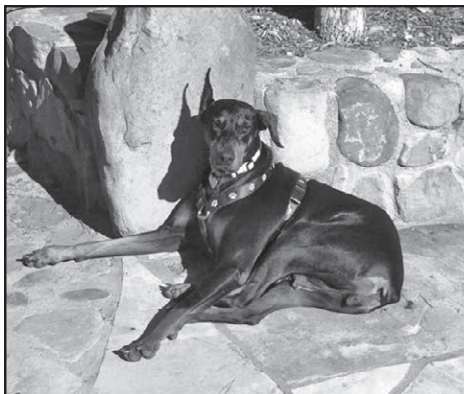
"Max" Gleason of Barstow



"Baxter" Sainz of Sun City

"Lexi" and "Montagu" Andrews of Canoga Park





**"Gwen"
Wells-
Odaka of
Los
Angeles**

**"Sheena" Lang
-Roberts of
Lake Havasu
City, AZ, with
Laura Lang**



Congrats!

**HAPPY
ADOPTTEES**



**"Blue"
Smith of
Laguna
Niguel**

**"Blue"
Scheiringer of
Long Angeles,
with Eva**



**"Woody" Lemon of
Thousand Oaks**



**"Julie" Halperin-Baker of
Los Angeles, with Andrea**



**"Sammy"
Todd of
Newhall**



**"Gabby," "Cisco," "Arnie" & "Trudy"
Seckar of Simi Valley**

"Max" and "Sadie" McAndrews of Playa del Rey



THE LOVES OF THEIR LIVES

One of the advantages of being a long-standing rescue group is the loyalty of the adopters. 2015 is our 28th year of rescuing dogs, and some of our adopters go back that far! Many of them even let us pick their dogs; how's that for trust?

There are enough stories to tell about some of these adopters to fill many issues of Dobie Doings. It's been suggested dozens of times that a book would be nice, but the prospect of writing a book seems so daunting....

One couple we've known since close to the beginning, around 1989, are Katherine and Walt Murphy. They now live in Sparks, Nevada, but at that time they lived in Oxnard, and their first Dobie from us, Zach, was a great dog but not a very social one. They loved him anyway, of course, and he lived a fairly long and happy life with them, but we vowed that the next dog would be a more social one.

While visiting with Kath and Walt, I had mentioned a wonderful, sweet older Dobie named Dudley that lived loose at the ranch, but who really deserved his own family, so we drove Dudley and Ace (a timid but social Dobie) to the Murphys in 2004, and they were "magical" for Kath; the loves of her life. Dudley lived four years, until age 13, and Ace lived until age 7 or 8.

The next dog had come to the rescue facility with a companion Doberman, so we felt comfortable saying that Ziggy would be social enough with other dogs that the Murphys wouldn't have to be too careful when and how they took him places outside the home. The female companion dog was adopted first, so Ziggy went to live with the Murphys as their only dog, but Ziggy did NOT like any other dogs. He became the consummate guard dog, and more than once he narrowly avoided serious trouble with other dogs. When Ziggy died suddenly in 2013, we vowed that FOR SURE we would find them another very dog-social dog.

We didn't know Duke for long. He was urgent at an animal shelter, and he showed signs of mistreatment (a white scar around his muzzle, usually the result of the dog's muzzle being banded shut so as not to bark) but bore no grudges. Such a Gentleman Doberman! Unfortunately, Duke was out of his shelter for such a short time that we didn't know he was incubating a really serious upper respiratory infection,



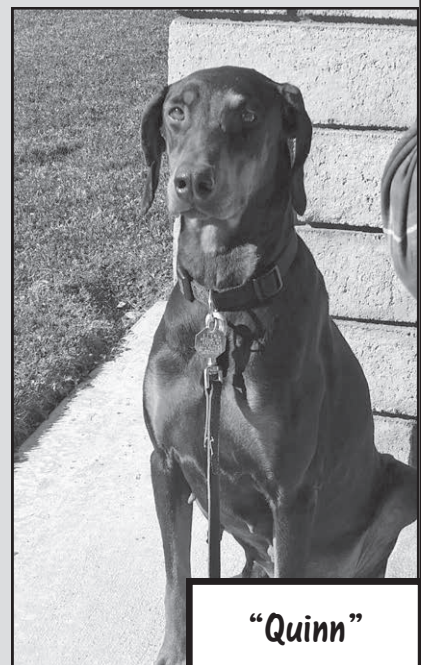
"Duke" with Walt

and he nearly died. Thanks to prayers and a lot of money, the Murphys pulled Duke through, and he has become their much-loved dog since September, 2013.

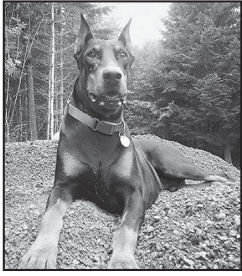
In early 2014, these lovely people were alerted to an older Dobie girl at a local animal shelter that was on borrowed time. Kath and Walt debated about whether making Duke share the love was a good idea...what if they didn't get along well, or what if Duke felt short-shrifted having to share? In the end, they brought her home, and the dogs were not only compatible, but enjoyed each other. Poor Hannah had a bad heart, though, and she passed away suddenly only ten months later.

The Murphys' friends all told them they should get a puppy, because that way the dog would live so much longer and not break the bank with vet bills. But Kath has always been adamant about rescuing, so she and Walt commented that they would like another sweet female, but that they were not only prepared to wait, but preferred to, while they grieved for Hannah.

We rescue people can be shameless when it comes to getting a good dog into a good home, so I messaged them that we already had their next dog, and to let us know when they would be ready. They debated and debated, finally trusting us to produce their next loved Dobie right after the holidays. Walt is a pilot, and he flew from



"Quinn"



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Henderson to Southern CA on New Year's Day this year to collect Quinn, a petite, precious little girl that would fill that empty spot in their hearts. Kath calls her "Ballerina Girl." From her recent e-mail. "Little Duke* and Quinn are doing great. Quinn is now off leash on our trail walks and she loves it. She runs and runs...I think she is still insecure, like she may be handed off somewhere else again, she can be clingy. I love it when I am home on the weekends and she follows me all over and stands there in a ballet position with her feet and just watches every move I make, so curious as to what I am doing all the time....She is just the cutest little thing....She is happy here, and we are complete again."

*Kath calls him "Little Duke," though he's over 100 pounds of love.

JOBS FOR DOGS

There are so many things dogs can get involved in now, from Search and Rescue activities, to bomb- and narcotics-sniffing, to nursing home visits, to sheep herding, to service dog activities and emotional support activities, and new jobs are found for them all the time. The emotional support category is one of the newer ones but, we think, an important one, as the often-horrific effects of PTSD and abuse have become more widely recognized.

Over the years, we've tried placing a few Dobbies as "service dogs," but they aren't necessarily well-suited for this job. In the first case, with a woman who had

seizures, the dog would nudge her to the ground so she wouldn't fall, and then remain with her until the episode passed. The problem was, the dog was so protective of the woman that she wouldn't let anyone else near, which could have presented a different kind of problem.

Another Dobie was placed with a woman with an artificial limb that was the result of an injury while in the military. This dog also had protectiveness issues, but worse, was a young dog (which the woman had insisted upon) with too much energy to lay around waiting until his assistance was needed.

In December we finally scored a hit. Patty Huntley of Costa Mesa, a previous adopter of ours, came to visit seeking a female Dobie that could be a service dog who she would train herself to accompany her everywhere and provide physical and emotional support. That day, Patty met five or six dogs, finally narrowing it down to two, and then to one: a middle-aged red female named Millie who had already spent quite a few months with us. Three months later, as I write this, Millie – now called Amber - is the perfect dog for Patty, even going to church with her as you'll see in this picture.





Doberman Pinscher Rescue
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KENNEL HUMOR

Most of our readers have never worked in a kennel, but the regular occurrences of our strange brand of humor are entertaining. Some are awful, but in this business, we learn to laugh them off.

A few examples:

You are all set to enter a kennel. You flip the gate latch and you're ready to open the gate just as the dog decides to jump on the other side of the gate, and the gate hits you squarely in the head, nearly knocking you out.

You have just walked into a kennel with a newer dog inside, so you don't really know what to expect yet, and the dog comes flying at you and jumps on your still-clean clothing, with paws that have just tramped through....you know what.

Most of the time we have at least one or two "goosers." When you least expect it, they come up behind you and goose you so strongly that you almost become airborne. Females are just as likely to do this as males.

You have just finished cleaning a nice big doggie drinking water container. A dog immediately either drops his ball in it or, if it's a big one, stands in it with all fours in order to cool off. Two minutes after you've cleaned the tub, it looks as though you've done your dirty laundry in it.

You fill a dog's bowl with his kibble for the day. The moment you leave, he picks up his bowl by the rim and carries it into his doghouse, spilling all the food along the way. When he gets into his house, he looks inquiringly at you as if to say "where's my food?"

You unwittingly give a dog a down comforter for a cool night, not thinking about the fact that down = feathers. The next morning there are at least 500,000 feathers strewn about, resembling a feather snowstorm, which you must clean up before they clog the drains.

We don't complain, because working in kennels means we get to work with dogs. We all love dogs. No exceptions.

PARTING SHOT

Intrepid guardian of the flock



"Flaco" Thomas of Long Beach